Tailgate Parties held at Football Games

Grand Electric and West River Cooperative Telephone Company cosponsored tailgate parties at local football games during September and October. Bratwursts, hot dogs and chips were served prior to each game and T-shirts were “shot” to the crowds. These 17811 Tama Rd, Red Owl events are a fun way for co-op employees to interact with our members and show our thanks for their continued support. Thank you to everyone who attended this year! We hope you enjoyed the tailgate parties as much as we did.

Brad Besler, Ross Kopren and Mike Lemburg (grilling) at a Tailgate Party last season.

Top: General Manager Reed Metzger helps out at the Bison Tailgate Party. Bottom: Pam Kolb serves food to hungry football fans!

Our office will be closed Thanksgiving Day November 27th.

Have a great Holiday!

Happy Thanksgiving

God’s Richest Blessings to you and your family
Manager’s Column

One Network, Working Together

For more than 65 years, America’s electric cooperatives have thrived, growing to meet local needs in different parts of the country and earning the trust of millions of people. In all our communities we have been a focal point; a connection; a touchstone.

In 1998 electric co-ops across the U.S. came together to create a new team—Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. is proud to be a part of this national brand within America’s energy industry that champions the value of the cooperative difference.

The Touchstone Energy network is made up of close to 750 local, member-owned electric cooperatives 10544 Tufte Rd, Ludlow in 46 states. Touchstone Energy co-ops, like Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc, collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. And because we are a cooperative, we have a responsibility to support the communities we serve and exceed expectations there, too. That means we aim to improve the quality of life by offering the Round-Up Program, hosting Tailgate Parties, Safety Programs for kids, Legislative Forums, and participating in local events such as Farm & Home Shows across our service area.

We’re dedicated to serving our members with innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community. Together, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives champion the cause for lowest-cost, democratically governed energy.

To us, it’s about how we use human connection to inspire engagement, preference and loyalty. And it’s about how we 17734 US Hwy 212, Faith help transform relationships.

Grand Electric, along with other Touchstone Energy co-ops, takes pride in creating innovative programs to better serve our member-consumers and in finding new ways to help businesses succeed. We take even more pride in being reliable neighbors in the communities we are a part of. We are on a mission to build a strong local and national presence to electric cooperatives.

Above all, we each have a voice because we are all members; we are all owners; we are all connected; we are all a part of the cooperative network.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®
Halloween Safety

A few safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can protect children who plan to go trick-or-treating this Halloween.

Treats: Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.

Flame Resistant Costumes: When purchasing a costume, masks, beards and wigs, look for the label Flame Resistant. Although this label does not mean these items won’t catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source. To minimize the risk of contact with candles or other sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.

Costume Designs: Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists.

  - For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car’s headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
  - To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
  - Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
  - Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. Mother’s high heels are not a good idea for safe walking.
  - Hats and scarfs should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children’s eyes.
  - Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose-fitting mask that might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If a mask is used, however, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
  - Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.

Pedestrian Safety: Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child. All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street. Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars, or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture, or clotheslines present dangers.

Choosing Safe Houses: Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome.

  - Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.
  - People expecting trick-or-treaters should remove anything that could be an obstacle from lawns, steps and porches. Candlelit jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame. Indoor jack-o’-lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, and other furnishings that could be ignited.

Source: cpsc.gov

Kids’ Corner Safety Poster

“Don’t leave bare wires laying around.”

Hannah Leana Bartscher, 10 years old
Hannah is the daughter of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, 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.

Our families can’t afford higher energy costs.
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
Wild Game Recipes

Roast Raccoon

Combine meat, cheese, tomato paste, oregano and basil in a small bowl. Combine biscuit mix, eggs, milk, pepper and salt in a small bowl. Spread cottage cheese into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan. Spread meat mixture over cottage cheese. Spread biscuit mix mixture over meat. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes or until brown and knife comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing.

Nutritional information (1/4 slice): 290 calories, 39g protein, 15g carbohydrate, 8g fat.

Impossible Meat Pie

Combine meat, cheese, tomato paste, oregano and basil in a small bowl. Combine biscuit mix, eggs, milk, pepper and salt in a small bowl. Spread cottage cheese into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan. Spread meat mixture over cottage cheese. Spread biscuit mix mixture over meat. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes or until brown and knife comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing.

