



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Immediate NEWS RELEASE

For additional information contact,
Gwen Stevens, Director of Cooperative Relations
507-367-7015 or gstevens@peoplesenergy.coop

Transformational New ERA Grant Directly Impacts Southeast Minnesota

WESTBY, WI, September 6, 2024 — Yesterday afternoon, President Joe Biden announced the first round of grant awards from the New Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program totaling \$7.3 billion to sixteen rural electric cooperatives from across the nation. Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), our primary power provider, is receiving \$579 million for the deployment of new renewable energy. DPC hosted the announcement at Vernon Electric Cooperative, a fellow cooperative member of the Dairyland Power Cooperative system.

The New ERA program is designed especially for rural electric cooperatives, like People's Energy Cooperative and Dairyland Power Cooperative, where at least 50 percent of its consumers are rural. Projects must be financially and technically feasible, affordable, and reliable for its members. The program is also designed to be flexible, prioritizing greenhouse gas reductions rather than requiring the use of specific technologies. The funds that Dairyland Power Cooperative is receiving will develop projects totaling 1,020 megawatts (MW) of power purchase agreements for solar and wind energy installations in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

“We are excited for the announcement of this investment as it helps us take another step towards meeting Minnesota’s goal of 100% carbon free energy by 2040,” said President and CEO Mike Henke. “This pivotal grant award will accelerate Dairyland Power Cooperative’s already projected energy transition and benefit the entire membership for generations to come.”

Dairyland Power Cooperative had set a goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030, but with this new investment, it will now be able to achieve a reduction of at least 70 percent by 2030.

“Electric cooperatives are leaders that work to embrace local solutions, strengthen America’s electric grid, and meet the needs of their members,” National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association CEO Jim Matheson said. “The New ERA program showcases what is possible when the government prioritizes voluntary, flexible decision-making and allows electric co-

ops to take a tailored approach to respond to local needs. It is a transformative opportunity for electric cooperatives.”

About People’s Energy Cooperative

Based in Oronoco, Minnesota, People's Energy Cooperative is a member-owned electric cooperative celebrating over 85 years of delivering retail electric power to its 20,000 consumer-members in Olmsted, Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Wabasha, and Winona Counties. People's Energy Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative and a member-owner in the Dairyland Power Cooperative system of electric cooperatives. People’s Energy is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

About Dairyland Power Cooperative

Headquartered in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 27 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of approximately 700,000 people in the four-state service area. Dairyland delivers electricity via 3,300 miles of transmission lines and 233 substations located throughout the system’s 44,500 square mile service area. Visit www.dairylandpower.com.

###