

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Get Out & Vote!

It's Your Civic Duty

Pages 8-9

Upcoming Energy Projects

Pages 12-13

Residential Demand Charge Begins in 2027



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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siouxvalleyenergy.
com

Our members count on us to provide reliable power whenever and wherever it is needed. We recognize that responsibility and take it seriously. To meet our members' reliability expectations and electrical needs, Sioux Valley Energy and its power suppliers are making huge system investments. Those investments include building new power plants and larger transmission and distribution lines to provide the power that our legacy membership needs available around the clock. Legacy members are considered Sioux Valley Energy's residential, farm, and business members and do not include any potential or future hyperscale data centers.

We understand that our members are facing increasing costs in all areas of their lives, including the cost of electricity. No one wants to see their electric bills go up. However, the fact is that rate pressures will continue as SVE and its power suppliers make necessary investments in the electric grid to keep up with our legacy members' demand for electricity.

As the cost of those investments continue to rise, it has become imperative that we adjust the structure of our residential and general service electric bills to more closely align with how the Cooperative is charged by its power suppliers. Starting January 1, 2027, residential and general service members will be billed on three components instead of two.

Approximately half of the Cooperative's power bill from its suppliers comes from demand charges. In fact, we paid more than \$32 million in demand last year. Depending on the time of year, between 50 and 70 percent of those demand costs can be attributed to our

residential and general service members.

Right now, residential and general service members pay what we call a blended rate – meaning that demand is combined with energy and basic service charges. In 2027, Sioux Valley Energy will move away from rate blending and break out all components. This change will reflect the members' individual use of energy, the cost of basic service, and the highest demand of electric use placed on the system within the billing cycle.

It's important that our members understand what goes into their electric bill and what impacts it. We plan to spend the next eight months providing you with the background information and tools you need to both understand how this change will impact your electric bill and offer strategies to control costs. We will start that educational series with a Demand 101 article on Pages 10 and 11.



Watch The
Sioux Valley
Energy
Commitment
video
by scanning
this code.



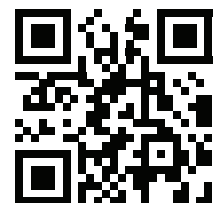
We encourage you to scan this code to watch a video to learn more about electrical demand and how it may impact your bill.

Watch for additional information and tools in the coming months as we expand our Demand 101 educational efforts which will include a dedicated webpage, demand calculator, in-person and online training opportunities, and various other communications. Stay safe and enjoy the spring weather.



SVE ENDS CFL, LED BULB RECYCLING

Sioux Valley Energy no longer will accept or recycle spent CFL light bulbs. Unfortunately, the service that we once used has been discontinued. Scan the QR code at right to find area CFL recycling/disposal options. Always call ahead to be sure the service is still offered at these locations.



COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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How to contact us: Phone: 1-800-234-1960
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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Safety Commitment Launched

This spring, Sioux Valley Energy launched its #CoopCares4Safety commitment initiative which highlights personal stories about the need for safety, especially around electrical equipment.

Hear these stories at www.coopcares4safety.com. Our work zone awareness story features a lineworker's son urging drivers to slow down in work zones. Members of our engineering team share information about safe drone use around power lines while a third message goes out to our ag community.

Have a safety story you want to tell? Call us at 800-234-1960.

#CoopCares4Safety

SLOW DOWN Around Work Sites

Learn more by scanning this code or going to www.CoopCares4Safety.com

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Director Training Achievement Recognized

Congratulations to Sioux Valley Energy Director Lucas Roskamp for completing training as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) director education program. Certificate programs for directors offer the opportunity to build on their community and industry knowledge. Roskamp received the Director BLC Credential which was presented to him by Board President Dan Leuthold at the March board meeting.



Lucas Roskamp
 District 10 Director
 Board Leadership Certificate

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH: TIPS FOR PRIORITIZING SAFETY

At your local cooperative, Electrical Safety Month is recognized every May, but the importance of practicing safety year-round is always emphasized. From co-op crews to the consumer-members served, everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity that powers daily life, but it can also be dangerous — something your local cooperative understands firsthand from working with it 365 days a year.

Safety is more than a catchphrase. Cooperative leadership recognizes the responsibility to keep employees safe while also helping protect members and the broader community. That's why your local cooperative hosts safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, highlighting the dangers of electricity. These demonstrations often include emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines, along with discussions about the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the widespread use of electrical devices, tools and appliances, here are a few practical electrical safety tips:

Watch for frayed wires. Power cords can become damaged from age, heavy use or excessive current flow. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them to avoid shock hazards.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only handle a limited amount of electricity. Running too many devices on one circuit can lead to overheating and potential fire risk.

