


Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

July 2025



Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## WECN CELEBRATES 85 YEARS!

EFFICIENCY TIPS  
FOR OLDER HOMES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH

MACARONI RECIPES





# WHO OWNS WHAT?

## UNDERSTANDING ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings an increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for you to understand which parts of the electric system are your responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

OEC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to wherever the metering equipment is located. This includes utility poles, distribution power lines, transformers and the electric meter itself. OEC members are responsible for the metering equipment, (meter loops, sockets, disconnects, pedestals, etc.) and any wiring leaving the meter socket or service disconnect that supplies power to your home or outbuildings. Depending on the situation, some overhead wire, poles, and other equipment may be your responsibility.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be

conducted before OEC crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

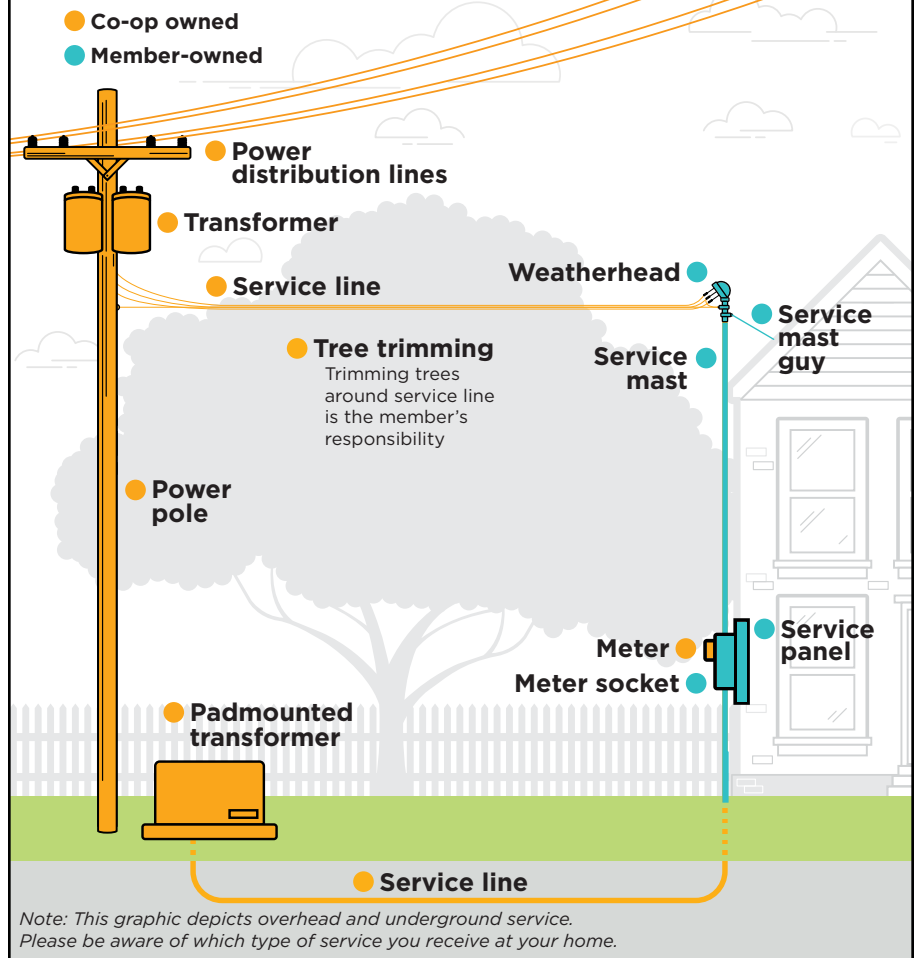
The graphic below depicts what OEC

is responsible for and what you as the member are responsible for.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact our operations department at 608-372-4131.

### Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.





# MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

## "Life in Rural Wisconsin"



Alan Baker



Rita Berg



Debra Galston



Sisomphou Campbell

The Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) photo contest for members' photos to be featured in the 2026 calendar runs until August 15, 2025. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.



