



**Dunn Energy  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



# COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE DEEP DIVE

## Principle #7: Concern for Community

*“Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.”*

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Serving the needs of our communities is a vital mission of every cooperative. At Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC) we do that in many ways. One of our biggest community programs is Operations Round Up (ORU). Each month, if you participate in the program, your bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar. That change is used to award community grants to deserving local organizations. These grants make a difference to our local communities and in the lives of our members. Last year \$5.90 was added to my electric bill in round ups—less than the cost of a lunch at a local fast-food restaurant. While \$5.90 isn't a lot of money, when you combine that with over 7,000 participating accounts across our system, it can add up to a significant amount. ORU is a great example of the power of cooperatives and the impact of what we can do when we work together.

We hear the word “sustainable” often and we see it written in principle #7. DEC works to make your cooperative and our communities sustainable in the context of lasting for many years to come. We want DEC, which was started over 80 years ago, to continue to be a viable cooperative well into the future. Our goal is to be a cooperative that continually improves in our mission to deliver quality, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy that makes a difference in the lives of our members and our communities. We want our communities to also be a place where people want to live, where companies want to build, and a place that people enjoy.

Sustainable also means looking at how we can conserve energy and develop energy sources that are both renewable and reliable. Our SunDEC Community Solar garden is a prime example of this effort. We worked with our power supplier Dairyland Power Cooperative to build a 100 kW community solar array. To date 94 of our cooperative members have purchased shares of this community solar project. There are a few shares left if you are interested in participating. Once SunDEC becomes fully subscribed we could possibly look at

more community solar projects in our area.

Our Energy Sense rebate program is another great example of our commitment to community and a sustainable energy future. Energy Sense has helped our members make good energy choices for close to 15 years. We've rebated hundreds of Energy Star appliances, LED lights, water heaters and geothermal heating systems for our local members. We work with our members to help make their energy bills more affordable and thus our community more sustainable. (140018665)

Dealing with COVID-19 has also given us the opportunity to put our concern for the community into action. During the beginning of the pandemic, when many of the restaurants we

serve closed to the public, we made a point to order take out on Fridays to help support our local businesses. We donated extra masks and personal protective equipment we had to local nursing homes. Last fall we hosted a safe drive-thru

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trick-or-treating event for our community and we've been working closely with local public health officials to see if there are additional ways your cooperative can support our community during this time of need.

We also closed our office to the public for much of the last year. We did this out of a concern for our members who were coming in the office and to protect our staff. We wanted to be sure that we were able to respond to any power outages that happened. While we missed seeing many of our members, we knew we were doing our part to protect our community and our members. We hope to reopen to the public very soon.

I hope you have enjoyed the deeper dive into the seven Cooperative Principles. More importantly, as a member, I hope you will see those principles in action in the days and months ahead.

### Hidden Account Numbers

If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a **\$50 credit** on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were Joseph Degenhardt and Amy Balfour, and Richard and Arlene Clack.



# IMPROVING YOUR YARD?

## KNOW WHAT'S ABOVE AND BELOW BEFORE YOU START

When the temperature warms to signal the arrival of spring, many of us begin planning improvements to our outdoor spaces. This could include adding or maintaining a swimming pool, building a deck, adding a patio, or assembling play equipment for your family to enjoy. However, it is important to plan for safety prior to adding an outdoor structure or improving your yard.

### Power Line Awareness

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vitally important for you and your family's safety. Even drop-down lines—the lines that bring power to a home—have voltages running through them and can be dangerous. Always look up and around for power lines, recognizing too that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact, before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job.

**Dunn Energy Cooperative** and **Safe Electricity** offer these tips to keep in mind while working in your yard:

- Assume that all power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding.
- Call 8-1-1 to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.
- Utility locators do not mark private lines, however. Private underground lines—typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor—include, but are not limited to:
  - Irrigation or septic system lines.
  - Lines that service outbuildings (electric, gas, water, communication).
  - Lines between the meter and your home.
  - Lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs.*Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service.*
- Once underground utilities are marked, the 8-1-1 “Call Before You Dig” service recommends that the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Do not install tree houses, playsets or swing sets, pools or decks and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment (including the arc of a swing) and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate your children about power line safety and how electricity can jump. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one—either directly or with a toy or object—before sending them outside to play. This is especially important if they climb trees, fly kites, or use







remote-control (RC) devices, such as an RC airplane or drone.

- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools, such as pool skimmers, around trees and power lines.
- Also use extreme caution and look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, a boom lift, scaffolding or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

Please contact us with questions about specific power line clearance recommendations concerning decks, pools and play structures in your yard. (12824001)

*For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*

### Can You Dig It?

-  An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.
-  Call 811, the “Call Before You Dig Number,” at least **2 business days** prior to digging.
-  811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.
-  Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.
-  Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!
- Learn more at  **Safe Electricity.org**



# Youth Leadership Congress

Virtual Event | July 13–14, 2021

8 a.m.–noon each day



The 2021 **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is going virtual! This is a **FREE**, two half-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.

## Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.



SCAN ME

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

**\*Note:** There is a limit of 200 students based on a first-come, first-registered basis. Register soon to secure your spot!