Label circuit breakers. Understanding your home's electrical system can help prevent overloads. If your home is more than 40 years old and you plan to install large appliances, contact a qualified electrician.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug one extension cord into another. "Daisy chaining" can cause overheating and fire hazards. Do not exceed the cord's wattage, and avoid using extension cords as permanent solutions. If additional outlets are needed, consult a licensed electrician.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with children

about playing it safe and smart around electricity, including staying aware of overhead power lines near outdoor play areas.

Providing a reliable energy supply 24/7, 365 days a year is a top priority. Equally important is keeping the community safe around electricity.

Contact your local cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or to request a safety demonstration at a school or upcoming community event.



PLUG INTO SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.



"Do not fly kites by power lines!"

Casen Yuker

Casen cautions readers not to fly kites around power lines. Thank you for sharing your picture, Casen! Casen's parents are Lance and Tarah Yuker from Aberdeen S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Delicious DESSERTS

RHUBARB CAKE DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup sugar
4 cups rhubarb, diced
2 cups half and half

Method

Prepare cake mix as directed on package and pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Mix sugar and rhubarb together. Spoon evenly over cake batter. Pour half and half over top of rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. This is like an upside-down cake with custard on the bottom of the cake.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

FUZZY NAVEL CAKE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 instant vanilla pudding
(large, 5.1 oz. size)
3/4 cup peach schnapps
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup orange juice
4 eggs

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
4 tbsps. orange juice
2 tbsps. peach schnapps

Method

Spray a 12-cup fluted baking pan with cooking spray, dust with flour. Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended, spread evenly in pan. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes until golden brown and cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool cake for 20 minutes. Run a long, sharp knife around the edges to loosen, and invert onto platter. Whisk glaze ingredients together until smooth. With wooden skewer, poke holes on top and around sides of cake. Spoon glaze over the warm cake, allowing to seep in holes, and drizzle down the sides and center. Cool completely before slicing.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLE CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
Pinch salt
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple,
undrained (in natural juice, not
heavy syrup)

Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 8 oz. cream cheese softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Method

Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended. Bake in greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until top is golden brown.

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat until smooth and creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread frosting on cake while still warm. Garnish with some toasted coconut if desired.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Picture submitted by William Berry via Shutterstock.

Plug Into Energy Savings



Sheila Gross

Energy Services Specialist

To learn more about efficiency programs and rates that can help you save money call SVE at 800-234-1960, visit siouxvalleyenergy.com/energy-efficiency-tools or sign up for SmartHub, our online account management tool.



As members learn more about next year’s rate increase – which will include a charge based on the demand each account uses – we will continue sharing strategies that may help you reduce energy use. One topic that has gained popularity is smart home automation. If you stopped by the Beneficial Electrification booth at a District Meeting, you may have registered for a giveaway that included smart plugs. But do smart plugs really save energy, or are they just a convenience item? The answer depends on how you use them.

What is a smart plug?

Smart plugs are one of the easiest ways to make your home “smart” without rewiring anything. They are simple to set up and easy to use, instantly adding smart functionality to electronic devices. Just plug the smart plug into your wall outlet, then plug your device into the smart plug.



With a smart plug, you can turn power on and off remotely using a mobile app or voice assistant. Many models offer scheduling features such as timers, sunrise and sunset automation, and “away mode,” which can automatically turn devices on and off when you’re not home. Some smart plugs can also track electricity usage, helping you identify which devices use the most energy.

Smart plugs come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and power ratings. Prices typically start around \$10 and increase depending on features and capacity. It’s important to check the

wattage or amperage rating before purchasing to ensure compatibility with your device. For example, a high-power appliance like a 1,500-watt space heater requires a plug rated for 15 amps (1,800 watts) to safely handle the load.

How can a smart plug save you money?

Smart plugs can help lower your electric bill when used strategically. The key is reducing wasted energy and creating smarter habits.

Many devices draw power even when turned off – such as gaming consoles, office equipment, and appliances with LED clocks. This is known as standby or “phantom” energy use. While unplugging unused devices is the most cost-effective solution, it’s not always convenient. Smart plugs make it easier by allowing you to cut power to these devices with a voice command or tap of a button.

They also help automate energy savings. You can set timers to ensure devices don’t run longer than needed or turn them off while you’re sleeping or away from home. If you forget to turn something off, you can do so instantly from your phone from anywhere!

Smart plugs are an investment, so placement matters. Using one on an outlet that is rarely used won’t provide much benefit. However, installing them on frequently used outlets or devices that consume more energy can lead to savings.

