



# PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and I wish you the very best in 2025. I would like to highlight a few of the projects that your board of directors approved at their last board meeting when they discussed our 2025 workplan and budget.

## Technology Updates

In 2025, we plan to continue the upgrade of our end-of-life load management system with a newer system. There are many benefits to upgrading our load management system including being able to implement new control strategies to help with newer rate design. If you are enrolled in our load management system, you will be notified with a postcard that we will be in your area and a door hanger will be left at your residence with confirmation of our visit. Please review the door hanger confirmation in case we need you to schedule an appointment.

We are also continuing to implement new hardware on our distribution lines to help restore outages automatically and monitor voltage information remotely.

## Construction

There are still longer lead times for many of our construction equipment, however, we have seen where the times are not as long as they have been in the past few years. Unfortunately, costs continue to increase but not at the pace that they have been.

In 2025, construction will start on a new substation in the Oakdale area to increase power delivery and reliability. This had been planned for late 2024, however, it had to be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. We are also making plans on starting construction of an additional substation in the Armenia area to help with reliability. Later this fall, construction will start on a third substation in the Clearfield area.

Major line construction will take place in the New Lisbon, Oakdale, and Clifton areas. There are also many other smaller areas that we will be working in to reduce the likelihood of outages during major storm events.

## Electric Rates

This past year, we had a \$0.08 per day increase in the residential facility charge and increases in our rates for our commercial and industrial members. Currently, we are not expecting to have to raise rates in 2025. However, we will need to continue to evaluate this. If we did need to make a change, we would notify everyone in advance.

There is much more that Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) plans to do in 2025. Please know that every decision that is made at OEC is made with the best interests of all members in mind. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Again, on behalf of everyone at OEC, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

## Watt's Your New Year's Resolution?

Don't set a resolution that is too high to reach. Instead, keep it simple and check off these easy-to-do tasks.



### Update Your Contact Information with Us

Visit [www.oakdalerec.coop](http://www.oakdalerec.coop), hover over the About Us dropdown menu, and click Update Contact Information at the bottom.

### Take Control of Your Energy Account, Signup for SmartHub

- Enroll in email or Text Alert Notifications
- Go Paperless
- Signup for Auto Pay
- Make a Payment & Review Account History
- Monitor Your Energy Usage

Mobile access is available to download for free on Apple and Android devices.

### Review Member Offerings at [www.oakdalerec.coop](http://www.oakdalerec.coop) under Energy Solutions

- 2025 Energy-Saving Incentives
- Focus on Energy Programs
- Load Management

A member relations specialist can assist or answer your questions by calling 608-372-4131, Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

Recycle with us through February 1, 2025.

Don't forget to recycle your holiday lights that don't work anymore at the co-op. The collection bin is located at the co-op's front entrance. Please remove light strands from bags and boxes and place them in the bin.

# NOTICE OF LOAD MANAGEMENT UPGRADES STARTING THIS YEAR

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's (OEC) load management program is operated in cooperation with OEC's wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative. Due to the existing load management controllers no longer being manufactured, upgrading to new devices is necessary.

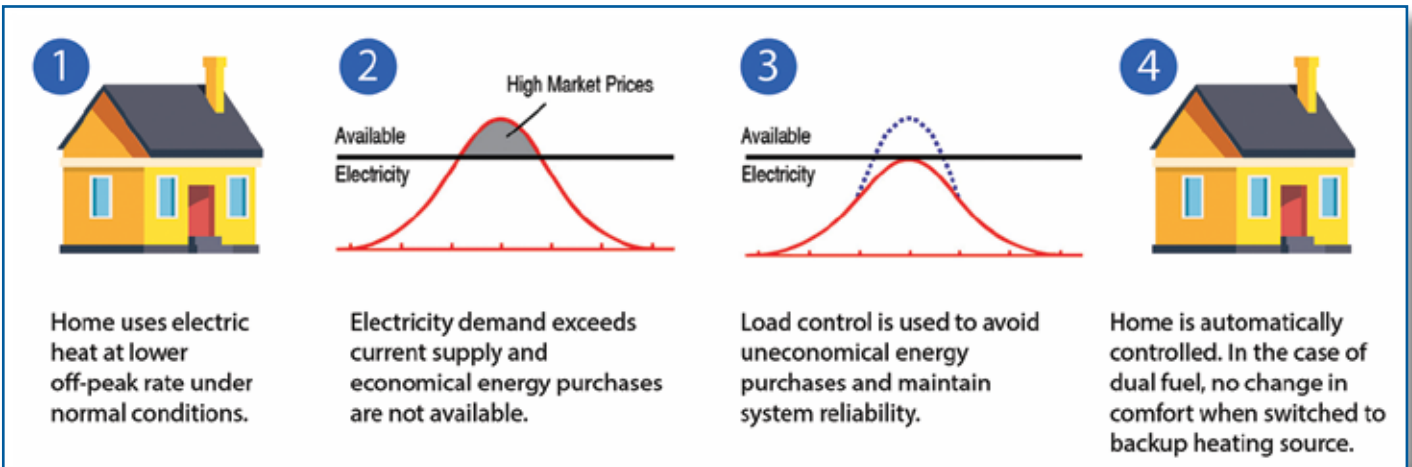
Beginning in 2025, members who participate in OEC's load management program will receive a postcard in the mail stating an OEC representative will be at your property to

upgrade the load controller. Confirmation of the visit will be left on a door hanger. Please review to see if there is further action required from you such as scheduling an appointment for an OEC representative to be able to access the controller.

This upgrade will begin in sections of OEC's service area and postcard notification will be mailed a few months prior to the visit.

