

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* March 2026 NEWS



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

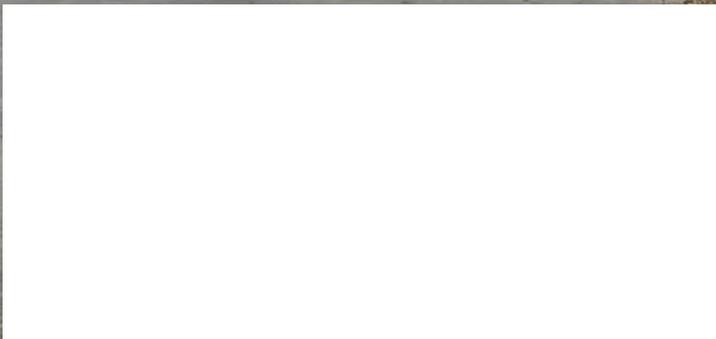
**FROM POWER LINES
TO FIREWALLS:**

THE RURAL
REALITY OF
CYBER THREATS

HOW ENERGY EFFICIENCY
REBATES AND INCENTIVES WORK

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PEANUT BUTTER RECIPES





LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

Most of us are busy and rely on technology to stay efficient, carefully considering whether in-person meetings are worth our time. While it's easy to dismiss attending Oakdale Electric Cooperative's annual meeting as unimportant, I encourage you to reconsider.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. The annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

OEC values your input and encourages your participation to help guide our future planning decisions.

You may believe that you have nothing further to contribute to the discussion and thus may choose not to attend. Nevertheless, each energy bill paid to the cooperative directly supports enhanced service and reliability for the entire community. These contributions are reinvested locally in projects that

improve both the affordability and dependability of your energy supply. OEC values your input and encourages your participation to help guide our future planning decisions.

While OEC provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been a while, please stop by. Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Saturday, April 25, at Tomah Recreation Park in the recreation (gold) building. Doors open at 8 a.m. with doughnuts and refreshments provided and the business meeting beginning at 9 a.m.

We look forward to visiting with you!

ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Tomah Recreation Park
Rec. (gold) Building
1625 Butts Ave. Tomah, WI

Registration - 8 AM
Business Meeting - 9 AM

ENERGY-SAVING INCENTIVES— NO LUCK REQUIRED

No shenanigans here, we just want to help you control your energy costs by helping you make your home as efficient as possible. Members have earned thousands of dollars in energy efficiency incentives through Oakdale Electric Cooperative. View all the available incentive forms at www.oakdalerec.coop/incentives or scan the QR code. For additional questions, call 608-372-4131 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and ask for Maribeth.



ENERGY STAR Appliances & Recycling Incentives

- \$50** – All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo
- \$25** – Clothes Dryer
- \$25** – Clothes Washer
- \$25** – Dehumidifier
- \$25** – Dishwasher
- \$25** – Freezer
- \$25** – Inductive Range
- \$25** – Refrigerator
- \$25** – Recycling – Freezer
- \$25** – Recycling – Refrigerator
- \$25** – Recycling – Room Air Conditioner

Lighting Incentives

- \$.50/bulb** – LED Bulb - Incentive request must be five (5) or more bulbs. *Quantities less than five bulbs do not qualify.*
- \$.50 per 800 lumens** – LED Fixture
- \$5** – Occupancy Sensor
- \$5** – LED Exit Sign

Electric Water Heater Incentives

- \$150/unit** – 50-79 gallon
- \$500/unit** – 80 gallons or larger
- \$500/unit** – Heat Pump Water Heater– 50 gallons or larger. *Load control not required.*

Must be on Oakdale Electric Cooperative's load management program and have a control installed. A copy of the receipt is required. A controlled water heater qualifies for a \$3.00 monthly credit, unless you are on the dual fuel rate.

HVAC

- \$200/ton** – Heat Pump – Air Source & MiniSplit
 - \$200/ton** – Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs
 - \$400/ton** – Heat Pump – Geothermal
 - \$35/each** – New Furnace w/Efficient ECM Blower Motor
- Ag, Commercial, Industrial Incentives, Compressed Air Audit, Home Energy Audit, and Audit Recommended Improvements Incentives are also available.

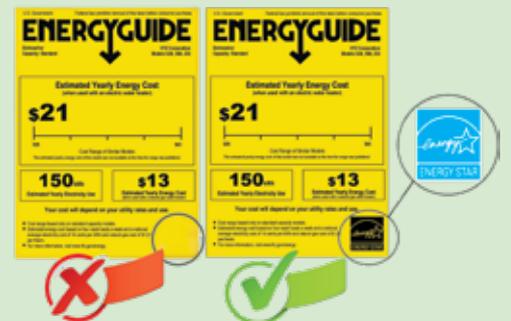
Important Incentive Details

- Incentives must be submitted within **3 months** of purchase and installation.
- Incentives are in place through **December 21, 2026**. *Funds are limited, so submit the required documentation as soon as possible.*
- Incentives will be applied as a credit on an electric account.
- Refer to incentive forms for detailed criteria.
- Incentive program is subject to change without notice.