If you are enrolled in Sioux Valley Energy’s Time of Use rate, smart plugs may also help you manage energy use during on-peak hours when electricity costs more. Contact 877-511-8062 to learn more about the Time of Use rate or to sign up for a three-month risk-free trial.

Watch the Clock to lock in Energy Savings **16 hours** of every day with the Time of Use Rate! Call 1-877-511-8062 to sign up for a three-month risk-free trial! *You must call to enroll.*



DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The incumbent director in District 7 did not seek re-election. Two members, Jacob “Jake” Droge and Chris Rieff, filed petitions to run for this board seat. The election will be held on April 30 in Hartford.

Jacob “Jake” Droge

Work History: Service has shaped much of my life. After enlisting in the United States Army, I served as a combat medic – an experience that taught me discipline, responsibility, and the importance of staying calm when others depend on you. I continued my service in the South Dakota Army National Guard and remain active in the American Legion. I am proud to have worn the uniform, and I carry the lessons of integrity and accountability with me every day. Today, I serve our community as a Certified Reverse Mortgage Professional. My work centers on helping individuals and families make informed, thoughtful decisions about their financial future. Listening carefully and putting people first is not just part of my job – it is a responsibility I take seriously.

Why do you want to be a SVE Director? I have been a member of Sioux Valley Energy for many years and have served on the Member Advisory Committee since 2012. Through that role, I have gained valuable insight into how our cooperative operates and how important reliable, affordable energy is to our farms, homes, and local businesses. I have seen the care and effort that go into ensuring our members are served efficiently and responsibly. I am seeking the opportunity to serve as a Sioux Valley Energy Director because I believe in the cooperative model and in leadership that reflects the voice of its members. I am not running to advance my own interests, but to represent yours.

What skills/assets would you bring to the Board of Directors? I bring a steady approach, a problem-solving mindset, and a commitment to thoughtful decision-making. Most importantly, I listen. Rather than telling people what I know of my certifications and awards, I think it is important for people to know I care and put their needs before my own.

Additional Information: I am the proud father of three children, active in my church, and involved in volunteer efforts in our community. Some may also know me as “Flagman,” as I am working toward completing a half-marathon in all 50 states while carrying the American flag – a personal reminder of the freedoms and responsibilities we share. It would be an honor to serve you and represent our community on the Sioux Valley Energy Board.



Jake Droge
Humboldt, S.D.
District 7
Candidate

Chris Rieff

Work History: I have worked in the construction industry my entire life, starting as a grunt to becoming a business owner. Through that experience, I’ve learned the value of hard work, dedication, and making careful, well-thought-out decisions. Running a business has also taught me how to solve problems, manage people, and stay focused on long-term success. I would bring a practical, common-sense perspective to the Board and a desire to work with others to make decisions that help Sioux Valley Energy grow and succeed.

Why do you want to be a SVE Director? I want to serve as a Sioux Valley Energy Director because I care about the future of our community. Reliable, affordable electricity is vital to our families, farms, and businesses that depend on Sioux Valley Energy every day. As a member-owner of the cooperative, it’s important to listen to our members, represent their interests, and make thoughtful decisions for our long-term sustainability. Ensuring that Sioux Valley Energy remains financially strong, innovative, and committed to providing safe, dependable power are goals that are important to me. I would bring a practical perspective, strong work ethic, and a willingness to work with others to help the organization continue to grow and serve its members.

What skills/assets would you bring to the Board of Directors? My ability to analyze information, ask constructive questions, and consider multiple perspectives, allows me to make the best decision. I would bring a strong work ethic, good communication skills, and a willingness to listen and learn. I believe in working as a team and making thoughtful decisions that support Sioux Valley Energy’s goals and long-term success.

Additional Information: I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors and help continue the success and future growth of our organization.



Chris Rieff
Hartford, S.D.
District 7
Candidate

ONE VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Chuck Sloan • Piedmont, S.D.

Board Treasurer, West River Electric Association

U.S. Air Force 1983-2003

Chuck Sloan has spent much of his life serving his nation.

Sloan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and served 21 years on active duty before retiring as a master sergeant in 2004. In that time, he was stationed at bases all around the world, including Oman, South Korea, Turkey, and the Pacific. Since 2004, Sloan has worked as a civilian at Ellsworth Air Force Base, where today he is Chief of Operations Compliance.

Serving in the military, Sloan observed firsthand how seriously service members took absentee voting and civic participation, despite being thousands of miles from American soil. Their passion helped ignite Sloan's own admiration for America's democratic system of government.

"If I found somebody a little laissez-faire about voting, saying, 'my vote probably won't count,' I would give them a spiel," Sloan explained. "Yes, your vote does count, and you'll want to be able to say that you made that vote."

