



2024 DAIRYLAND DIRECTOR REPORT

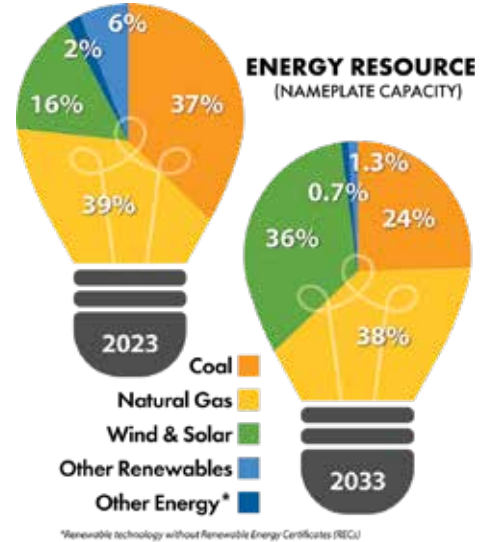
Sandy Davidson, SREC Director
Representative to the Dairyland Board

The safe, reliable, and cost-competitive delivery of electricity to all members when and where they need it is a complex process. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is one of 24 distribution cooperative members of Dairyland Power Cooperative (La Crosse). As Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative’s director representative to Dairyland, I am pleased to recap some 2023 highlights.

Dairyland’s generation portfolio is a mix of renewables (solar, wind, hydro, biomass) and always-available baseload generation resources, such as natural gas and coal. Dairyland prioritizes projects that will strengthen reliability, reduce carbon emissions, and support more

renewable generation. Since 2014, Dairyland has retired 579 megawatts (MW) of coal and is exploring the viability of emerging technologies, including pumped storage hydro, small modular nuclear reactors, and long-duration battery storage.

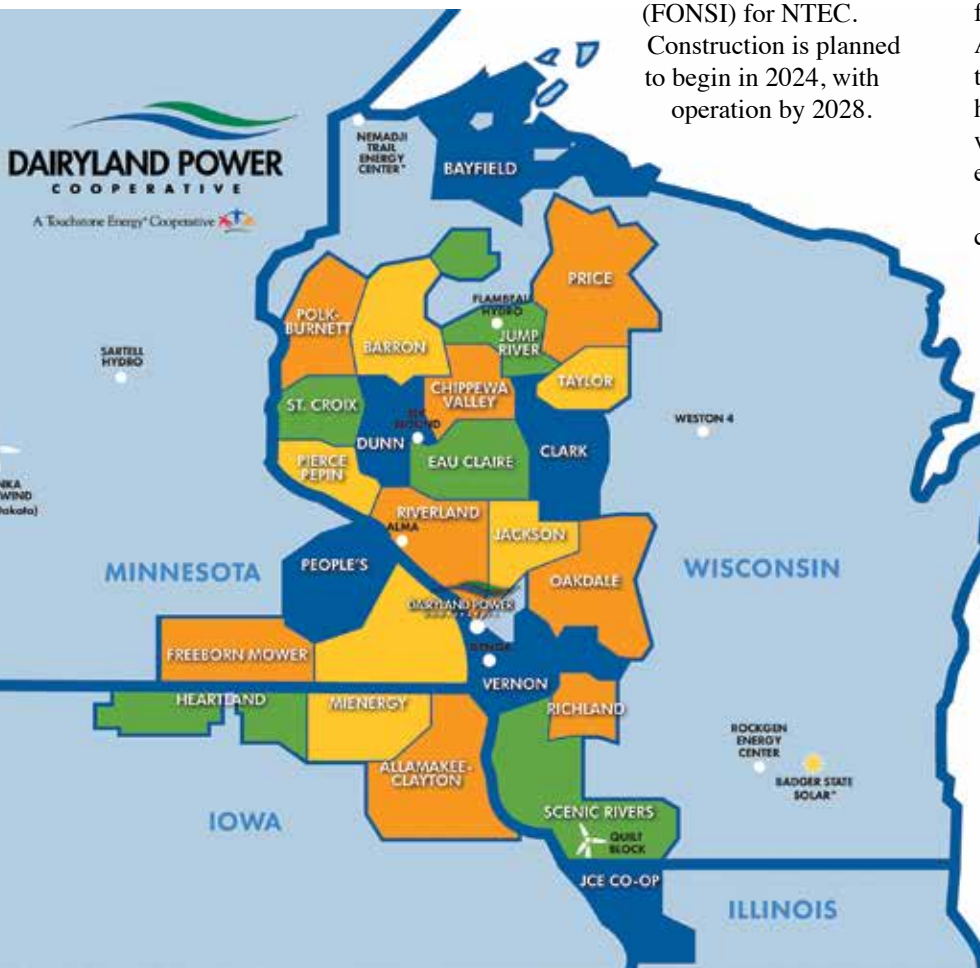
The Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) is a proposed 625 MW combined-cycle natural gas plant in Superior, planned in partnership with Minnesota Power and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. It is a critical-capacity resource that will provide reliable power on-demand, in any weather. In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued its second Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for NTEC. Construction is planned to begin in 2024, with operation by 2028.