Nutritional information (1/4 slice): 290 calories, 39g protein, 15g carbohydrate, 8g fat.

Venison Stew

Dredge meat in flour; sear in cooking oil. Add peppers, onion, carrots and celery. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over meat. Continue cooking until meat is tender, approximately 1 hour.

Storing Game

Refrigerate game meat as soon as possible after the kill. Blood may be removed from meat by allowing the meat to soak in salted water overnight. Then rinse, dry well and prepare or freeze for later use. To freeze meat, use an airtight, moisture-proof container or wrap in freezer-safe plastic wrap with an overlay of aluminum foil. Be sure to label the contents. Game meat can be safely stored in the same way as domestic meat.

South Dakota Pheasant Supreme

Pound pheasant breasts to about 1/4- to 1/2-inch thickness. Melt 3 T. butter in fry pan over medium heat. Flour breasts and sauté in butter for about 4 minutes per side, until a light golden brown. Remove pheasant from pan and place on separate plates in warm oven. Add chicken broth, 1 T. butter and lemon juice to leftovers in fry pan. Stir mixture with wooden spoon, scraping browned bits off bottom of skillet. Simmer 5 minutes; add mushrooms. Spoon sauce over individual breasts. Serve hot with toasted French bread that can be dipped in the sauce. Variations: A dry, white wine can be added to the sauce.

Larry Simpson, Isabel

Storing Game

Refrigerate game meat as soon as possible after the kill. Blood may be removed from meat by allowing the meat to soak in salted water overnight. Then rinse, dry well and prepare or freeze for later use. To freeze meat, use an airtight, moisture-proof container or wrap in freezer-safe plastic wrap with an overlay of aluminum foil. Be sure to label the contents. Game meat can be safely stored in the same way as domestic meat.
Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

From the Mailbox

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Grand Electric Round-Up Committee for recently donating to me. What a year it has been between our October Storm as ranchers and then getting diagnosed with breast cancer the next month. With true Faith and the ability to not let things get me down it has been a good year. This area has been tremendously helpful and generous to me and my family. Thank you again, so very much.

-Lee Ann Gaer, Newell
Find your address & win $20

Oops! Last month’s issue didn’t have any addresses hidden. This month there are ten new addresses hidden. The addresses we are using are the mailing addresses that are on your monthly electric bill. It includes a rural route address or a box number along with the town.

If you find your address, let us know and you will be credited $20.00 on your next electric bill.

Deadline is October 31, 2014.

Halloween Safety Tips

For Children:
1. Look both ways before crossing the street
2. Do not eat candy without your parent’s permission
3. Do not eat opened candy
4. Use face paint instead of masks
5. Carry a flashlight
6. Only go to homes that have a front light on
7. Accept treats at the door—do not go inside a stranger’s house!

For Parents:
1. All children under 10 years old should be trick-or-treating with an adult
2. Your children’s costumes should be a lighter colour
3. Your children’s costumes should fit properly and not be too long
4. Plan a trick-or-treat route for your children
South Dakota is often known for Mount Rushmore, the Corn Palace and how there are more cattle than people. What people often don’t know is that South Dakota is a treasure chest of geological wonders. Nestled in the middle of North America, South Dakota has only been a state for 125 years but has been shaped and formed by millions of years of oceans, glaciers and tectonic plate shift. Thanks to the work put in by Mother Nature millenniums ago, there are now many geographical attractions spread across the state.

Lemmon's Petrified Wood Forest: Lemmon, S.D.

Located on the border separating North Dakota and South Dakota, Lemmon’s Petrified Wood Forest is both an ode to some of Earth’s geological creations, as well as man-made artistry. Boosting a 300-ton castle and more than 100 sculptures and spires, the one-block park is made up of petrified wood, which is the name given to a rock-like remain of what was once a tree or a tree-like plant. Touted as a “never to be forgotten experience” (tripadvisor.com), the Petrified Wood Forest is a must-see for all visitors. Since its creation in 1932, Lemmon has maintained the park as a living testament to some of Earth’s most impressive tribute to early vegetation.