He continued, "If you don't choose to exercise that responsibility, then later on if you're displeased, you really can't

complain about it because you didn't make a choice – If anything, vote and give yourself the opportunity to legitimately complain!"

Sloan said people should never underestimate the importance of showing up and making their voices heard, because in close races, one vote can tip the scale.

"There are many instances when one vote may have been a determining factor," Sloan said. "It may not be a general election, but how about in a state or local election where one vote can be the deciding factor? That happens more often than one would think. Your vote matters, no matter what you do."

Sloan brought that civic-mindedness along with him to West River Electric Association, where he serves on the Board of Directors and helps make decisions in the interest of his neighbors and communities he represents.

Sloan said it all just comes back to civic responsibility and staying involved.

"From the time I turned 18, I've never missed a vote," Sloan said. "It's second nature. It's too important to not do."



VOTING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



Evan Buckmiller • De Smet, S.D.

General Manager, Kingsbury Electric Cooperative

De Smet School District Board

For Kingsbury Electric Cooperative General Manager Evan Buckmiller, his call to public service came after a mid-term resignation on the De Smet School District

Board left a vacancy that needed to be filled.

"The board had to appoint someone to fill the seat," Buckmiller said. "Initially when I was asked, I didn't know if I wanted to do it, but I also knew that my wife and I have two young kids in the school system, so I agreed to fill the spot until the next election."

Buckmiller wasn't expecting to develop a passion for civic-service, but six years and two election cycles later, he's still representing the De Smet community on the school board.

"It's for my kids, to make sure they have the best education opportunities possible to prepare them for their future," Buckmiller added.

He said that while serving on the school board has been a

rewarding endeavor, there are also moments that are discouraging; some people will sit out elections, but are also vocal about board decisions they disagree with.

"I receive phone calls about how we are doing everything wrong, but they don't want to step up to be a part of change," Buckmiller explained.

His advice is simple: show up.

"Public participation at the monthly school board meetings is always encouraged," Buckmiller said. "When a community is engaged, there is more diverse input and you get to see the needs of everyone. The needs for one person might not be the same as another, and when you are sitting on a board you want to hear the needs of everyone so you can make the best decision possible for everyone."

Buckmiller said when more people get involved and exercise their civic duties, the communities like his are better for it.

"Being active in the community makes the community stronger and allows different opinions to be heard," Buckmiller said.

"When you show up to meetings and vote, you are giving the board direction so they can make decisions that are in the best interest of everyone."

STICK UP FOR YOURSELF & VOTE



Don Schurdevin • Elk Point, S.D.
Board President, Union County Electric Cooperative
U.S. Navy 1962-1968

Serving on the Union County Electric Cooperative board for more than 25 years, Don Schurdevin has built a reputation for steady leadership and a strong commitment

to the cooperative and its members. But before serving his neighbors and community on the co-op board, Schurdevin first served in a different way. He served not just his Union County neighbors, but his entire country in the U.S. Navy. Schurdevin enrolled during his junior year of high school in 1962, serving active duty in Vietnam from 1963 to 1965, some of that time aboard the USS Midway. The experience helped shape his views on patriotism, civic duty and personal responsibility.

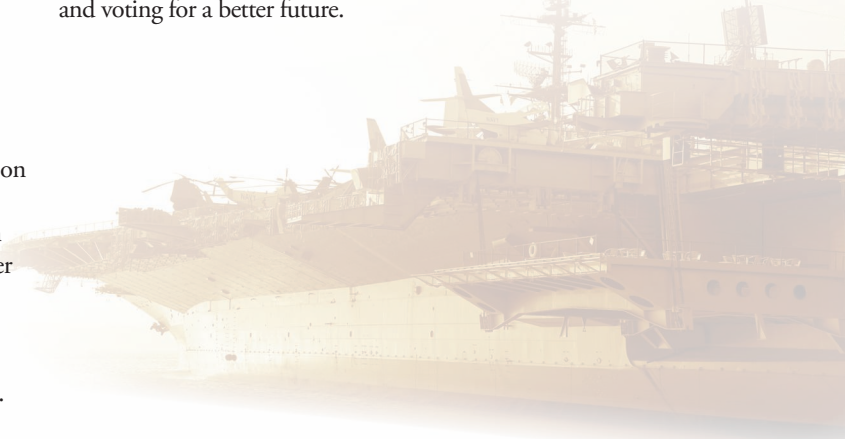
“In the navy, you learn to get along with people, but you learn to also stick up for yourself, because nobody else – is so you better take care of your own business,” he said.

That’s the attitude that Schurdevin brings to his civic participation. He said serving in the military gave him a deeper appreciation for the freedoms Americans enjoy, including voting.

