



RELIABLE POWER FOR TODAY – AND TOMORROW



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



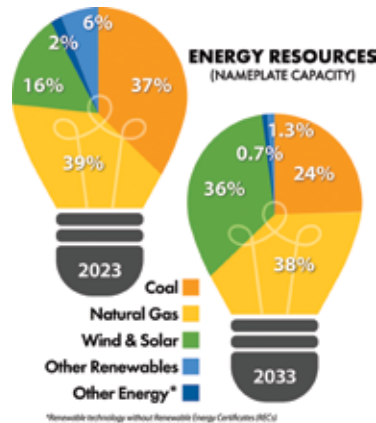
**Chris Tackmann,
General Manager
& CEO**

Ringing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. For me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So, how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on. You may not realize it, but OEC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. However, OEC recently constructed two utility-size solar gardens to generate for our membership. Our current energy resource mix is made up of 39% natural gas, 37% coal, 16% wind and solar, and 6% other renewables.



We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, OEC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions, and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps OEC save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.



BEFORE



AFTER

By clearing trees near overhead power lines, this helps limit potential hazards of outages and/or fires.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. In the future, as technological advancements become more accessible and affordable, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Wisconsin and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Oakdale Electric Cooperative will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

**DIRECTOR
NOMINATION
PETITION FORMS
DUE JANUARY 27, 2024**





THE FACES OF MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Oakdale Electric Cooperative had a touchdown Member Appreciation Day on October 14. Tomah Lions Club served up a pancake breakfast, while Oakdale Credit Union provided a special treat and prizes. Numbers grew from the year prior to approximately 800 members in attendance.

An increased number of members took advantage and received their influenza vaccine from the Monroe County Health Department. The kids' corner was loaded with activities such as painting crafts by Craft Time Studio, face painting by Tappy's Face Painting, balloon creations with Balloons by Kevin, football drill camp, touch-a-truck, giant games, and LEGOS. New this year, kids received their own goodie bags and could enter in the Kids Only drawing. The winners were: Electric Scooter, Elliana S.; Razor Scooter, Annabella L.; and Tree Swing, Ellie B.

The family-friendly event is also held to educate members on available programs, safety, and services. Hotline demonstrations were held to showcase common power outage scenarios, safety around overhead and underground lines, and procedures to restore power. When visiting each educational booth, members had a chance at a tailgate toolkit giveaway, which 50 lucky members won. Bill-credit drawings were in the form of scratch-offs that totaled \$2,000, along with five separate booth drawings. Those winners were: Cornhole Boards, Bruce L.; Garden Pruner, Aaron W.; Grill Package, Vicki P.; Leaf Blower, Duane O.; and Operation Round Up basket, Dennis M.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is grateful for its members and enjoys providing time for connection at Member Appreciation Day.

Save the Date!
Member Appreciation Day
will be held next year on
Saturday, October 12, 2024.



WHY SHOP LOCAL?



THE OWNERS OF
Local Businesses
EMPLOY LOCAL PEOPLE.



LOCAL BUSINESSES STOCK
Local Products
AND BUY LOCAL SERVICES.



At Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we demonstrate and uphold the seventh co-op principle, **Concern for Community.** This season, we encourage members to care for your community businesses and shop local. Here's why...



BUYING LOCAL KEEPS

4 times

THE MONEY IN THE ECONOMY COMPARED TO SHOPPING AT CHAINS.



LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT LOCAL EVENTS, SPORTS TEAMS, & CHARITIES

250%
more than big competitors



Have you pulled out those old holiday lights and plugged them in, only to find they don't work anymore? You can RECYCLE them at the co-op! Or maybe you are considering replacing them with ENERGY STAR® LED lights since they are 75% more energy efficient. Either way, we want you to RECYCLE those old clunky, not working holiday lights with us!

The collection bin is located at the co-op's front entrance. Please remove light strands from bags and boxes and place them into the bin.

December 1 – February 1, 2024
489 N. Oakwood St., Tomah, WI 54660



WE WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS, TRISTON

Triston Riedesel started with Oakdale Electric in May, as an Information Technology (IT) Department intern. A Tomah High School and University of Wisconsin–Stout graduate, Triston has utilized his expertise in multiple areas of the co-op. “I’ve not only worked on various projects within the office, but I’ve also had the opportunity to visit other co-ops, participate in tours, and attend many events,” Triston reflected. He went on to state, “These are all experiences that I might not have actively pursued or engaged in on my own.”



Throughout his internship, Triston has assisted with events put on by the co-op, chaperoned Youth Leadership Conference, troubleshooted programs, supported in web design, and more. “After realizing how co-op employees wear multiple hats, this has reinforced my preference for embracing multiple roles rather than being tethered to a single one,” Triston said. He also contributed to all office personnel from finance to operations and engineering to communications.



Triston and Maribeth got in the holiday spirit by putting up outdoor holiday lights.

During the last few weeks of his internship, Triston said he will pursue additional internships and job opportunities in the Midwest Region. “While my primary focus remains within the Information and Communications sector, I am eager to gain more experience in the realm of digital marketing,” he indicated.

Triston concluded with, “Oakdale Electric provided me a diverse opportunity, while also showcasing a solid example of what a collaborative and positive work environment should be.”



Be **SANTA SMART** and Sign Up for SmartHub



Take one thing off your list this holiday season and enroll in SmartHub – your co-op’s online payment system – and take control over your energy bill. You too can kick back and enjoy some milk and cookies with these SmartHub benefits:

Auto Pay Program

- Enroll in the Auto Pay Program and enjoy having your bill automatically paid each month from your bank account or card. Never worry about late fees or due dates again.

IMPORTANT: When your credit card or banking information is added to the Auto Pay Program through SmartHub, you are enrolled in the recurring Auto Pay Program starting with the NEXT billing cycle. Any current bills that have already been generated will need to be paid manually by the bill due date.

Paperless

- Leave the paper for wrapping presents and sign up for paperless billing. You’ll waive a monthly paper bill statement in the mail by receiving your statement via email.

Notifications

- Receive email notifications on billing and miscellaneous messages, which can be personalized for your specific preferences.

Sign up by visiting oakdalerec.com/smarthub. Mobile access is available to download for free on Apple and Android devices.

For additional assistance, contact the co-op Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at (800) 241-2468 to speak with a consumer service specialist.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

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



Jackie McGlin, Editor



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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 833-526-0293

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