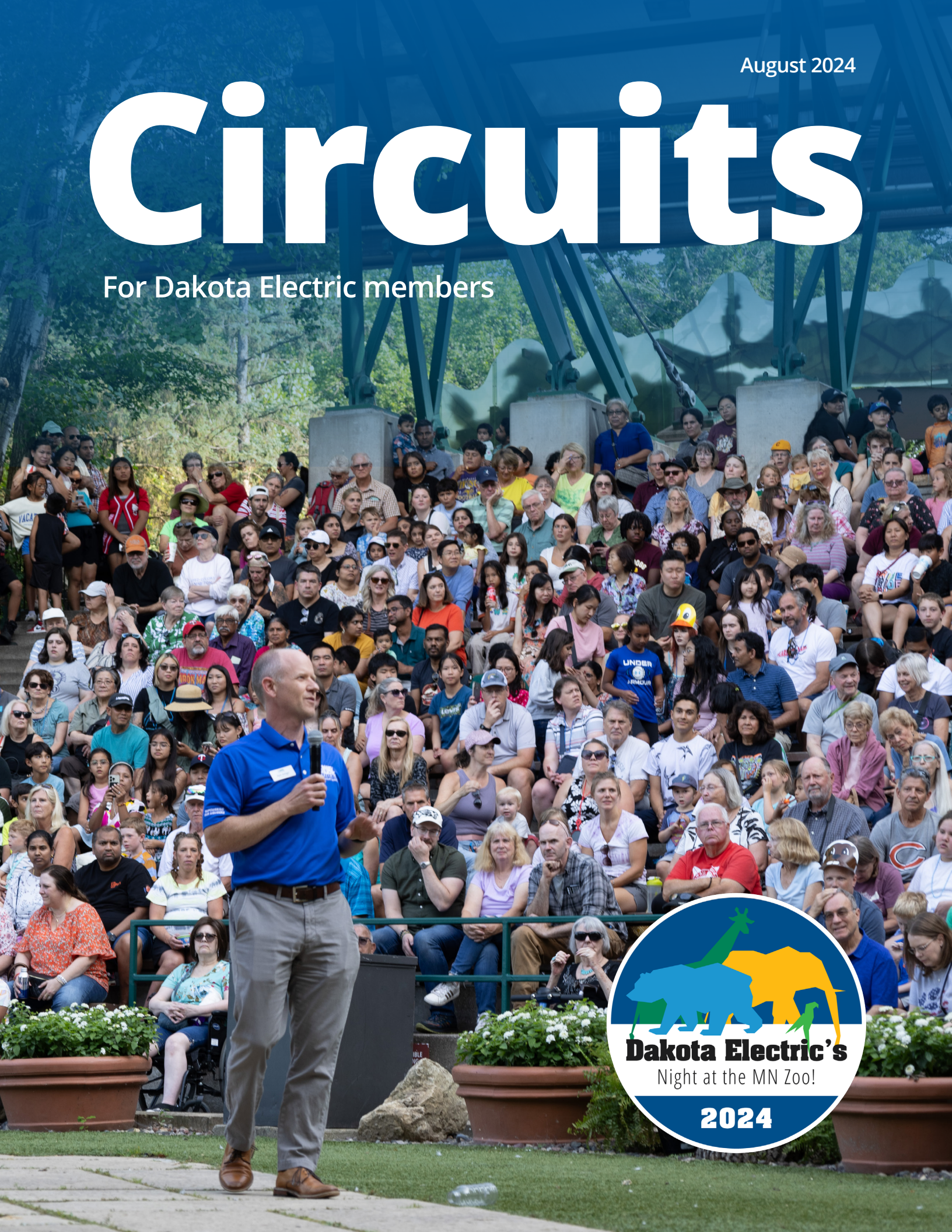


August 2024

# Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



# CAREERS

## BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers  
HResources@dakotaelectric.com  
651-463-6301

## CONTACT US

### Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409  
Minnesota Relay Service 711  
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

### Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### 24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

### Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or  
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166  
www.gopherstateonecall.org

### New & Existing Services

651-460-7500

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota  
Electric® are registered service marks of the  
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to  
change without notice. Funds are limited and  
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*  
David Jones | *Treasurer*  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Vice Chair*

### DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *GRE Director*  
Clay Van De Bogart  
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
Cyndee Fields  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft

# Member appreciation night at the zoo

On Thursday, July 18, Dakota Electric hosted its annual Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo, showing our gratitude to our dedicated members.