There are 161 renewable generation projects dependent upon the completion of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line between Dubuque County, Iowa, and Middleton, Wis. (up from 115 projects last year). Dairyland, ATC, and ITC Midwest are co-owners of the project. Last December, the eastern half of the 102-mile line was energized with the remainder of the project expected to be in service later this year.

Last year, Dairyland won a competitive bid from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to develop, own, and operate a 345 kV line from the Mississippi River near Alma to the Tremval substation in Blair. The Alma-Blair Transmission Project will foster the delivery of renewable energy and strengthen regional reliability.

These projects are critical pieces for a lower-carbon future; however, power plants and transmission lines cannot be constructed overnight. When permitting red tape delays timelines—jeopardizing electric reliability, stalling progress on the clean energy transition, and increasing costs—



Dairyland advocates on Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's members' behalf both at the state and federal levels.

Dairyland's John P. Madgett (JPM) Station (Alma) underwent a 10-week outage in Spring 2023 when employees and more than 200 business partners completed a turbine overall and precipitator upgrade. The precipitator collects fly ash, which reduces emissions, and is sold as an additive to cement and concrete applications. The precipitator upgrade resulted in twice as much fly ash being collected.

JPM is critical to regional reliability and financially beneficial to members. The value of always-available baseload generation was demonstrated during an August heat wave when temperatures, humidity, and electricity demand were high, and wind resources were low. The Dairyland system set an all-time peak load of 1,177.5 MW on Aug. 23.

Growth & Grants

Dairyland's Economic Development team works with member cooperatives to support innovation and load growth through business and community development opportunities. In 2023, the Dairyland system had 28 new projects, totaling 15 MW, and secured more than \$4 million in economic development funding.

Additionally, Dairyland was awarded more than \$20 million in grant funding to support middle-mile infrastructure, a microgrid project, and long-duration energy storage project.

Financial Strength

Regionally, Dairyland's wholesale electricity rates are among the lowest. The 2024 budget was approved with a 1 percent average wholesale rate reduction for Dairyland's member cooperatives. Across all 24 member cooperatives, in 2023, Dairyland returned \$11.9 million in power cost and revenue volatility adjustments and \$5.1 million in capital credits.

Community

In 2023, Dairyland focused Cooperative Contributions toward its member cooperatives by donating up to \$1,000 to an organization of their choice in each of the 24 members' service territories. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative worked with Dairyland to donate \$1,000 to Lafayette County Rural Safety Coalition through the Lafayette County Health Department, which benefitted Rural Safety Day and other events promoting safety for residents of the county. Dairyland also coordinated a Day of Service event in October where more than 120 volunteers participated in six community service projects throughout Dairyland's service territory.

Just like directors are elected from our membership to govern Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, the same applies to Dairyland's Board of Directors. I've had the privilege of being a director of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative for 40 years and have been proud to serve as your representative on the Dairyland Board for eight years.



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BILLING UPDATE

Beginning with the June 30th reading, we're aligning our billing cycle with the calendar month. Readings will be taken on the last day of the month. Statements will be mailed around the 7th, with payments considered delinquent after the 27th. While the July bill may include a few extra days due to this transition, subsequent bills will cover the usual 30 or 31 days, ultimately enhancing convenience for our members.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing toss in a clean dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normal would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This month's featured photo is "2 Cylinder Club" taken by Mark Hackett of Boscobel.

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

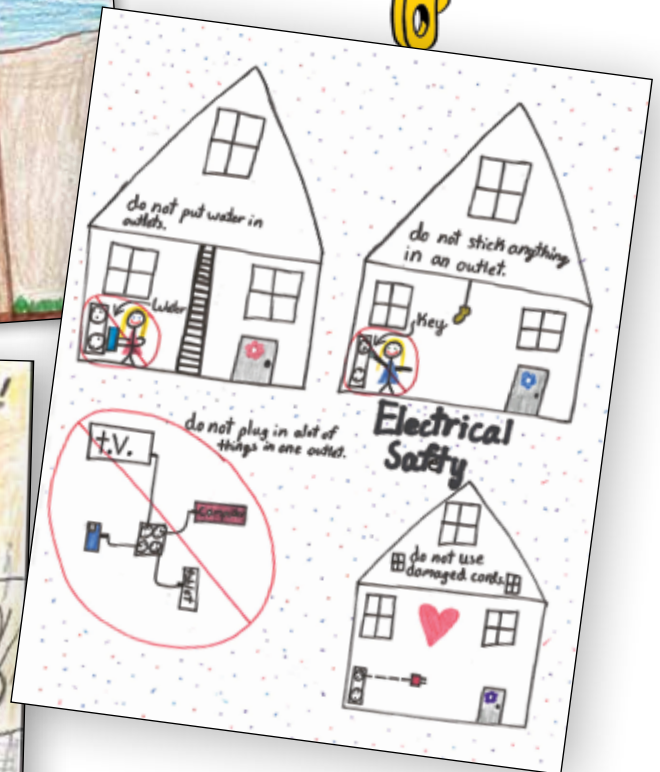
ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

SREC WINNERS

Brogan Baumgartner, Fennimore (top left)
 Tessa Snyder, Hazel Green (bottom left)
 Ellie Timmerman, Cuba City (right)



These posters were submitted to WECA's statewide contest. In that contest, Brogan (top left) received first place, winning a Chromebook, and Tessa (bottom left) received third place, winning a \$75 gift card.





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