Spirit Mound: Vermillion, S.D.

The seemingly never-ending prairie of eastern South Dakota is famous for its overall rather flat appearance. However, in the far southeastern corner is a location that is note-worthy not only because of what it is, but for who visited. Known geographi-
cally as a “bedrock knob,” Spirit Mound is a gently sloping hill that stands out sharply against its level surroundings. While the rest of the surrounding prairie was eroded away by a glacier, this one particular rock formation stood the test and maintained integrity. However, its geological makeup isn’t the only thing unique about it. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, staying with a local tribe nearby, sent 10 men, including both Lewis and Clark, to explore the location. Thought by Native American tribes to be populated by “Little People,” miniature devils carrying arrows, the small expedition explored the area for said beings. Despite not finding any people occupying the hill, Lewis and Clark left behind a legacy in that locality as it is now one of the few precise whereabouts that they are known to have visited.

Badlands National Park, S.D.

The eroded walls of Badlands National Park create an ever-changing kaleidoscope of hues as sun and season cycle through, illuminating the rugged landscape. Located in southwestern South Dakota, the park consists of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires surrounded by a mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The National Park Service notes that the mixed-grass prairie is a transitional zone between the tall-grass prairie to the east and the short-grass prairie to the west.

The Badlands were formed by the geologic forces of deposition and erosion. Deposition of sediments began 69 million years ago when an ancient sea stretched across what is now the Great Plains. After the sea retreated, successive land environments, including rivers and flood plains, continued to deposit sediments. Although the major period of deposition ended 28 million years ago, significant erosion of the Badlands did not begin until a mere half a million years ago. Erosion continues to carve the Badland’s buttes today.

Wind Cave National Park: Hot Springs, S.D.

Above ground the bison roam and prairie flowers bloom, below ground is another world. Wind Cave National Park is not only home to some of South Dakota’s most beloved wildlife, but also plays host to an underground cave with a network of passages and box work mineral formations. Named for how the cave was discovered, in 1881 two men heard an unmistakable whistling nose that lead them to investigate, and eventually find, the opening to an underground cavern. Its eventual establishment as a national park in 1903 was culminated by the more than 130 explored miles of passages, cementing a position early on as one of the world’s longest caves. Formed when rainwater absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and becomes acid, then seeps into cracks of rocks comprising the ground, caves often require more than 100,000 years of seepage and erosion to form in their entirety. Along with the sheer size of this particular cave was the uniqueness of the calcium formations found within its natural chambers. Instead of the expected dripping stalactites growths that most caves share, Wind Cave boasts a unique box work décor – often referred to as honey-comb-like formations covering the ceilings. This unique formation is thought to happen when calcite fills the “veins” of rock sheets and then the original rock wears away, leaving behind a lacy reminder of what used to be. Wind Cave is considered to be a world marvel and a must see for visitors and natives alike.

Bear Butte: Sturgis, S.D.

To the Lakota, this place is known as Bear Mountain or “Mato Paha.” The Cheyenne people know it by the name “Noahvose.” Today, it is widely known as Bear Butte and is regarded still as both a spiritual place and a geological spectacle. Rising 4,422 feet, the best way to describe what Bear Butte is comprised of is by saying it was almost a volcano. Formed when magma underground pushed upwards, there was enough pressure to cause a shift among plates of the Earth’s crust, but not enough force to cause an eruption. While the Black Hills is known for large rising hills, Bear Butte stands out as being a region unique to its surroundings.

Harney Peak: Pennington County, S.D.

Looking out soundlessly over the sprawling Black Hills, Harney Peak rises high above the neighboring hills. At 7,242 feet tall, the elevation of this mountain puts it as the highest point in the Black Hills and therefore the state. Used as a fire lookout from 1911-1967, Harney Peak has served as a silent servant to the area in which it was formed.

James River Valley, S.D.