Schurdevin believes participating in elections is one of the most important ways citizens can stay involved in their communities and help shape the future of their community, state and country.

“I think I voted in every election since I could,” Schurdevin recalled. “School board election, county, state – if I was able to vote I was voting.”

That sense of duty carried into his years of cooperative service. As a director, Schurdevin remains focused on serving members and ensuring the co-op continues to meet local needs. Schurdevin encourages others to “stick up for yourself” by staying informed and voting for a better future.



LEADERS DEPEND ON YOU SPEAKING UP



Chris Rahn • Mission, S.D.
Member Services Manager, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative
Todd County School District Board, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Chris Rahn was not always interested in his local government. In fact, up until just several years ago, he sat many elections out.

But through his work at Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative and the commitment to community that came with it, Rahn gained a new perspective on civic participation, realizing that change only happens when peoples’ voices are heard.

“I believe everybody who has an opinion should come out and vote,” Rahn said. “One vote matters. One vote can change an entire election.”

Rahn’s indifference to voting began to change as he was asked to take on more responsibilities with the co-op. Cherry-Todd Electric General Manager Tim Grablander nominated Rahn to the Rushmore Electric Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, where Rahn now serves as president.

Shortly after, he was encouraged by local community leaders to apply for a board seat with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The tribal

council voted to seat Rahn on the judiciary committee, leading to his first real experience with public service. Like flipping a switch, Rahn’s enthusiasm led to his appointment to other tribal boards, including the Tribal Utilities Commission, Tribal Tax Commission, and the Rosebud Energy Services Company.

Rahn said serving in tribal government opened his mind to the impact he can have on his community. That realization inspired Rahn to run for his first publicly-elected position as a school board member for the Todd County School District.

“I wanted to be more involved in my daughter’s education and just listen to the community’s input,” Rahn said, restating the importance of community members actively engaging with elected officials and sharing feedback.

He continued: “I feel like I’ve been able to bridge the gap between the people I represent and the administration and other public leaders.”

As Rahn looks ahead to years of future public service to work for a better community, he encourages others to step up as well — and all it takes is a vote.

“If you speak up, your voice is heard,” he continued. “When everyone’s voice is heard, we can make better decisions for the community as a whole.”

Photos by Shutterstock



Demand 101

Sioux Valley Energy includes three billing components on residential and general service electric bills. Learn about those components and how your electric bill will change in 2027.

The **ENERGY CHARGE** is based on the **total amount of electricity** consumed over a certain time period and is measured in kilowatt hours or kWh.

The second component is the **BASIC SERVICE CHARGE**. This charge covers the **fixed costs** associated with providing electricity to your location such as meters, transformers, electric lines, and billing.

Finally, there is a **DEMAND LINE ITEM** listed on the electric bill, but residential and general service members are not currently charged based on demand. In the past, those demand costs have been blended into the energy and basic service charges.



To more closely align with how the Cooperative is charged by its power suppliers, Sioux Valley Energy will break out **DEMAND** charges on residential and general service bills starting in 2027.

DEMAND is measured in kilowatts or kW and represents the **rate at which electricity is being used**. In other words, it's the amount of power required in an instant to satisfy the needs of all your connected appliances, lighting, heating, and anything else in your home requiring electricity at the exact same time.

Demand is measured in kilowatts or kW and represents the RATE at which electricity is being used.

LEARN MORE AT YOUR SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9



Meeting locations:

MAIN SITE: Tri Valley High School, Colton

SATELLITE SITES:

Sioux Valley High School, Volga

Pipestone Area High School, Pipestone

How Demand Can Impact Your Electric Bill

Below are examples of two different families whose electric demand impacts the grid differently, even though they use the same total amount of power throughout the day.

The Johnsons



Energy: 2,240 kWh
Demand: 8.5 kW

The **Johnsons** start their day like many other families...by stacking electric use. The shower is running at the same time the coffee is brewing, the dishwasher is cycling, and a bagel is toasting... Stacking electric use results in high demand on the system.

The **Johnsons** will *pay more* on their monthly electric bill than the **Smiths** because they placed more demand on the system at one time.

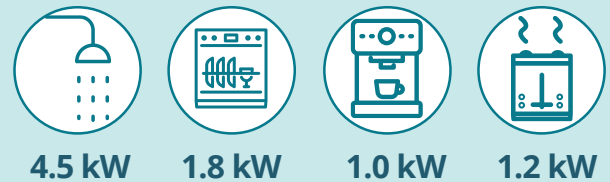


The Smiths



Energy: 2,240 kWh
Demand: 4.5 kW

The **Smiths** spread their electric use by showering the night before, programming the dishwasher for midnight, brewing coffee in the morning and then waiting to toast the bagel. This family has a lower electrical demand because they spread their electric use.