Around 8,000 members enjoyed complimentary admission to the zoo, making for an evening filled with excitement and discovery. Attendees explored popular exhibits like the Wings Financial World of Birds Show, ventured into the thrilling Dino Hideout and took peaceful walks along the new Treetop Trail. The event offered a wide range of activities to delight everyone.

In the spirit of community support, we encouraged members to bring non-perishable food items or make cash donations for local food shelves. The response was tremendous, with 2,210 pounds of food and over \$1,343 in cash donated. These generous contributions will significantly aid individuals and families in our area.

Ryan Hentges, President and CEO of Dakota Electric, expressed deep gratitude for the donations, stating, "Every dollar and donation will directly benefit The Open Door and 360 Communities, providing crucial support to individuals and families in Dakota County. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed."

Since this event began in 1998, our members have consistently shown their commitment to giving back. Over the years, they've donated more than 42,000 pounds of food and over \$16,000 to local food shelves, making a lasting impact on our community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all members who joined us for the Member Appreciation Event. Your presence and generosity made the event an outstanding success.



# Innovative **sustainability** — mowing **green**

Mean Green Mowers is currently providing week-long trials of their commercial electric lawn mowers to various cities in Minnesota. Some of our member cities like Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville and Rosemount are expected to participate in this innovative trial.

These all-electric mowers eliminate the need for gas-powered equipment, offering significant cost savings, reduced noise, and lower maintenance requirements, while leaving behind only the fresh scent of newly cut grass. This move aligns perfectly with the cities' sustainability goals, showcasing a commitment to environmental responsibility.

These electric mowers embody the four elements of beneficial electrification: saving consumers money, improving product quality and consumer quality of life, benefiting the environment by reducing emissions, and fostering a more robust, resilient grid.



## **Youth Tour** recap

Dakota Electric sparked excitement by sending five outstanding high school students on an unforgettable adventure to Washington, D.C. Matthew Vengal and Tanisha Senapati from Eastview High School, along with Elizabeth Aars and Makayla Magnuson from Lakeville North High School and Adonias Ketema from Rosemount High School, earned an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital. They participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) annual Youth Tour from June 18-23.

Joining over 1,800 peers from across the country, our local students dove into a week of learning about government and electric cooperatives, explored historic monuments, met members of Congress and even went on a guided Segway tour. It was an incredible opportunity for these young leaders to broaden their horizons and make lifelong memories.

Dakota Electric continues to empower the next generation by offering this remarkable program annually. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors residing within Dakota Electric's service territory are encouraged to apply each January. For more information, visit Dakota Electric's website and look under community and education programs.



# Your **rates**, explained

*The electric rates you pay are made up of **TWO** parts:*



Wholesale power costs are related to the energy and services provided by our power supplier, Great River Energy. This includes costs to operate power plants, transmission lines to move electricity over long distances and contracts to buy electricity. Wholesale cost recovery is approximately 70% of your monthly bill and is a “pass through” from Great River Energy.

Distribution cost recovery makes up the other 30% of your monthly bill and includes the cost of poles, transformers, meters, Dakota Electric staff, and other equipment needed to provide your electric service. Distribution costs are controlled by Dakota Electric and the rate you pay is set by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Despite significant increases in costs for many types of equipment, your distribution rates have remained the same since our last rate case was completed in 2020. Dakota Electric is currently reviewing the cost of service and rates to determine whether a rate adjustment is needed.

