



DAIRYLAND DIRECTOR REPORT: A 2024 REVIEW

Sandy Davidson, SREC Director
Representative to the Dairyland Board

I am proud to be our cooperative’s representative on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors. Dairyland is the generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative that provides the power required by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members 24/7/365.

Safety is Dairyland’s top priority. If employees do not work safely, the delivery of reliable and cost-competitive electricity cannot happen. Employees are authorized to stop work and speak up if something is unclear or they have questions about the best way to proceed.

A New ERA

Dairyland’s decarbonization goal includes diversifying the sources used to generate electricity. Last year was a banner year as Dairyland was awarded more than \$600 million in grants through programs created by the Inflation Reduction Act and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The grant projects will help reduce Dairyland’s carbon footprint and add resiliency to the grid through more than 1,000 MW of renewable energy projects and battery storage, as well as upgrades and rebuilds to existing transmission infrastructure.

Dairyland works with elected officials, regardless of party affiliation, to advocate for policies benefitting electric cooperatives. With a new federal administration, Dairyland, our statewide association and the NRECA are monitoring developments and advocating for co-op priorities that support growth and development in the rural communities we serve.

As part of its overall sustainable power supply plan, Dairyland continues to explore small modular nuclear reactors. Nuclear will drive the clean energy transition by providing reliable baseload, carbon-free power to support economic growth and the integration of wind and solar.

No Transition Without Transmission

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and Dairyland are part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which is the air traffic controller for reliable and cost-effective electricity in a 15-state region plus the province of Manitoba, Canada.

One critical aspect of reliably powering the lives of more than 40 million people in the MISO footprint is building new power generation facilities; the other is efficiently delivering electricity to where it is needed. In September 2024, the 102-mile, 345 kilovolt (kV) Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line was energized between Dubuque, Iowa, and Middleton,

Wis. Dairyland is a 9 percent owner of the line with ATC and ITC Midwest. By the time Cardinal-Hickory Creek was placed in service, there were 160 renewable generation projects totaling 24.5 gigawatts dependent upon the line.



Pictured above: A portion of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in Grant County, WI.

Dairyland’s commitment to delivering safe, reliable electricity is enhanced by being good stewards of its members’ resources. When Dairyland is financially strong, it can pass along the financial benefits to its member cooperatives in the form of stable wholesale rates that are among the lowest in the region. Dairyland holds credit ratings of “A3” with a stable outlook from Moody’s Investors Service and A+ with a stable outlook from Standard and Poor’s (S&P).

Throughout 2024, a Wholesale Rate Study Task Force met to evaluate the wholesale rate structure. While there are some minor changes that factor into how wholesale rates to the cooperative are calculated, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members will not see any rate changes in 2025.

Although Dairyland is on a path to decarbonization, it is taking a measured approach that ensures reliability. President & CEO Brent Ridge has consistently reiterated that Dairyland will not sacrifice safety and reliability in meeting its members’ energy needs. Last year, as a result of new economic development opportunities, Dairyland’s member cooperatives collectively attracted 27 projects totaling 20.4 MW of new load in 2024.

In March, the 500-foot stack and main building of Dairyland’s retired Genoa Station #3 (G-3) power plant were

demolished. G-3 was a coal-fired 345 MW facility that was retired on June 1, 2021, following 52 years of providing safe, reliable power to members.

Dairyland’s John P. Madgett (JPM) Generating Station, RockGen Energy Center and Elk Mound Combustion Turbines continue to provide stable and reliable power to the region. Their places in Dairyland’s generation portfolio are vital and valuable to members – keeping the lights on when electricity is in highest demand and most expensive.

Dairyland also found new ways to utilize their groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) platform and share it with member cooperatives in 2024. VoltWrite is a secure and robust in-house alternative to external AI platforms, such as Chat GPT.

