

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2020  

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2021



**DAIRYLAND POWER**  
COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As a critical services provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative is responsible to our membership, local communities and future generations. Addressing social, economic, environmental and technology impacts is vital for the 600,000 consumers served in our 44,500 mile service area. Every action matters.

We learned new lessons about what it means to be sustainable in 2020. Creativity and flexibility were essential as the Dairyland workforce maintained reliable operations during the pandemic.

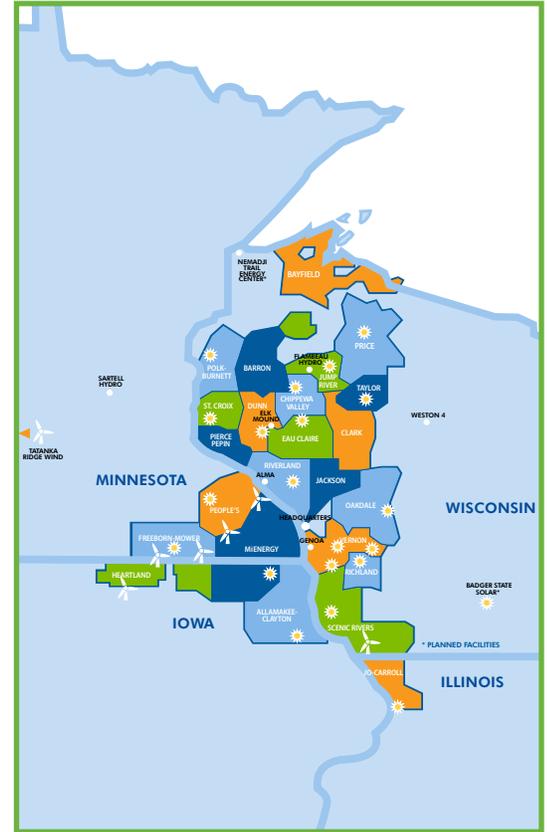
Sustainability always starts with safety. A safe and healthy workplace is a productive and happy workplace. To guide safety-first decisions, Dairyland launched a Human Performance education program for all employees.

Sustainability is also about staying true to our Vision: To grow, innovate and deliver value as a premier member-driven energy cooperative through safe, reliable and sustainable solutions. Dairyland's growth in beneficial electrification and renewable energy is running parallel with steady reductions in carbon intensity.

As we continue our People 1st cultural journey, it's exciting to consider what is around the next corner. We look forward to each step forward.



  
Brent Ridge  
President and CEO



**“SUSTAINABILITY  
TODAY =  
BEING HERE & STRONG  
IN 100 YEARS.”**

**-BRENT RIDGE,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO**

# #FUTUREREADY

Dairyland's Sustainable Generation Plan provides a framework to shape our energy portfolio. Carbon reduction and system reliability are central considerations. In 2020, Dairyland's Board of Directors approved a goal of 50 percent reduction in carbon dioxide intensity rate by 2030.

The planned 2021 closure of the Genoa Station #3 coal-fired facility must be balanced with prudent resource planning to maintain a sustainable and affordable energy supply for members. Natural gas will serve as the bridge to a low-carbon future, supporting renewable energy investments while giving new technologies time to advance.

Safety is elevated through new education and behavior-based strategies. All employees are asked for *200 percent accountability* on safety: 100 percent for yourself and 100 percent for your teammate.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I DO AS CEO IS GET EMPLOYEES HOME SAFE, EVERY DAY. IF I DON'T DO THAT, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS."