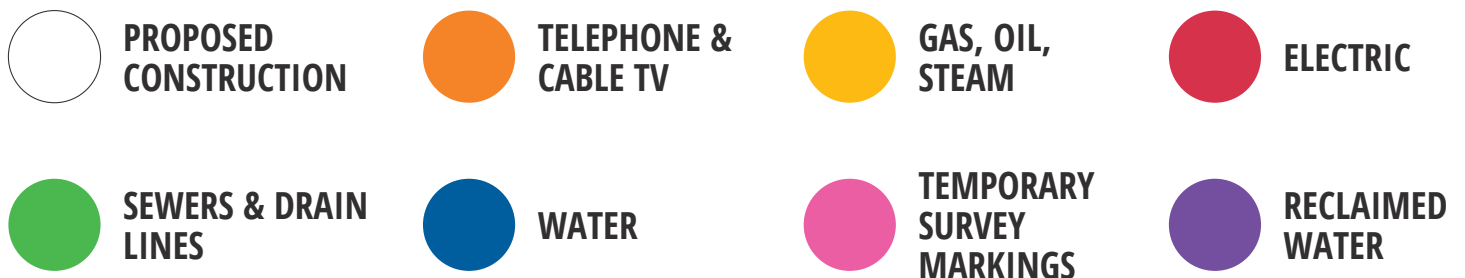
## Know what's **below**

Sunday, August 11 is National 811 Day. Whether you're planting a tree or building a deck, always call 811 before you dig — it's the law. Underground utility lines may be only inches below the surface and may be ruptured with a shovel or other household tools. Hitting a line could cause an outage, property damage or the worst-case scenario — an explosion.

To dig safely — and legally in Minnesota — you need to do three things:

- Call 811 at least two business days before you dig.
- Mark your yard (in white) so the locator knows where you're digging and can mark the utilities in your yard appropriately.
- Respect the locate marks and hand-dig carefully around them.

Utility locators follow the uniform color codes mandated by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for locate marks.



Call **before** you dig.



# Dakota County fair



August  
**5-11**

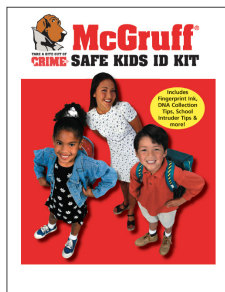
Check out our booth at the Dakota County Fair! We will be in the Red Commercial Building!

Talk to one of our Energy Experts® for information on:

- Energy-saving tips & programs
- Rebates
- Special promotions

For more fair details, visit [www.dakotacountyfair.org](http://www.dakotacountyfair.org).

## Free Safe ID Kits



Dakota Electric donated The McGruff Safe Kids ID Kits to our local police departments to hand out at schools and other community events. These kits aim to teach children about safety in a fun and friendly way.

The kits include:

- Tear-out fingerprint card with child-safe fingerprint ink
- McGruff the Crime Dog tear-out emergency numbers card
- 911 instructions
- DNA collection tips
- Fun, family-friendly quizzes and games reinforcing the safety message

Be watching for your local police departments handing these kits out in your community or at schools!

## Load management

Are you looking for ways to save on your energy bill and contribute to a more sustainable future? Dakota Electric's Load Management Programs offer an excellent solution! By joining load management programs, you can take advantage of substantial rebates, energy savings and help reduce peak demand on the electrical grid.

### What is load management?

Load management involves temporarily shifting or reducing your energy use during peak times when demand is highest. By participating, you can help Dakota Electric maintain a reliable power supply and keep costs down for everyone.

### Programs offered

Participate in one or more of the following load management (also known as off-peak) programs and **receive electricity at nearly half the regular rate!**

### Storage programs

Available for electric water heaters, electric thermal storage heaters and slab storage floor heating systems.

### Interruptible programs

Available for electric water heaters, electric heaters, heat pumps, swimming pools and hot tubs.

### Cycled Air Conditioning®

Available only for central air conditioners.

### ChargeWise Electric Vehicle (EV) Programs

Dakota Electric offers three voluntary options for charging your EV at home.

Learn more at [www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates/for-your-home](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates/for-your-home). To enroll, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or [energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com).



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Dakota County Fair**  
August 5-11
- **Board Meeting**  
August 22, 8:30 a.m.

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

### CONNECT WITH US!



# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



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Scan the QR code to take a  
short survey, or visit,  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/  
DakotaElectric](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DakotaElectric).