Community

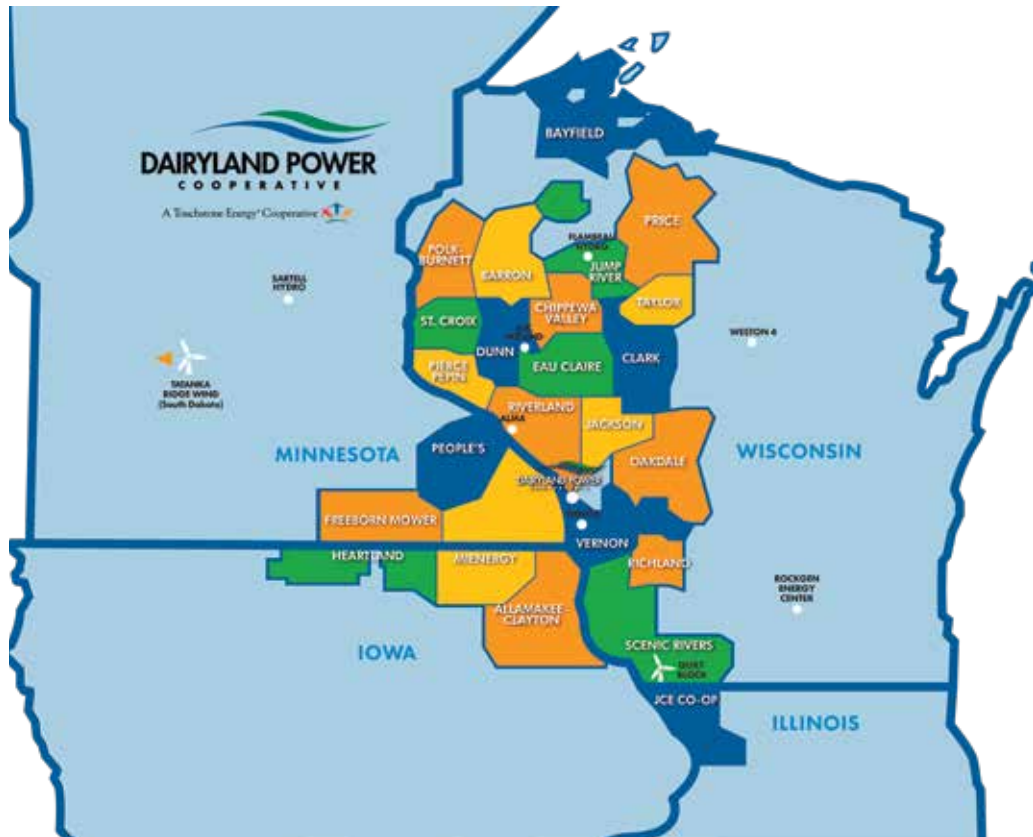
In October, our cooperative joined Dairyland in donating \$1,000 to the Grant County Health Department to benefit Grant County’s Rural Safety Day. This donation was made possible through Dairyland’s Cooperative Contributions program. This event is vital in promoting safety for the children of our community and we are proud to continue to support their efforts.

The future is exciting, and I am proud to serve as Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative’s representative on Dairyland’s Board of Directors. The Cooperative Business Model is unique, and it positions all of us to make decisions in the best interests of our members and communities. Thank you for your membership!

WHO IS DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE?

Dairyland Power Cooperative was created in 1941 to be the wholesale power provider to its member electric cooperatives. Today, Dairyland continues to deliver power to 24 member electric cooperatives, including Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, and 27 municipal utilities throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Just as directors are elected from our membership to govern Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, the same applies to Dairyland’s Board of Directors.



Learn more about Dairyland Power at www.DairylandPower.com.



WIRED FOR SERVICE.

We thank electrical lineworkers for their commitment to powering our local communities.

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 14, 2025

#THANKALINEWORKER

Between battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems, and navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

At Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we are lucky to have a great group of lineworkers as the backbone of our energy infrastructure. Their combined years of service stand as a testament to their unwavering dedication to our members. Please join us in celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day by expressing our gratitude to these devoted lineworkers for their many years of service to you, our SREC members.

Jim Wolf—34 years

Phil Schneider—32 years

Matt Ritchie—24 years

Pat Pennekamp—22 years

Chad Olmstead—21 years

Jason Knapp—19 years

Joe Ihm—19 years

Lucas Ritchie—17 years

Matt Rasmussen—15 years

Tory Henkel—14 years

Shane Crowley—12 years

Robert Tank—10 years

Dan Welsh—9 years

Travis Klein—9 years

Hunter Fortney—7 years

Andy Lindenberg—7 years

Dylan Tydrich—3 years

Ian Martin—3 years

Todd Sanwick—1 year

Colton Tranel—1 year

Charlie Eastman—Welcome to SREC!

To our heroes in hard hats, thank you for keeping the lights on.

ATTENTION 3RD GRADERS!

Deadline: April 30, 2025



Scenic Rivers Electric Cooperative is teaming up with Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association to offer an electrical safety poster contest in recognition of Electrical Safety Month in May. Embrace your creativity and show us what electrical safety means to you and how you stay safe around electricity.

Win Prizes

We will be offering a **\$25 gift card** to one winner! Plus, the top three posters will be entered into a statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of these prizes:

1st place – Chromebook

2nd place - \$100 Gift Card

3rd place - \$75 Gift Card

Contest Rules

- Open to all 3rd grade students of SREC members. One entry per student.
- Poster must be themed around Electrical Safety.
- Posters should be at least 8.5"x11", but no larger than 11"x14".
- No computer-generated images.

How to Enter

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of poster. Original artwork will not be returned to the participant.



Visit www.sre.coop for the entry form and contest details.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



"Deer with Tongue Out" is this month's featured photo from Deb Warren, a member in Ferryville, WI.




Steve Lucas, CEO

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