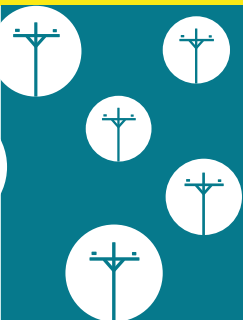
Because the Johnsons stack their electric use - their demand costs will be higher than the Smiths who spread their electric use.

Who Pays More? The Johnsons.

Same Amount of Total **ENERGY** Use (2,240 kWh) = **Same Energy Charge**

More **DEMAND** placed on the system at one time (8.5 kW vs. 4.5 kW) = **Higher Demand Charge**

The Johnsons had higher demand costs because they stacked their electric use.



When demand is high on the system, Sioux Valley Energy and/or its power suppliers have to make more electricity and build bigger electric lines to meet everyone's needs. More power and bigger equipment equals higher costs.



**SPREAD
DON'T STACK**

There are many ways to lower your demand without making huge lifestyle changes but the most impactful thing you can do is **SPREAD DON'T STACK**.



Learn more by scanning this QR code.

BUILDING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Basin Electric's Pioneer Generation Station, located near Williston, N.D.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Basin Electric Expands Generation Capacity to Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Although the flick of a switch can seem close at hand, the electricity that powers our world is often generated many miles away.

For rural cooperative members, electricity often comes from North Dakota, where Basin Electric Power Cooperative operates a fleet of power plants to serve rural communities across nine states. As demand continues to build across that system, the infrastructure behind it is growing right alongside it.

This steady growth has shaped the work now underway across Basin Electric's service territory. In response, the cooperative has kept up with demand by expanding existing generation facilities, building a new power plant and supporting the system with additional transmission projects in just a few short years.

"We're seeing load growth across our system, and it's coming from a combination of residential, agricultural, commercial and energy development," said Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric's senior vice president and chief operating officer. "When you step back and look at it as a whole, it becomes clear that we need to continue building to keep pace with that growth."



New transmission lines in western North Dakota support Basin Electric's newest generation assets.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Pioneer Generation Station

To maintain reliability and keep the lights on for their members, Basin Electric recently expanded its generation capacity through new development to Pioneer Generation Station near Williston, N.D.

Originally developed in the early 2010s, the facility grew in phases over time. Those additions turned Pioneer Generation Station into one of Basin Electric's most important generation assets, but within a decade, the pace of that growth had begun to change.

"Coming out of COVID, not just us but everybody

was seeing rapid increases in loads,” McCollam said. “At that point, we were asking what we could do the quickest to add capacity.”

To meet the need, Basin Electric moved forward with Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. The cooperative completed the project in 2025, adding about 580 megawatts of generation and bringing the site’s total capacity to 822 megawatts, enough to power roughly 400,000 homes.

The expansion moved quickly in part because Basin Electric built on what it already had.

“We had the site and the people that worked there, so we could add onto it a lot quicker than we could analyze and research new sites,” McCollam said.

Bison Generation Station

Still, Basin Electric continued building for traditional member load growth, beyond Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV, turning to a new project: Bison Generation Station.

Located near Epping, N.D., the natural gas-fueled generation project is being built from the ground up as a large-scale, natural gas facility designed to meet future demand. Once completed, the combined-cycle power plant will produce approximately 1,490

megawatts of electricity, making it the largest power plant solely owned by Basin Electric – almost double the capacity of Pioneer Generation Station. The plant is expected to come online in two phases, with the first unit operating in 2029 and the second in 2030.

Unlike Pioneer Generation Station, which expanded over time, Bison Generation Station is being built as a single, large project.

“We had a history of building small units, piecemealing them in as quickly as we could. That worked for a long time, but eventually we reached a point where we needed to think about building differently,” McCollam said. “There was a point where we recognized that continuing to add smaller pieces wasn’t going to be the most effective approach. We needed to build something at a scale that would allow us to stay ahead of that growth.”

Serendipitously, the transition from Pioneer Generation Station to Bison Generation Station happened on the same day. Basin Electric finished construction at Pioneer and turned the facility over to operations, then received the permits to begin construction on Bison.

“I’m kind of a nerd,” McCollam

said, laughing. “I’m nerdy enough to think this wasn’t a coincidence, and the power plant gods were smiling on us.”

Once complete, it will become a central part of Basin Electric’s generation portfolio.

“It’s going to be the flagship of our gas fleet,” McCollam said. “It’s being designed with the understanding that the system we’re serving today is going to continue to grow.”

Looking Ahead

According to McCollam, these new generation assets are a response to the organic growth Basin Electric is seeing across its traditional membership, including residential demand, agriculture, commercial activity and energy production.