As the James River flows more than 470 miles from its start in North Dakota to its joining with the Missouri River near Yankton, it has the distinction of having one of the lowest gradients of any river of similar length on the continent. From roughly the North Dakota border to Huron, the river drops about one inch every half mile; from Huron to Yankton, the river drops less than five inches over .62 miles.
New Employees

Trent Madsen joined the Grand Electric line department September 15th as an Apprentice Lineman at our Buffalo outpost. Trent grew up in New Underwood where he also graduated from High School and went on to graduate from Mitchell Technical Institute’s Powerline Construction and Maintenance Program. Prior to joining Grand Electric, Trent worked for West River Electric Cooperative in Rapid City as summer help. 
Trent’s parents are Kenny and Cindy Madsen, he also has a brother, Devin and a sister, Alicia. Trent enjoys sports, snowboarding and hanging out with his friends in his spare time.
Welcome to the Cooperative, Trent!

Riley Dalzell joined the Grand Electric line department September 15th as a Journeyman Lineman at our Bison office. Riley is a Lemmon native, graduating from Lemmon High School and Bismarck State College. Riley previously worked for Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Ekalaka, MT as a Journeyman Lineman.
Riley’s parents are Rich and Annette Dalzell and he has one sister, Halie. Riley enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.
Welcome to the Cooperative, Riley!

Shilo Donner joined the Grand Electric line department September 23rd as an Apprentice Lineman. 13831 Beaver Creek Pl, Reva Shilo grew up in the McIntosh area on a ranch and graduated from McIntosh High School. He attended Bismarck State College for Powerline Construction and Maintenance. Prior to coming to Grand Electric, he worked for Stateline Construction.
Shilo’s parents are Bernie and Dawne Donner and he has one brother, Sage. Shilo enjoys hunting, fishing, roping and riding colts.
Welcome to the Cooperative, Shilo!

Anniversary

Tally Seim celebrated 10 years with Grand Electric on September 13th. Tally began in 2004 as the Front Desk Receptionist, was promoted to Billing Clerk in 2006, moved in to the Accounting Department in 2007 and PO Box 65, Buffalo finally into the Marketing Department as a Marketing Technician in 2011. She graduated from Rapid City Central High School and Dickinson State University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration.
Tally and her husband, Jed, live on a ranch south of Meadow with their two daughters, Jayda and Paisley. She enjoys spending her time at the lake in the summer with her family, playing softball, coaching the Bison T-ball teams and watching her kids activities. Tally is also the Assistant Coach for the Bison Volleyball team.

Farewell to Clay Heidrich

Clay Heidrich submitted his resignation, effective September 26th. Clay came to work 19098 Rolling Hills Rd, Meadow for Grand Electric in December 2011 as an Apprentice Lineman and became a Journeyman Lineman in May 2014.
We wish Clay the best in his future endeavors.
Wrapping Up the Construction Season

Our focus continues to be placed on the TWACS upgrade and getting every meter in our system changed out. As you can imagine, this is no small task and will take a few more months to accomplish. As I mentioned last month, Chapman’s Metering Services was hired to replace majority of the meters and our own Grand Electric crew will also be assisting in this process.

The new meters look similar to the old meters, but you’ll notice your meter number is now eight digits rather than four. The new meter will flash two readings; the kwh reading which consists of five digits and the PK reading of 0.00. Another difference you might notice is the metal disc that would turn when power was going through the meter is no longer there. The new meters will have a dash that will run across the bottom of the display which indicates to you that there is power going through the meter. If you have questions about the new meters, I encourage you to visit our website www.grandelectric.coop and view the FAQ sheet, or give us a call at 605.244.5211.

A new bucket truck was recently purchased to replace a 2001 Freightliner that was in need of replacement. The new bucket truck has a taller bucket allowing crews to work on the taller poles we have installed.

The URD project east of the Ellingson Substation is nearing completion. The termination of the overhead line remains to be completed at 18948 Bakke Rd, Shadehill and cutover before the project can be considered complete. Several request for new house services, barns, grain bins and range wells have been made. I hope the weather holds out 601 3rd St W, Lemmon for us this year so we are able to complete these projects. Unfortunately the days are getting shorter and the cold winter days are near.

In Case of an Outage

During Normal Working Hours

If your electricity is off for longer than 15 minutes, contact our business office at (605) 244-5211 or 1-800-592-1803.

