Dunn Energy Cooperative
"Energy Through Excellence"
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MAKING PROGRESS

By James Hathaway, General Manager

There was an article in last month's *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine on air emissions. The article discussed the Clean Air Act signed into law by Congress in 1970. The article also discussed statistics released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier this year. As the article said, the statistics are surprising. And very good news, I think.

Efforts to reduce emissions have been very successful. The EPA report showed that emissions of six common pollutants have decreased 73 percent since 1970. That is a tremendous amount. Sulfur dioxide (SO_2) emissions have decreased by 92 percent since 1990. And nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) emissions have decreased 84 percent since 1990. These decreases are on top of those made from 1970 to 1990.

How about lead? Lead emissions have fallen 99 percent since 1980. 99 percent! Mercury? Mercury emissions are down 82 percent since 2011 alone. The list goes on. Carbon monoxide concentrations are 84 percent lower than in 1980. Particulate matter has fallen 35 to 40 percent since 1990.

These are excellent results. Our power supplier, Dairyland Power, has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce power plant emissions. Electric rates went up to help pay for the equipment needed to reduce emissions. Other utilities across the United States also made investments to clean our air. And the results from the EPA report show the investments were a success.

The Clean Air Act does not list carbon dioxide (CO_2) as a pollutant. After all, plants need CO_2 to survive. But the EPA data released earlier this year indicate that CO_2 emissions from power plants have gone down 20 percent since 2011. That's more good news.

Possibly the most surprising statistic came at the end of the article. Electric generation in the United States has almost tripled since 1970. So, emissions are down 73 percent, and electricity generation has tripled. Some of the electricity produced is now from wind. In 2018 the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported 6.6 percent of all electricity came from wind. Over 60 percent came from fossil fuels. And almost 20 percent came from nuclear power. (2474004)

So we have room to grow with renewables. Dairyland Power has been investing more in renewable energy sources. In March, Dairyland announced that it had signed an agreement to purchase the electricity from a proposed solar array to be built in southern Wisconsin. The Badger State Solar Project will be a 149 megawatt facility. Commercial operation is planned for 2022.

Renewable electricity has its own challenges. Large solar arrays take up a lot of land. The Badger State project will cover about 1,000 acres of land. Wind farms also take up a lot of land. And the best places for wind farms are far from the big cities. So big transmission lines have to be built to get the electricity to where it is needed. This means balancing the good with the not so good.

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Yes, Dairyland is investing more and more in renewable energy sources. But they still use coal-fired plants too. If Dairyland shut down its coal plants today, hundreds of millions of dollars of investments would have to be written off. Rates would go up a lot. As I said, Dairyland has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce emissions. And they are balancing their generation mix with more renewables. Clean air is important. So is affordable electricity.

But the news on emissions reported in the article was very good. Often it seems that the news we hear is mostly negative. And perhaps folks think things are worse than they really are. The news from the EPA report says otherwise. Efforts to reduce power plant emissions have been hugely successful. Of course there is always room for improvement. But we have made a tremendous amount of progress in reducing emissions and cleaning the air.

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Dunn Energy we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend that life with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic checks.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets (or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room) often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help protect expensive electronics like televisions, home entertainment systems, and computers from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip. (9500001)

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Dunn Energy, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional, or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for your purpose. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped, or loose, it will not provide the protection it's designed for. Always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than $1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is essential for modern living, and Dunn Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