“We support that growth where it happens, and we make sure the system can deliver power where it’s needed,” he said.

For Basin Electric, the work underway now is part of a longer process to ensure reliability in a time of growing energy demand.

“The entire purpose of Basin Electric is to provide reliable service to our membership,” McCollam said. “As that system grows, we have to continue building to keep up with it.”



Operation Round Up® Grants Awarded

During its March 2026 meeting, the Operation Round Up® board awarded grants to area organizations. ORU grants are administered by a non-profit trust, the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust, which was initiated in the fall of 2000. The purpose of the trust is to acquire, accumulate, and disburse funds for charitable and educational purposes as permitted by Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Your community, your school, and/or your nonprofit organization may be eligible for funding. Awards are based on criteria guidelines of the Trust. Not all proposals are funded, and not all applications are funded at the full funding request.

BRANDON

Buddies & Co – \$1,000 to purchase a freezer to use in their shop - this will help them to expand their business by selling individual and family size freezer meals

Brandon Tennis Association – \$500 to reduce registration fees, provide summer lessons for children 5-14, t-shirts for all participants, and scholarships for families in need

BROOKINGS

Mickelson Middle School – \$800 to purchase 8-10 digital microscopes that can be used for the 6th grade science classroom, these will help to enhance several units, with a primary focus on the rocks and minerals units

Special Education Transition Program Housed at Hillcrest Elementary – \$500 to provide real-life opportunities as they develop these essential skills

STARS – \$800 to expand tools for obstacle courses to ride through, along with rubber mats to provide safe and stable walkways to the program areas

National Inventors Hall of Fame – \$1,000 for full camp registration for 10 local low-income children

South Dakota Youth Foundation, Inc – \$750 to support comprehensive review and update of the Healthy Youth curriculum done in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Dietetics program

Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program – \$1,200 to launch a pilot program that will serve up to 10 teens who are in a pivotal transition point in their lives

BRUCE

Bruce Stingers Baseball – \$1,000 to purchase a padded backstop to ensure the safety of players, coaches, and umpires

CHESTER

Chester School – \$250 for boat kits and award medals for a project in science class for middle school students

COLTON

Colton Fire Department – \$2,500 to be used to purchase three AED Life Pak CR2 models with public access defibrillator cases

Colton Friends of Baseball – \$1,500 to help with field improvements, such as replacing dugouts, concession stand and fencing, along with adding a crows nest, accessible seating, and new bathrooms

CROOKS

Crooks Community Childcare Center – \$1,300 to purchase chairs and an infant table for the new center

FLANDREAU

Flandreau After Prom – \$200 to help cover costs for food, activities, prizes, and entertainment for after prom

FLANDREAU/HARTFORD

ROCS Transit – \$2,000 to be used for general transportation for the elderly, disabled youth, and the overall general public

GARRETSON

Garretson Area Historical Society – \$600 to address public safety, health concerns, and the preservation of a cultural community assessed at the museum. Funding will also support a licensed wildlife contractor to perform human bat exclusion

HARTFORD

West Central Music Association – \$1,499 to purchase two marching band baritones

HOLLAND

SW MN Blaze Baseball – \$1,000 to help pay for registration fees, lodging, and meals for the players for the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame tournament in New York

LUVERNE

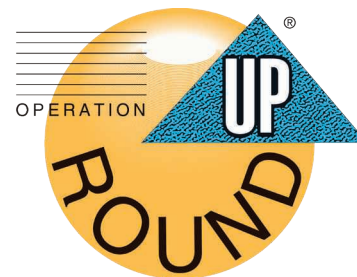
Luverne School – \$1,000 for miscellaneous items for classrooms

Luverne School – \$1,000 to purchase a dramatic play kitchen and sensory table for children to learn through hands on play

MADISON

Dakota State University – \$850 to support essential event expenses for the "Women in Science Day"

East Dakota Transit – \$2,000 to provide general transportation to the elderly, disabled, youth and the general public within Madison city limits



Dakota State University – \$1,000 for the "JA in a Day" program

Lake County Historical Society – \$800 to help develop the Boyd Wagon Virtual Reality Experience, an innovative educational project designed to bring local history to life for youth, families, and lifelong learners

PIPESTONE

Pipestone Calumet Players – \$1,000 to purchase costumes, build sets, and advertising

ACE of Southwest Minnesota – \$600 to help provide meal for 200 volunteers for an appreciation event

City of Pipestone – \$1,000 to purchase and install communication boards for the parks and outdoor swimming pool

AMP (Arts & Mentoring Project) – \$1,000 to help cover cost of a local storage unit that houses essential equipment, supplies, costumes, and sets for the AMP