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

After Hours, Weekends and Holidays Call 1-877-896-0033 (toll free)

This toll-free call is directed to the Dispatch Service provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Once the outage call is received by Basin Electric, they will contact the Grand Electric employee who is on call to respond to the outage. By utilizing this after hour service, members will have only one number to call for outages. This service also provides an additional safety precaution for our linemen, as Basin Electric will track and keep in touch with the linemen as to the status and progress of each outage. When you report an outage.

PLEASE HAVE THE METER NUMBER TO IDENTIFY THE OUTAGE LOCATION

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS • November 2014
Meeting the requirements of the first of four building blocks that create the foundation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Clean Power Plan rule could lead to the shuttering of the state’s only coal power plant.

“We believe the application of Building Block 1 to South Dakota is technically infeasible,” said Jeff Endrizzi, Big Stone Plant Manager, at the South Dakota 111(d) Forum hosted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in July.

Building Block 1 calls for physical and operational changes at coal-based power plants to improve heat-rate efficiency.

The Big Stone Plant, located near Milbank, S.D., is co-owned by three regional investor-owned utilities: Otter Tail Power Company, NorthWestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities. The region’s electric cooperatives are not a partner with the plant, nor do they receive power from it. However, the plight of the plant may impact co-ops as states begin writing their plans to comply with the proposed EPA rule.

(In September, the EPA extended its public comment period on its proposed “Clean Power Plan” rule under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act that will require CO2 emissions reductions from existing power plants in 49 states [Vermont and the District of Columbia are not covered because they have no fossil-fuel based generation.] The rule was announced June 2, 2014. The EPA intends to issue a final rule in June of 2015, and states will then have one year to develop implementation plans, or if they collaborate on multi-state or regional plans, they are allowed two years to develop their plan. Case by case, states can seek a one-year extension from the EPA. Therefore, in some states it may take until June of 2018 to fully understand what compliance with this proposal will mean.
a final rule in June of 2015, and states will then have one year to develop implementation plans, or if they collaborate on multi-state or regional plans, they are allowed two years to develop their plan. Case by case, states can seek a one-year extension from the EPA. Therefore, in some states it may take until June of 2018 to fully understand what compliance with this proposal will mean.)

“Big Stone Plant is the one coal-fired generating unit in South Dakota,” Endrizzi told those gathered at the PUC meeting. “It has already performed, or in the process of performing all the major projects identified in the report.”

The Big Stone Plant is in the midst of a nearly $400 million project to make improvements at the plants. While the improvements will help the plant meet EPA Regional Haze rules, the improvements will actually make it harder for the plant to meet the proposed new heat rate. Heat rate is the measure of efficiency of a power plant – energy in versus energy out.

The plant has already performed the large heat rate improvement projects available (and which, in part the EPA used in calculating its numbers for South Dakota).

Endrizzi explained that before the investment, the plant consumed about 20 MW as its in-house load.

“That equipment is going to add a significant amount. The investments increase the plant’s power needs by another 8 MW. That in itself make us less efficient,” said Endrizzi.

The scenario encountered by Big Stone Plant is not isolated. Cooperatives, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, have a list of concerns with the EPA’s proposed rules.

First, the EPA has overestimated the potential for heat rate improvements. Co-op power plants are well maintained and most of the efficiency improvements – such as the ones currently being implemented at Big Stone – have already been done in co-op facilities. NRECA estimates that only a 1 percent or 2 percent gain is all that is left.

Second, co-ops are uncertain how – and if – improvements made prior to 2012 factor in to the EPA’s proposals.

Finally, making improvements to existing plants to meet the proposed rules could trigger New Source Review and add significant hidden costs to the EPA proposal.

NRECA maintains that the proposed EPA rules are complex with unintended consequences and that the EPA is overreaching its legal authority.

For co-op members, the additional costs hit member-owners hardest. The not-for-profit co-op business model forces any costs from upgrades or shuttered power plants to be borne directly by co-op members.

According to the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, the EPA’s proposed rule – encompassing its four building blocks – could have annual costs of $13 billion to $17 billion. ACCCE further estimates that the plan would force the retirement of 30,000 megawatts to 80,000 megawatts of coal-based generation and could cause more than 200,000 jobs to be lost in 2020.