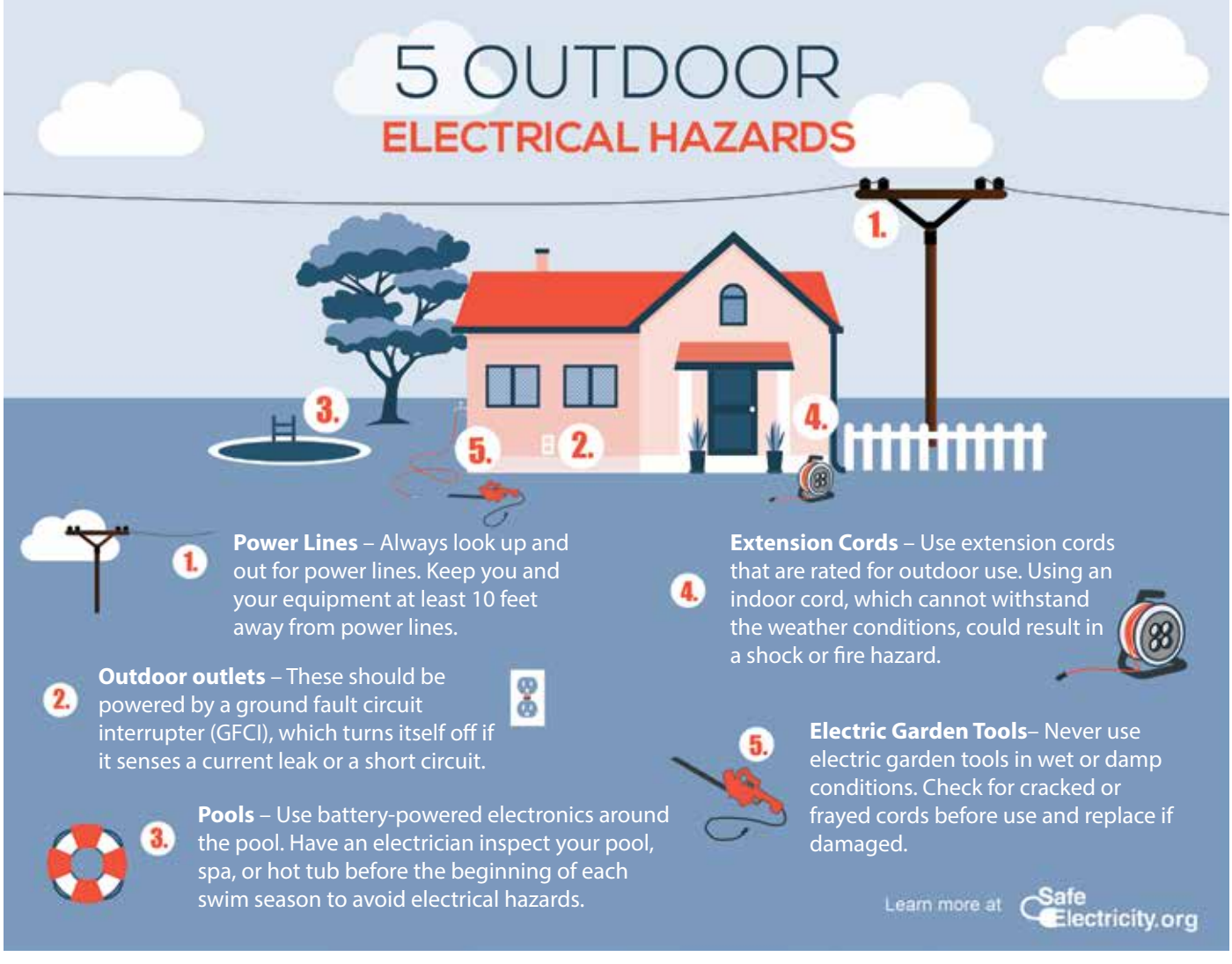
OPERATION ROUNDUP FUNDS HELP PROVIDED LIGHTED SIGNS FOR CROSSING GUARDS

Recently the Operation Round Up board granted funds to the Boyceville Police Department to purchase lighted signs for their school crossing guards. We support all ways to keep our community safe!

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations, and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of, are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at www.dunnenergy.com or by emailing Jolene for an application at jolene@dunnenergy.com. Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your interest. Let's show the community the Power of Change!