## Who Should Apply

- High school students with family members who belong to a Wisconsin electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

## How to Register

- Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/2021YLC>
- Register by June 1, 2021\*

## 2021 YLC Opportunities

### Podcast Contest

- 1st Place: \$250
- 2nd Place: \$100
- 3rd Place: \$50

### Scholarship Essay Contest

- 1st Place: \$1,000
- 2nd Place: \$500
- 3rd Place: \$250

## Questions?

Tina Walden  
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association  
tina@weca.coop  
Phone (608) 467-4599

**Youth Leadership Congress (YLC)**  
is made possible with funding from:



National Rural Utilities  
Cooperative Finance Corporation



National Cooperative  
Services Corporation

## Youth Leadership Congress Participant Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade entering in fall 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form to  
Dunn Energy Cooperative, N5725 600th St., Menomonie, WI 54751





## COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL CONSTRUCTION

**A**re you building a new house this year? Or a little weekend getaway? Maybe you're just adding another irrigation pivot or grain dryer to your farm? Any way you look at it, communication is the key to a successful new service request.

The first step in getting power to your site is to call the office plenty in advance. We need a first appointment with you to get a plan put together and your cost estimate to you. This first meeting with a staking technician should be done once you know the site layout. We need you to know where your building is going as well as the placement of your well and septic, metering, driveway, and any potential future outbuildings if it's a residential construction. If it's a farm or commercial construction, metering placement is necessary, as well as the site layout.

Do you know your site layout?

Do you know where the main building and potential outbuildings are going?



Is the driveway already in or staked in its permanent location?

Do you know where your well and septic will be located?



**If you answered yes to these questions, you might just be ready to meet with a Staking Technician to create a plan for your power installation.**

Once you know all of that, give Laken a call at the office to schedule your meeting. She can be reached at 715-232-6240. She'll get all of the required information and set up a time for you, your electrician, or general contractor to meet with our staking technician. Our staking technician will work with you on a best route, get a tentative plan in place, and a cost estimate to you.

Once your estimate is paid in full, your meter socket is installed by a licensed electrician and wired to your breaker box, and all of your paperwork is turned in, we will get the staking technician back out to flag the route and get the project ready for installation.

**Pro Tip:** If you are building, take a look at our rebate and incentive page on our website ([dunnenergy.com](http://dunnenergy.com)). There's something there for just about everyone. You can find rebates on heating and air conditioning, lighting, appliances, exhaust fans, motors, and water heaters. You can also find incentives for installing renewable energy and electric vehicle chargers.

If you have any questions, feel free to give the office a call or email us at [info@dunnenergy.com](mailto:info@dunnenergy.com).

### CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

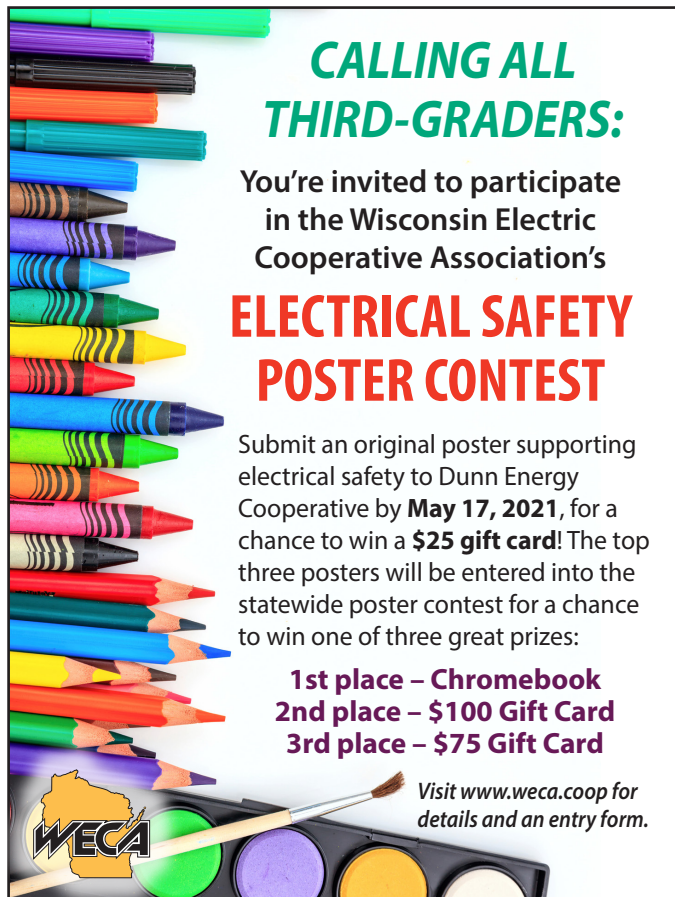
You're invited to participate  
in the Wisconsin Electric  
Cooperative Association's

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting  
electrical safety to Dunn Energy  
Cooperative by **May 17, 2021**, for a  
chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top  
three posters will be entered into the  
statewide poster contest for a chance  
to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Visit [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for  
details and an entry form.



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### Jolene Neisius, Editor



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