-BRENT RIDGE, PRESIDENT AND CEO

STRATEGIC

# 30%

renewables by 2030

SAFE

# 15,489

Safety courses & meetings accomplished by Dairyland employees in 2020

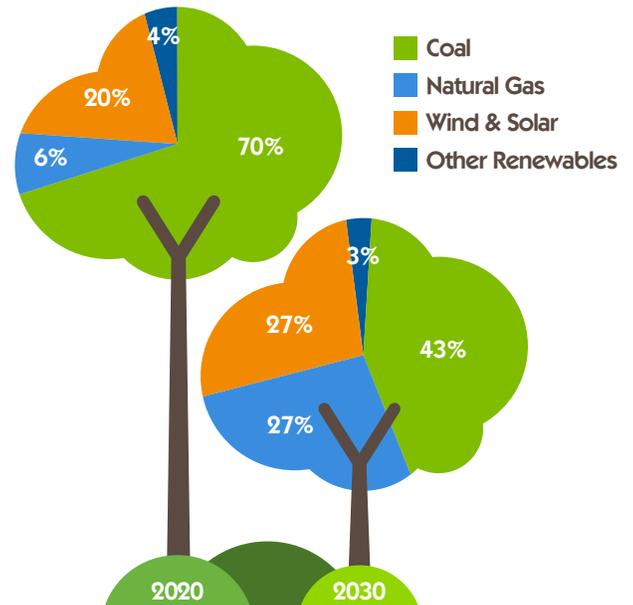




Wind and solar energy are key elements of Dairyland's transition to a lower carbon future. The Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm (South Dakota) achieved commercial operation in January 2021. Through Dairyland's power purchase agreement with Tatanka Ridge Wind, LLC, 16,000 more homes can be powered with wind energy.

As a cooperative, Dairyland seeks opportunities to maximize benefits to local communities. Dairyland's members have been able to create community solar gardens alongside many of the 18 solar sites located in all four states we serve. The economics of piggybacking onto the utility-scale sites adds another layer of benefit, in addition to providing local renewable energy.

**OVER 75,000 HOMES**  
ARE POWERED WITH RENEWABLE  
ENERGY FROM DAIRYLAND'S  
WIND AND SOLAR INVESTMENTS.





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ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

## EV NETWORK

A regional Electric Vehicle charging network was formed by electric co-ops, including Dairyland, in four Upper Midwest states. The CHARGE EV, LLC, network includes 30 charging stations with plans for increased infrastructure and educational opportunities for co-op members.

100

CUSTOMERS

## CO-OP SERVICE

Dairyland's Publication Services Department is housed in an energy-efficient building, constructed in 2020. Dairyland's design, printing and mailing teams serve cooperatives across the nation as well as municipal utilities and nonprofit organizations.

39,000 TONS

## RECYCLED

In 2020, Dairyland recycled 100 percent of the precipitator fly ash captured at our power plants. This amounted to over 39,000 tons of beneficially reused fly ash, which is commonly used as a sustainable replacement for Portland cement in concrete.



# PEOPLE POWERS

**217** remote work set-ups  
Within one week, Dairyland's IT department facilitated the transition to remote work for 217 employees. Through their commitment and innovation, IT staff fulfilled 1,107 requests and responded to 7,245 incidents during the 2020 pandemic.

## 6 Dairylanders

Genoa Station #3 personnel donated their time and talents—as well as materials—to help prepare DeSoto (Wis.) High School for a safe student return, adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Volunteers built plexiglass barriers, removed furniture, secured water fountains and installed TVs and whiteboards.

## \$11,000 Donated

Dairyland's donation to the Hunger Task Force of La Crosse helped alleviate food insecurity in the tri-state area during the pandemic. Dairyland demonstrates Cooperative Principle #7—Concern for Community—through volunteerism and contributions to nonprofits, schools and events.

A sustainable workforce emphasizes diversity, adaptability and perseverance. Our People 1st culture was critical to navigating the challenges of 2020. Keeping employees safe and connected during times of social distancing and remote work was vital to keeping the power on for our members.





## DERECHO ASSISTANCE

Dairyland offered mutual assistance to Central Iowa Power Cooperative in August 2020 after the utility suffered significant damage from a severe windstorm known as a Derecho. Dairyland crews repaired roughly 220 poles and two sections of line, helping restore power to nearly 60,000 members.



## BROADBAND FOR ALL

The essential role rural broadband plays in community development, economic growth and education became more apparent than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of Dairyland's member cooperatives are deploying broadband projects through innovative partnerships and grant support.



## FIBER DEPLOYMENT

This key grid modernization initiative supports the future operational needs of Dairyland and its members through the installation of fiber optic cable on transmission lines. In coordination with this project, a Fiber Task Force was created to evaluate potential opportunities to support rural broadband development across the Dairyland system.

## About Dairyland Power

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland Power (La Crosse, WI) provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of more than a half-million people in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. For more information, visit [www.DairylandPower.com](http://www.DairylandPower.com).



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*The Flambeau Hydroelectric Station (Ladysmith, Wis.) has been generating water-powered electricity since 1951. Dairyland supports environmental and recreational enhancements in and around the Dairyland Reservoir. Among the improvements have been the construction of boat landings, shelters, fish habitat projects and shoreline management.*

