

Spotlight

FROM THE MANAGER—JIM HATHAWAY

Dairyland Power

Early in June several Dunn Energy Cooperative board members and I travelled to La Crosse to attend the Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) annual meeting. Like Dunn Energy, Dairyland Power is a cooperative organization. Dunn Energy is an owner of Dairyland Power along with 23 other distribution cooperatives in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

Dairyland was established over 75 years ago to provide the electricity that Dunn Energy and the other distribution co-ops sell to our members. Dunn Energy is a distribution co-op. Dairyland is a generation and transmission co-op. Dairyland generates electricity and sends it over 3,200 miles of transmission lines to the substations in Dunn Energy's and the other distribution co-op's service territories.

Dairyland owns some power plants. Like the big coal-fired plant down in Alma on the Mississippi River. Or the natural gas fired plant near Elk Mound in Chippewa County. And they have a hydro dam on the Flambeau River east of Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Dairyland also contracts with other businesses to buy electricity.

Not too many years ago almost all of the electricity Dairyland sold to us was generated by coal fired power plants. In the early part of this century things started to change. The State of Wisconsin required an increase in electricity produced from renewable sources. Also required was a lot of investment to reduce emissions from coal power plants.

The effort to meet these requirements cost a lot of money and the price of the electricity we bought from Dairyland went up a lot. The electricity we buy from Dairyland is almost 70% of our total costs here at Dunn Energy. So our rates went up a lot in those years.

Dairyland made some careful strategic decisions. Some of the old coal plants in Alma were retired. Dairyland invested in a number of solar arrays to produce solar electricity. Contracts were signed to buy more wind energy. The price of electricity from wind has come down a lot in recent years. Investments were made to clean the emissions from the remaining coal plants too. This made them cleaner and a reliable source of electricity when the wind isn't blowing.

As a result of these actions and other steps taken, our rates from Dairyland have changed very little in recent years. As I said, the price of the electricity we buy from Dairyland is almost 70% of our total costs. And because Dairyland's rates have not changed much in the past 6 years, neither have Dunn Energy's rates. We have only had to increase rates once in the past 6 years.

Today over 20 percent of the electricity DPC sells comes from renewables. So not only has the price of electricity changed very little, it has gotten cleaner as well. Dairyland has also taken steps to close the small nuclear reactor it owns. The facility located a half hour south of La Crosse is being taken down. The fuel is in safe storage and all other buildings and materials are being removed from the site. The

project is expected to be complete by the end of the year and it is expected to come in on budget.

Thanks to careful financial management Dairyland has managed to increase its equity in recent years without significant increases in rates. This further strengthens Dairyland's financial position and recently Dairyland was awarded an A+ financial rating from Standard and Poor's rating agency.

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Calendar of Events

August 2018

- 5 Heart For Luther Park** – Luther Park Bible Camp - 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Silent Auction, Day Camp for Kids, Vendors, Live Auction, and Raffles – for more information visit lutherpark.org
- 10-12 Radio Day** – 1940s - Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts – Summer musical revue featuring local musicians and singers – Order tickets online at mabeltainter.org or by calling 715-235-0001
- 11 Irvington Summerfest** – Trailside Bar, Irvington – Come for euchre, bean bags, chicken dinner and live music
- 25 Discover Downsville Day** – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Car Show, Parade, Pedal Tractor Pull, Meat Raffle, and more!
- 25 Downsville Community Museum Pancake Breakfast** – Free will donation – 8-10 a.m. at the museum

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.

Solar Project Partnership

Menomonie, WI – In a collaboration, Dunn Energy Cooperative, Water Source Heating and Cooling of Eau Claire, and the School District of the Menomonie Area have successfully completed a project insuring renewable energy for years to come for the district.

Through a grant from the Dunn Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up program and the resources of Jesse Green from Water Source Heating and Cooling, the Bjornson Education-Recreation Center, known locally as the Environmental Site, has installed a 3kW photovoltaic array. This, along with the School District's participation in the Dunn Energy SunDEC Community Solar array brings the Environmental Site to a 100% renewable status. All energy powering the Environmental Site comes from the sun!

"The success of this solar project is a great example of the good that can happen when community partners come together," said Joe Zydowsky, District Administrator for the School District of the Menomonie Area. "We are proud to say that the school district's environmental site is now 100% powered by renewable energy. Not only has this been a wise investment for the School District of the Menomonie Area, but it also has the potential to serve as a good example and learning opportunity for our students and staff."



(L-R) Jesse Green of Water Source Heating and Cooling, along with Joe Zydowsky (SDMA) and Jesse Singerhouse (Dunn Energy) visit the solar array at the Menomonie School District's Environmental Site.

The solar panels at the Environmental Site have been up just short of a year and have produced a total of 2.55 Megawatt hours (MWh). The average home on Dunn Energy lines uses 1,000 kilowatt hours a month; meaning the small array at the Environmental Site has produced enough energy to power an average home for two and a half months straight!

"We often talk about preserving the future for the next generation; about making choices that make sense, not only for today, but for years to come. We believe the choice the district made will not only benefit their financial position today but will also educate our youth on the importance of sustainability for years to come," explained Jesse Singerhouse, Manager of Administrative and

Member Services for Dunn Energy Cooperative.

We're proud to be a part of partnerships like these.

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.



"The success of this solar project is a great example of the good that can happen when community partners come together..."

**Joe Zydowsky - District Administrator,
Menomonie Area School District.**

FROM THE MANAGER...

Dairyland... (...continued from front)

Dairyland is a solid and reliable partner for Dunn Energy. Recently the Dunn Energy Cooperative board of directors made the decision to renew and extend our wholesale power contract with Dairyland. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of the seven cooperative principles. Working with Dairyland and renewing our wholesale power contract assures us of a continuing reliable and reasonably priced source of electricity with a strong cooperative partner.

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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