Know the difference between EnergyGuide and the ENERGY STAR labels

EnergyGuide

The EnergyGuide label is a required label that estimates the annual energy consumption for an appliance. It also provides information about whether that use is above or below the average for that type of product. The dollar amount listed is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.



ENERGY STAR®

The ENERGY STAR® label is the government's symbol for energy efficiency. It helps consumers easily recognize highly efficient products, homes, and buildings that save energy and money, and help protect the environment. The ENERGY STAR® logo is often incorporated into the EnergyGuide label for certified products.



Welcome, Ella

Ella Plueger joined Oakdale Electric Cooperative in February as the new Member Relations Specialist/ Collections.



Ella Plueger
Member Relations Specialist/
Collections

She holds an associate degree in sales management, certificate as a sales representative, and was most recently employed by State Farm Insurance.

Ella continues her passion with volleyball as a coach for Elevate Volleyball Club, LLC in Sparta, is a country music concert enthusiast, and enjoys summers on the lake.

2026 YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



PARTICIPATE

in fun, hands-on, educational activities.



DISCOVER

your leadership skills, and the purpose/value of cooperatives.



EXPERIENCE

a traditional college environment.

July 14–16 | UW-Stout

For students entering their senior year in fall of 2026.

Student's parent(s)/legal guardian must be an active OEC member. All costs covered by OEC, including transportation to and from UW-Stout.

Scholarships available after attending YLC.

Interested? Here's how to apply...

Contact your school counselor or Jackie McGlin at 608-372-8826 or email jmcglin@oakdalerec.coop.

Scan For More Info



Deadline to sign up is May 29, 2026.



**CALLING ALL
THIRD-GRADERS:**

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY
POSTER CONTEST**

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **April 30, 2026**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

1st place – Chromebook
2nd place – \$100 Gift Card
3rd place – \$75 Gift Card

Visit www.weca.coop for details and an entry form.





Chronicles of the Co-op

1956-1966

This month, we'll take a closer look at Oakdale Electric Cooperative's accomplishments from 1956 to 1966, to celebrate Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 90th anniversary.

1956 – To promote better wiring for members, the co-op backed the organization of the Monroe-Juneau County Wiring Contractor's Association, to foster better wiring, train apprentice electricians, and provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas that will result in more adequate wiring.



1959 – Co-op personnel consisted of eight office employees and 29 field and line employees. In 1959 alone, the field and line employees traveled 222,265 miles at all hours of the day and night in all kinds of weather, completely in the interest of member service.

1961 – Oakdale junior board member, Miss Carol Rentz, became the first Miss Oakdale Rural Electrification and was first runner-up in the first Miss Wisconsin Rural Electrification Contest in Madison.



1962 – Kay Jameson of Wyeville, was chosen Miss Oakdale Rural Electrification to represent the co-op in the state competition, which in 1963 she was named Miss Wisconsin Rural Electrification. Oakdale Cooperative received national recognition in 1964 as she was named first runner-up in the National Miss Rural Electrification Contest in Dallas, Texas.

Janice Clawson representing Oakdale members was named Miss Wisconsin Rural Electrification the same year.



1964 – Bernard Felber was presented the American Red Cross Life Saving Award after he had saved the life of co-worker Robert Stanek who had been injured while working on a power line.

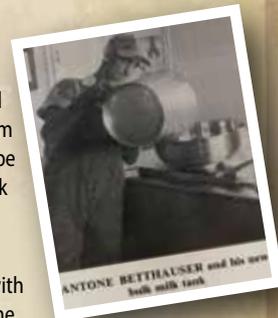
1966 – Construction of Lake Redstone in LaValle began in 1964 but by 1966, over half the 800 homesite's on the 2,350 acres surrounding the lake were sold. By 1967, the roads were constructed and maintained by the township with electric wiring installed.

1957-1958 – Membership increased 4.86 per cent, but the member use of power per month, increased 26.9 per cent. Due to the underestimation of farmers' electric usage, systems were built too small. About 80 percent of the transformers were of 3 KVA capacity or smaller and needed to be replaced along with conductors, more distribution lines and that meant larger poles in many instances.



Another factor to the expanding operations of the cooperative was its service to three municipalities within the immediate service area, New Lisbon, LaValle, and Elroy.

1960 – Bulk milk trucks became more common on rural roads around the co-op where farmers had installed bulk milk coolers from the co-op and the back breaking task of hoisting cans of milk from the milk house to the back of a truck was soon to be an unpleasant memory for many farmers and truck drivers.



Along with the increased use of electricity in the outbuildings, farm homes were being equipped with freezers, refrigerators, electric dryers and other time and labor savers – so electrical usage rose again.

1963 - The largest gas station in the State of Wisconsin was constructed near Tomah and Oakdale linemen strung a three-phase power line to the Walter Wittig Truck Stop to provide 18,000 watts of fluorescent lighting and 12,000 watts of other lighting to the huge facility.



1965 – In October of 1965, the cooperative had its first general retirement of capital credits, refunding nearly \$50,000 to members who had received electric service from the cooperative from 1942 through 1946.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

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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 855-938-3610

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