

Spotlight

FROM THE MANAGER—JIM HATHAWAY

Electric Rates, Etc.

Spring is normally the time of year that Dunn Energy changes the electric rates that we charge our members. The biggest reason for this is that the rate we get charged for the electricity we buy from Dairyland Power changes May 1. Wholesale power costs are about 70% of our total costs. This year Dairyland's rates are going to increase about 1%.

As I have reported in the past, the Dunn Energy 2019 budget projected a revenue shortfall of over \$200,000. Wholesale power costs from Dairyland increased over 1.5% in 2018. An increase in the amount of electricity bought by members offset the additional costs however. So no increase in Dunn Energy's electric rate was needed in 2018. But with the increase in wholesale power costs this year, the electricity we buy from Dairyland is over 2% higher now than it was in 2017.

Local costs are expected to increase some in 2019. We are doing what we can to hold down or reduce those

electric rates this spring. As the year progresses we will continue to monitor revenues and expenses to see if a rate increase is needed later in the year.

As I sit down to write this we have just come out of one of the more challenging months in recent memory. We saw record amounts of snow in February and, in late January, near record cold temperatures. Overall our electric grid held up well. We had no outages due to overloaded equipment. There were a few ice and wind related outages, but not many. We had more vehicle/equipment outages. Difficult road conditions and the tremendous volume of snow resulted in a few vehicle/pole related outages. We also had some plow/equipment collisions. Most of the outages were limited in size and restoral time.

For a number of years now we have invested in strengthening our grid. We have also worked to widen our power line rights-of-way. Both of these efforts were made to reduce outages and improve power quality. The relatively few problems we experienced indicate that our efforts are paying dividends. We do not have any major projects planned for 2019, but we do plan on continuing our efforts to strengthen our grid and clear rights-of-way.

Speaking of planning, the board of directors and management have a strategic planning session scheduled for early April. The board holds strategic planning sessions periodically to review past activities and chart a course for the cooperative's future.

Good strategic planning sets a course for the cooperative to follow. By identifying areas of focus and developing a strategy to tackle challenges we can meet the co-op's mission of providing energy and service of the highest quality for the lowest practical cost to the members of the cooperative.

We are getting close to finishing our meter replacement project. Our old Turtle metering system is no longer supported by the manufacturer. So we

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costs we can control. But there are also costs that we can't control. The revenue shortfall was small enough that the board of directors elected to make no change to member

Calendar of Events

April 2019

26-27 Dunn County Humane Society Rummage Sale – Veteran's Center/Foxhole Bar – Friday from 9- 6 and Saturday from 9-3 – All proceeds to benefit the Humane Society

27 Annual Veterans and Family Spring Conference – Menomonie Alliance Church Gym – 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - This event is to educate veterans and their families of available resources and programs as well as to give them the opportunity to meet fellow veterans

28 Kite Festival – Tanglewood Greens – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Menomonie's second annual kite festival! Bring your family and your kites, and let's fill the sky with color. A FREE event open to the public.

If you have any upcoming events you'd like to post in our calendar, please call Jolene at 232-6240 or email her at jolene@dunnenergy.com.

Celebrating National Arbor Day

There's no way around it. Trees are good for us! They keep our air clean, they help reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade, and they're just plain beautiful.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation:

Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25%. Computer models devised by the U.S. Department of Energy predict that the proper placement of only three trees can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in energy costs annually.

Every dollar spent on planting and caring for a community tree yields benefits that are two to five times that investment—benefits that include cleaner air, lower energy costs, improved water quality and storm water control and increased property values.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), removing and storing the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air. In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of CO₂ produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.

In celebration of Arbor Day on April 26, we are giving out Sugar Maple seedlings to the first 50 members who stop by our office throughout the month!



Experience EVs!

Drive and learn about electric vehicles!

**Saturday
April 27, 2019**

SAVE THE DATE!

CVTC Energy Education Center, Eau Claire

Registration from 8-9 a.m.

Keynote Speaker from 9-10 a.m.

Sessions to hear from experts and owners, as well as the opportunity to drive different EV vehicles from 10 a.m. to Noon!

FROM THE MANAGER...

Electric Rates... (...continued from front)

are replacing all of the meters on our system. The new meters report much more quickly. They also provide us with more data. The most beneficial feature of the new system is improved outage management.

The new meters quickly report outages. We can often find out about an outage and have the power restored before a member returns home from work. The meter data also helps us better analyze larger outages. This helps us reduce the time members are out of power. We hope to be finished with our meter replacement project by the middle of the year.

All of the planning by the board of directors and work we do inside the office and out in the field is done to provide reliable electric power to our members. Careful planning, wise investing, and highly-trained, hardworking employees help Dunn Energy in our mission to efficiently provide safe, reliable energy and superior service to benefit our members and the community.

Spotlight



This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.

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