The projected global climate benefits are a less than 1 percent reduction in CO2 concentrations, a reduction in global average temperature of 0.016 degree and a reduction in sea level rise of 1/100th of an inch.

Electric cooperatives, through the Cooperative Action Network, are in the midst of gathering public comments to submit to the EPA during the agency’s comment period on the proposed rule. Go to www.action.coop to learn more and send your message.

Editor’s Note: This is the second of a five-part series that will explore each of the EPA’s Building Blocks. The four building blocks are: (1) making coal plants more efficient; (2) displacing existing coal with existing natural gas plants; (3) increasing the use of nuclear and renewable energy; and (4) decreasing electricity consumption by increasing end-user energy efficiency.

---

EPA’s “Building Blocks”

**Coal Plant Efficiency**

Make physical and operational changes at existing coal-based power plants to improve heat-rate efficiency by 6 percent, which reduces the amount of coal needed per MWh of generation, thereby reducing CO2 emissions.

**Natural Gas**

Existing natural gas combined cycle plants are used more or less frequently, depending upon a variety of factors. EPA’s CO2 reduction goals are based on dispatching those natural gas plants more frequently (up to 70 percent capacity factor) while closing or curtailing existing coal-based generation sources.

**Renewable and Nuclear Power**

Nuclear power and renewable resources like hydro, wind, and solar power do not have direct CO2 emissions. EPA’s CO2 reduction goals are based on keeping some existing nuclear power plants (that are at risk of closing operating, ensuring that new nuclear plants under construction get finalized, and that more sources of renewable energy are developed.

**Consumer Energy Efficiency**

Improving energy efficiency by consumers reduces the need for power generation. EPA’s CO2 reduction goals envision all states increasing energy efficiency programs to result in the avoidance of 1.5 percent of energy demand per year.

---

**State Carbon Intensity Goal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2012 Emissions Rate (lbs/MWh)</th>
<th>Final Goal (2030 &amp; After)</th>
<th>Final Reduction</th>
<th>Final Percent Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>1,552</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>-251</td>
<td>-16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>-597</td>
<td>-40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>1,771</td>
<td>-475</td>
<td>-21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>-530</td>
<td>-26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Dakota</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>1,783</td>
<td>-211</td>
<td>-10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Dakota</td>
<td>1,135</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>-394</td>
<td>-34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>2,115</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>-401</td>
<td>-19.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Driving through rural South Dakota after dusk has fallen is simply beautiful. Every few miles, a small gathering of buildings, a farm house and scattered farm equipment is illuminated and softly covered in a glow even after the sun has set. This glow is often accompanied by lights gleaming from the inside of a house, brightened and hinting at the family that resides within. This picture represents so many South Dakota families, who make their living away from the constant buzz of a town or city. South Dakota has been a state for 125 years, and for the last 75, the South Dakota’s electric cooperatives have helped to illuminate and advance rural living.

The vastness of the prairie and the simplicity of the life offered attracted many. South Dakota was settled by farmers and ranchers who worked back breaking hours to provide for their families. During the day, the hot sun would scorch on the backs of laborers, while at night; darkness took on a new meaning. In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order that would change the way rural areas across the nation looked. Executive Order, Number 7037 established the Rural Electrification Administration; an administration that would set apart $100 million that would go directly to rural areas in the form of loans and grants for electric generation, transmission, and distribution. It was up to individuals within states to form groups to apply for such funds, but the message was clear from President Roosevelt: the United States would support efforts to bring electricity and an improved way of life to the rural areas of the country.

At this point in South Dakota history, most cities were already aglow with electricity. With the exception of a few water-powered generators scattered throughout the state, most cities ran on generators fueled by gasoline. At the same time President Roosevelt was pledging money to help electrify all areas South Dakota was considering harnessing another form of power: the Missouri River. With the introduction of the power it produced, more electricity would be available to be purchased, as well as cheaper. Fast forward to today, South Dakota’s hydroelectric power production is one of the top in...
the Midwest, with up to 65 percent of renewable energy used powered by the mighty Missouri.