Pipestone Area French Club – \$1,000 for expenses for students to travel to France

Quilts of Valor – \$1,500 to purchase supplies to make quilts that will be presented to veterans each year in this region

SIOUX FALLS

McCrossan Boys Ranch – \$2,000 to purchase track and field items needed to utilize the new complex

Center of Hope – \$1,000 to help provide clothing to those transitioning out of prison through "New Beginnings", provide new bicycle parts/locks for those that use bikes as their main form of transportation, and to provide medicine assistance for the uninsured

Sioux Falls Roosevelt Band Parents

Association – \$1,000 to be used for props and marching equipment for the 2026 marching band season, along with funding to help with bus service to transport students to and from competitions

Sioux Falls Zoo & Aquarium – \$750 to enable hundreds of children and adults to engage with SFZA's facilities and programs, including "Zoo & Aquarium for All" which provides reduced-price admission for economically disadvantaged individuals

Teens sought for 2026-27 EmPOWER Youth Leadership

What is EmPOWER Youth Leadership?

The EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program helps area teens build leadership skills and develop a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives.

When is it held?

Teens meet in four interactive sessions held on state holidays in October, November, January, and February. A makeup day will be scheduled for Good Friday, if needed.

What happens at EmPOWER?

Each session builds upon skills learned in the previous session and extends into exploring career opportunities, networking with other students and business leaders, and learning more about the cooperative business model. Students are also eligible for scholarships and additional learning opportunities through travel to Washington, D.C., and cooperative facilities in North Dakota.

When are applications due?

Applications for the 2026-27 group are due May 8.

How do I apply?

Go to www.empoweryouthleadership.com.



STEP UP AND STAND OUT!

Leadership, learning, friendships and challenges. Energize your potential through the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program!

This inspiring, interactive program will help you discover personal strengths, build & improve leadership skills, link up with peers & professionals, and explore career paths.



SCHOLARSHIPS!
TRIPS!

FOUR FUN-FILLED, PEER-ADVISED PROGRAM DAYS FOCUS ON:

- Leadership Skills
- Cooperatives
- Personal Strengths
- Communication Skills
- Team Building
- Health & Wellness
- Electrical Safety/CPR
- Networking
- Career Options

TO APPLY:

The 12-month program is open to upcoming juniors who are ready to commit to fully EmPOWER themselves with fun, positive, open minds. Applications are available from your school counselor or on the Sioux Valley Energy website. Submit via email to Empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com.




EMPOWERYOUTHLEADERSHIP.COM

Brought to you by



Application Deadline is May 8.



MAY 18
Voter Registration
Deadline for Primary
Election
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 1
Last Day to Request
Absentee Ballot.
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 2
Primary Election
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
(South Dakota)

Photo by Shutterstock

MAY 2-10
Rustic Designs & More Spring
Show, Flea Market
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

MAY 2
Consignment Auction
7 a.m. Gates Open
10 a.m. Auction
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 2
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
2-8 p.m.
Milbank, SD
605-432-6656

MAY 3
Prairie Village Opening Day
2 p.m. Train Ride
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 6-7
Energize! Exploring Innovative
Rural Communities Conference
Hosted by SDSU Extension
Community Vitality
Community Center
Wall, SD
extension.sdstate.edu/energize

MAY 9
1880 Train Opens
Hill City, SD

MAY 15-17
Open House Weekend
Free Entrance
Custer State Park
Custer, SD

MAY 16
2nd Annual Bird Bash
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bear Butte State Park
Sturgis, SD
605-390-2901
valleyhummingbird@yahoo.com

MAY 23
Free Christian Men's Event
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Barn at Aspen Acres
Spearfish, SD
Register: RiseUpMen.com

MAY 30
Familyfest Fun Cruise
& SDSC Safety Fair
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bucket Trucks, Safety & More
Sioux Falls, SD
thehoodmagazine.com/ff-faqs/

MAY 30
Frühlingsfest
Spring Street Market
1-5 p.m.
Main Street Square
Rapid City, SD
605-718-8484

MAY 30
Miss Prairie Village/Miss
Prairie Princess Pageant
6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Welk Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JUNE 4-6
Black Hills Quilt Show
Thurs. 5-8 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rushmore Hall
at the Monument
Rapid City, SD

JUNE 13
Journey Into Historic Pickstown
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ft. Randall Town & Museum
Pickstown, SD
605-487-7299

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rope & Candle Making, Butter
Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
Lake Herman State Park
Madison, SD
605-880-5077

JUNE 19-20
77th Annual Czech Days
Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com

JUNE 24-27
Crystal Springs Rodeo
Clear Lake, SD
605-874-2996

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
Britton, SD
605-880-5077

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.