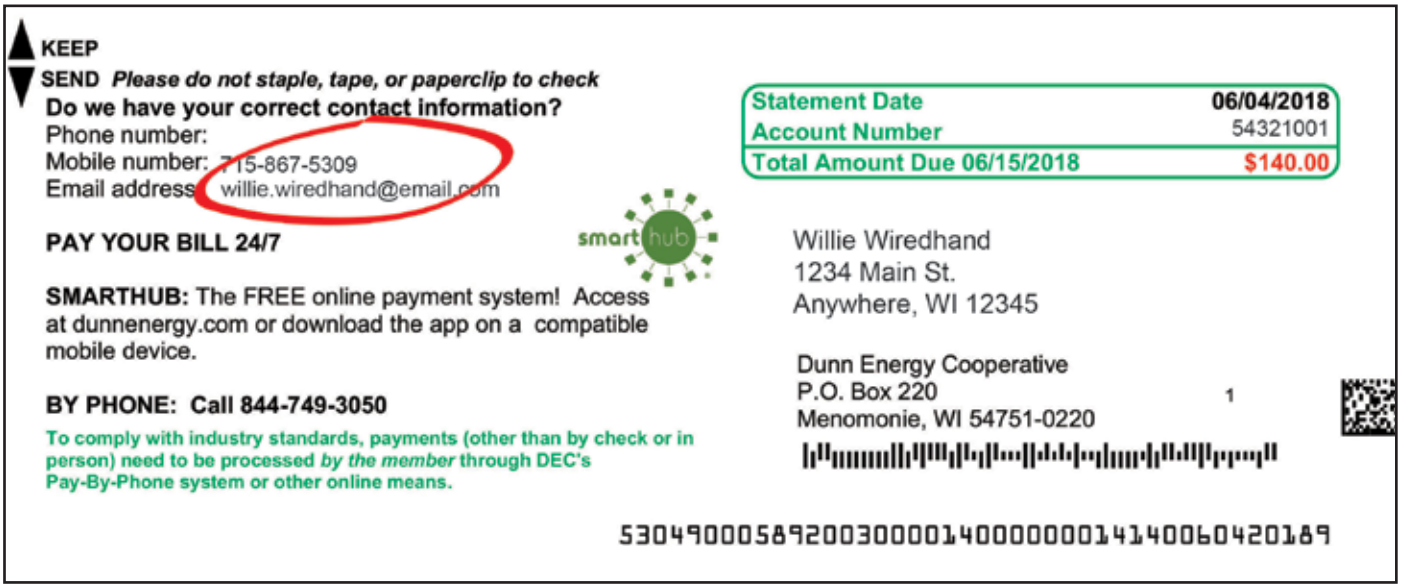
HOW DO WE CONTACT YOU?

Every now and again we have to take some electrical services out of power to do maintenance or repairs on our system. When we do this, we send out an automated call informing members of the planned outage so they can plan accordingly. We don't want you to just get started on a birthday cake or loaf of bread and have the power go out!

Every time we do these calls, we have a handful of phone numbers that bounce back as disconnected, changed, or it's for the wrong person altogether.

We list your phone number(s) that we have on file on the bottom third of your electric bill. Please take a moment to verify that the number we have on file is the best number for you to get important notifications at. If it is not the correct number, you can make the correction on the stub and just mail it with your monthly statement. Otherwise, you can always call the office at 715-232-6240 to notify us of the change.

If you are a member who uses SmartHub, you can also change your contact information through the app or desktop site.


KEEP

SEND *Please do not staple, tape, or paperclip to check*

Do we have your correct contact information?

Phone number:

Mobile number: 715-867-5309

Email address: willie.wiredhand@email.com

PAY YOUR BILL 24/7

SMARTHUB: The FREE online payment system! Access at dunnenergy.com or download the app on a compatible mobile device.

BY PHONE: Call 844-749-3050

To comply with industry standards, payments (other than by check or in person) need to be processed *by the member* through DEC's Pay-By-Phone system or other online means.

Statement Date	06/04/2018
Account Number	54321001
Total Amount Due 06/15/2018	$140.00

Willie Wiredhand
1234 Main St.
Anywhere, WI 12345

Dunn Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 220
Menomonie, WI 54751-0220

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$$ FOR HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

If your account number is one of the two hidden account numbers in this issue, it will mean $50 credit on your account if you call the office before the end of the month. Two customer account numbers have been randomly selected and are hidden in the Dunn Energy Cooperative section of this *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Last month's winners were Joyce Larson and Kyle Nelson.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermosat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

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