## WHAT IS THE LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM?

Load management is a key component in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's mission of keeping energy rates low. Member participation helps reduce electricity demand by shifting electricity use for certain devices to avoid high electricity supply cost, which helps all members in stabilizing rates and supports reliability.



### Central Air Conditioners

#### Control Period

During peak energy times, your air conditioner may be cycled, 15 minutes on - 15 minutes off.

#### Perks

An \$8 credit will be applied during the months of June, July, and August.

#### Requirements

Must be a central system, not a window unit, wall unit, or mini-split system.

### Dual Fuel/Interruptible Heat

#### Control Period

Typically, in the morning at least once per month, up to a maximum of 9 interruptions per winter period.

#### Perks

A lower cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of \$0.0655 during the months of October through May.

#### Requirements

Must have a non-electric backup heat source to be switched to during control times.

### Residential Water Heaters

#### Control Period

Maximum shut down periods are 4 or 6 hours (depending the size) in a consecutive 10 hour period.

#### Perks

A \$3 monthly credit applied year-round.

#### Requirements

Must be a 50 gallon or larger electric water heater.

### Questions on the load management program?

Visit [oakdalerec.coop/load-management](http://oakdalerec.coop/load-management) and complete the Contact Us form or call 608-372-4131.


*\*Additional requirements per load management program may apply.*

# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- ✓ **Lineworker**
- ✓ **At-Large/Non-Traditional**
- ✓ **Youth Essay Contest (high school juniors)**



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

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**A**t Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC), we believe it is essential to invest in area youth and their future. Therefore, providing scholarship opportunities towards a post-secondary education is just one of the many ways that OEC supports the next generation. Scholarships are funded directly through the Federated Youth Foundation by unclaimed capital credits. A volunteer, member-appointed scholarship committee will review and select scholarship recipients.

## Lineworker Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical lineworker program. Any applicant enrolling in a lineworker program is eligible. Preference will be given to OEC members, and residents of Monroe, Juneau, Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties.

**Application deadline is May 1, 2025.**

## At-Large/Non-Traditional

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is not enrolled in one of the 12 participating public high schools in our service area (At-Large) or someone pursuing post-secondary education after spending time in the workplace or raising a family (Non-Traditional).

To be eligible, the applicant must be a member or the son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) of an active member of OEC in good standing accepted at a post-secondary program or accredited training program.

**Application deadline is May 1, 2025.**

**Scan the QR code for scholarship and YLC information or visit [oakdalerec.coop/scholarships](http://oakdalerec.coop/scholarships).**

## Youth Essay Contest

Scholarships of \$1,500, \$1,250, and \$1,000 are awarded to the authors of the top three essays at each of the 12 participating public schools. Students must first participate in **Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), July 15-17, 2025**, which is fully funded by OEC.

Additional requirements to be eligible are as follows:

- Student must be a son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) of an active member of OEC residing in the same household.
- Student must be entering his/her senior year of high school in the fall of 2025 at one of our 12 area high schools (Brookwood, Mauston, Necedah, Nekoosa, New Lisbon, Pittsville, Reedsburg Area, Royall, Sparta, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, and Wonewoc).
- Following attending YLC, the student must write an essay on the same topic chosen by Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) for its scholarship essay contest. Students should mail or email one copy of his/her essay to OEC and one copy to WECA to be eligible for both scholarships. The same essay can be submitted to qualify for both contests.
- Scholarships will be awarded to students entering a post-high school educational facility in the academic year following high school graduation. Proof of enrollment will be required.

Students should sign up for YLC through their school counselor. Questions can be directed to OEC's Communications Specialist Jackie McGlin, at 608-372-8826.

## What is YLC?

The annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a dynamic three-day event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and facilitated by the statewide organization Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. This unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin encompasses leadership skill building, motivational speakers, college life experience, and learning the operation and purpose of the cooperative business model. Held at UW-Stout campus in Menomonie, OEC covers all program fees and transportation associated.





# PLUGGED IN

## A Storm is Always Ready, Are You?

At Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we do everything we can to prevent and minimize outages. However, there's a history of mother nature hitting our system hard whether it's a tornado, ice storm, or simply heavy wet snow.

Our crews are always ready to put the work in to get members' power back on, no matter if it's a large storm or small outage. Unfortunately, when a severe storm hits, it's best to have an emergency kit on hand.

Your kit should include:

- Bottles of water and nonperishable food.
- Portable phone charger, flashlight, and batteries.
- First-aid supplies and prescriptions/pain relievers.
- Warm clothes and blankets.
- Toys, books, and games for entertainment.
- Baby and pet supplies.

When it comes to generators as a standby source in the event of a power outage, proper installation and safety are most important for your home and our line crews. Choosing the right generator as well as having the proper equipment installed is something only for a professional to handle. Hire a licensed master electrician if you are in the market to purchase a standby generator as a backup power source.

I also want to state that for everyone's safety, it is best to not approach our linemen working to restore power. Just know they are working as efficiently and safely as possible to get your power back on. We thank you for your patience in times of power outages and hope this winter treats us well.



**John Ollendick**  
Operations Director



## Congratulations to our Holiday Giveaway Winners!

### Hilliker Tree Farm

- Terry B.
- Marie W.
- Shane M.
- Audrey T.
- Timothy J.

### Hoag Tree Company

- Erin D.
- Carol E.
- Susan S.
- James F.
- Steven K.

### Van Ert Christmas Trees


- David B.
- Kanda V.
- Nicole O.
- Sherill S.
- Sandra W.

### Wagner Tree Farm

- Carrie B.
- Ethan G.
- Dorota D.
- Abigail M.
- Deborah W.

## Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


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## Jackie McGlin, Editor



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

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