Jesse Cantwell



Rita Berg



Eric Ingmundson



Mike Tucker

**\$25 Co-op Cash to picture winners • \$50 Co-op Cash to cover winner**

### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within OEC's service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, power lines, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Only high-resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.

### Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run from March 1, 2025, until August 15, 2025; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All OEC members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An OEC member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- OEC employees will determine the winning photos.

### Photo Contest Entry Options:

- **Upload** using the Photo Contest Entry Form, found on [www.oakdalerec.coop](http://www.oakdalerec.coop), under the Member Benefits tab.
- **Mail** to P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size and at least 300 dpi)
- **Drop off** at Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office – 489 N Oakwood St., Tomah. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size, and at least 300 dpi)



# RUNDOWN ON OPERATION ROUND UP

**O**akdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) was built on seven cooperative principles and Operation Round Up® brings light to the principle, **Concern for Community**. Just as the name implies, cooperative members' electric bills are rounded up to the next nearest dollar. This small change is used to assist worthy causes in OEC service area.

Since the program's inception in 2002, over \$345,000 has been given back to local communities with an average donation of \$6 per year, per member account. With everyday living and operating costs rising, and to support more community causes, OEC enrolled all members into Operation Round Up® in 2023.

By serving five counties and multiple small communities within those counties, Operation Round Up® leaves a favorable impact on eligible parties within OEC service area – not just members. The Operation Round Up® Trust Board of Directors is comprised of seven OEC members and has allocated funds to causes such as: schools, food pantries, public safety, educational needs, youth programs, and more.

“Since OEC’s board of directors made that change, we as an Operation Round Up® board have been able to expand those funds to dozens more worthy groups and

organizations,” stated Operation Round Up® Board Chair Colleen Woggon. “The average amount donated in a year’s time is now doubled every quarter that we meet.”

The Operation Round Up® board has distributed over \$55,500 back into the community already in 2025. With two quarterly meetings left to take place, it is projected that number will exceed \$100,000 this year alone.

Many of the donations so far this year have gone to the following organizations: animal shelters, American Legions, VFW Posts, food pantries, fair/ag societies, ambulance services, and 23 fire departments. Detailed donation lists can be found at [www.oakdalerec.coop/operation-round](http://www.oakdalerec.coop/operation-round).

With only a few cents per month, at most \$11.88 a year, OEC members are making a huge impact within their communities through Operation Round Up®.

If you are involved with a community-focused organization, apply for a grant. Application forms can be found at [www.oakdalerec.coop/operation-round](http://www.oakdalerec.coop/operation-round). Next donation requests are due by Tuesday, August 12, at 4:00 p.m.

*Operation Round Up® is a voluntary program. If you do not wish to participate, you can opt out at anytime by contacting us at 1-800-241-2468.*





## THIRD GRADE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNER



Ayris Braman, daughter of Josh and Karen Braman.

## INCENTIVES DRAWING WINNERS

The following members took advantage of the available energy-saving incentives during the promotional period of March 1 – May 30. A random drawing took place, and each received a \$50 Kwik Trip Fuel Only gift card.

Kirk Arity  
Carol Churchill  
Carol Eirschele  
Daniel Friedl  
Doris Hall  
Mary Hauser  
Rosa Hoeksema  
Jay Kummer

Chris Leopold  
Jason Mikels  
James Peterson  
Loren Schleusener  
Jennifer Skowronski  
John Soderholm  
Kurtis Vieth

A little effort goes a long way.

# HELP OFFSET PEAK ENERGY DEMAND

Help conserve energy by adjusting your energy use to lower-demand times of the day. Making small changes can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

You can help by making these energy use adjustments to your day:

### IN GENERAL

- Turn up your thermostat
- Use fans in occupied rooms to cool off
- Turn off and disconnect electronics not in use
- Turn off lights
- Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers
- Turn off all non-essential pumps and motors

Making small changes can help you save on your energy bills, decrease the chances of future rate increases and ease the strain on the power grid.

Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org®



## Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649  
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468

info@oakdalerec.coop

Jackie McGlin, Editor



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Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Closed Friday.

24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151

Toll-free Online Bill Payment 855-938-3610

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.