After Executive Order 7037 was signed, things started moving in South Dakota, albeit slowly. The first organized group was founded in a general store in Burbank. This gathering of fifteen men went on to organize the Fairview Rural Electric System. Their official charter was recognized in November of 1935. After that, it took a bit more time for organizations to begin popping up. There was skepticism on behalf of the farmers that this program was being catered to: the $5 signup fee was a deterrent, as well as the worries that they could lose their farm land if the system did not pan out. Despite all of the skepticism, progress was made. In the fall of 1937, the first line of rural electricity was energized in the area now known as Clay-Union Electric Corporation. This created a bit of a domino effect: other rural dwellers saw the possibilities and wanted electricity themselves. Within the next few years, an additional 33 groups had sprung up, signing up potential members, applying for loans, and stringing up wire.

As more lines were going into the sky, more people were getting connected to electricity through their respective small cooperatives. However, these groups of consumers were not yet connected to one another. In 1942, that changed. On Dec. 7, a group of farmers came together for what would be the first official meeting of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. This group didn’t intend to stay banded together though; in fact, it was thought at the time that it was only a ‘temporary organization’, one that would disband after finalization of each individual co-op’s successful acquisition of electricity. After the success of the idea share and support, it was later determined that there was in fact merit in joining together for the common cause while still working on individual progression. The numbers of farms being serviced grew. In 1944, 4,612 farms were connected. Only four short years later the number had climbed to 21,207.

Over the next decades, the state’s electric cooperatives grew. It underwent issues with legislation on both the state and national level, forcing advocates to voice just how important it was for rural families to be able to invest in their own electricity, as opposed to being required to purchase power from providers that turned a profit. Since their origination, co-ops were not out to make money. They instead focused on bringing education, outreach and youth development in addition to electricity to each rural consumer.

In the last 75 years, the SDREA has transcended above anything that those original 15 in Burbank could have hoped for. Having come this far in half of South Dakota’s history, there’s no limit on where the next 75, and then 125 years will take the organization that brought light to the country.
**Regional Dateline**

**October 25-26**  
Gun Show, Mitchell, SD  
605-268-0254  
www.dtgca.net

**October 30**  
Thunder From Down Under  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

**November 1**  
SD R&R Hall of Famers  
4th Dimension in Concert  
Watertown, SD, 605-878-4677

**November 7**  
Jon Crane Show  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-336-9737  
www.rehfeldsonline.com

**November 7**  
38 Special in Concert  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188  
deadwoodmountaingrand.com

**November 7-8**  
Pheasant Fiesta  
Watertown, SD, 605-758-8743  
glaciallakesguideservice.com

**November 7-8**  
Culturefest, Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-3011

**November 9**  
28th Annual Wall Community  
Center Craft Show  
Wall, SD, 605-279-2665

**November 14**  
Hairball in Concert  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187  
deadwoodmountaingrand.com

**November 15**  
Fall Buffalo Auction  
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515  
www.gfp.sd.gov

**November 15**  
Holiday Open House  
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD  
605-698-7425

**November 15**  
Women’s Escape Expo  
Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

**November 21**  
The Night Before Christmas  
Deadwood, SD, 605-226-1234

**November 21**  
Lighted Parade & Chili  
Cook-Off, Sisseton, SD  
605-698-7261

**November 22-23**  
Winterfest, Aberdeen, SD  
605-226-1557  
www.aberdeenartscouncil.com

**November 25-December 27**  
Christmas at the Capitol  
Pierre, SD, 605-773-4010  
www.sd.gov/christmas2014

**Events of Special Note**

**November 7-8**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Pheasant Hunt, Platte, SD  
605-337-2170  
www.plattesd.org

**December 6**  
James Valley Model Railroad  
Open House, Aberdeen, SD  
605-226-2139

**December 6**  
Christmas at the Redlin  
Art Center, Watertown, SD  
605-882-3877  
www.redlinart.com

**December 6-7**  
Aberdeen Area Living  
Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-7015

**December 6-7**  
11th Annual Fezziwig Festival  
at Prairie Berry Winery  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-3898  
www.prairieberry.com

**December 15-March 31, 2015**  
Black Hills Snowmobile  
Trails Season, Lead, SD  
605-584-3896  
www.gfp.sd.gov

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.