



HIGH FUEL COSTS AT THE HEART OF PCA



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO



After a grim reliability forecast from the regional grid operator (MISO) this spring Oakdale

Electric Cooperative and our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, have worked hard to keep the lights on. Safe, reliable electricity is our top priority, but electricity production has cost more than expected during our peak summer months due to high electricity demand, delayed coal deliveries, and increased fuel costs (primarily natural gas). Combined with higher-than-budgeted purchased power costs in the energy market, expenses hit a threshold to issue a power cost adjustment (PCA) charge in October and will most likely be issued in the following months as well.

When members received their October bill, there was a PCA charge of 1.082 cents (\$0.01082) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) used in September. For the

average member using 1,000 kWh per month, that was an extra \$10.82 on your bill. Originally the amount was supposed to be 2.46 cents per kWh; however, the board of directors offset the total amount by \$400,000 with money that was set aside for future rate relief to help lower the overall charge to each of us.

Throughout the year, we have been making adjustments to cover rising costs on nearly everything we purchase—equipment, materials, fuel, paper. Unfortunately, the regional power market is not immune to rising prices for materials and fuel. PCA charges paid by our members directly help pay the increased cost of our wholesale power bill. This money does not pay for anything else locally at our cooperative.

The PCA provides a monthly adjustment dependent on any differences in the base cost of wholesale power. Having the PCA benefits members by

covering monthly power cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates. In February and in May, PCA charges were also issued. Going forward, there is a chance additional PCA charges will occur in 2022 and 2023.

Glossary of Terms

Intermittent Resources: Renewable energy resources, like wind and solar, that are not available 24 hours per day.

Baseload Generation: Energy that is generated by resources that can be called on nearly instantaneously, like coal or natural gas.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to absorb these and will have to pass them on to the membership.

What impacts the PCA?

The PCA changes based on the cost of wholesale power, which fluctuates for a variety of reasons. During summer months when the demand for electricity is high, power may need to be purchased

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Operation Round Up® NOTICE

Beginning in 2023, members will see a small round-up line item on bills received in February. All members will be enrolled into Operation Round Up® in an effort to support more worthy causes within the communities throughout Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) service area. Just as it sounds, each month OEC will “round up” your energy bill to the next highest dollar with the average annual cost being \$6. Members have the option to “opt-out” of Operation Round Up® once enrolled. For questions, contact us at 1-800-241-2468 during normal business hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



PETITION TO BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR A DIRECTOR POSITION



Director Qualifications:

- You are a cooperative member residing primarily in districts 1 or 7;
- You have not been employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling energy, supplies, or services to the cooperative;
- You have not been employed by the cooperative within the preceding five years;
- You have not been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction at any time in the preceding seven years;
- You have not been an incumbent of or candidate for a partisan elective county, state or federal office in connection with which a salary is paid;
- You have not been a claimant against the cooperative within the preceding five years.

How to Run:

Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s Bylaws outline the procedure by which director candidates are nominated. The bylaws state that the nomination of candidates for director shall be by petition. To be valid, a petition shall be signed by not less than 15 members and submitted by January 23, 2023. If you are interested in running for a director’s seat, call us at (800) 241-2468.

Spruce Up Your Holidays

GIVEAWAY

The holidays are right around the corner and Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to spruce up your home! Twenty lucky members will receive a \$50 gift certificate to one of four co-op member tree farms, just in time for the holidays!

Hoag Tree Co.

15764 Cty Hwy N,
Tomah
(608) 387-2464

Hilliker Tree Farm

21495 Flatiron Ave,
Tomah
(608) 372-0777

Van Ert Nursery + Christmas Trees

S2112 Cty Rd V,
Reedsburg
(262) 939-0141

Wagner Tree Farm

N2477 24th Ave,
Lyndon Station
(608) 393-4014



**Spruce up Your Holidays
Giveaway**

Name _____

Account Number _____

Address _____

Phone _____

How to Enter:

1. Fill in your information in the "Present" (entry card);
2. Cut out "Present" from magazine;
3. Return it to the co-op by Wednesday, November 30.

Details:

Members can return the present/entry card by mail or directly to the cooperative headquarters. Mail-ins should be post marked by Wednesday, November 23, and can be submitted with bill payment. Names will be randomly drawn Thursday, December 1. Winners will be notified to set up a date and time to pick up or have gift certificate mailed to their residence.

Mail to: PO Box 40 Oakdale, WI 54649

Return in-person: 489 N Oakwood St., Tomah, WI 54660

Contest Rules:

ONE entry per account number. Employees, directors, as well as immediate family of Oakdale Electric Cooperative are not eligible.

**Located in a
military-prominent area of
Wisconsin, Oakdale Electric Cooperative
proudly employs two servicemen and thanks all
military service members, active and retired.**

IT Director Chad Schauf served in the United States Navy for a total of 11 years. Chad enlisted under the delayed entry program in the Navy with a guaranteed Class A school as a Data Processing Technician. After boot camp, he was aboard the USS Hunley in Scotland and then to Virginia, where he obtained a Top-Secret SCI (Sensitive Compartmented Information) security clearance. “One of my favorite memories of that duty came during the first gulf war where I was one of only three U.S. Navy sailor technicians working on a system called CATIS, Computer Aided Tactical Information System,” stated Chad. After seven years of active duty, he decided not to re-enlist and head back to Wisconsin.

Following September 11, 2001, Chad felt an overwhelming sense of duty and re-enlisted in the Navy Reserves. He was assigned to a high priority billet with Mobile In-Shore Undersea Warfare Unit 110 (MIUW 110). Knowing this unit was highly deployable, Chad was sent to Kuwait in August of 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Utilizing his IT skills, Chad created a mobilization website where family members of the command could write words of encouragement to them. Chad went on to say, “For that effort, I received a Coast Guard Achievement Medal from a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, which was pretty cool as a Navy sailor to receive a Coast Guard Achievement Medal.”



Warehouse/Purchasing Agent Sam Moseley is active duty in Wisconsin Air National Guard and has been for 11 years. Sam has two deployments under his belt in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and his current deployment. Throughout his military career, he has been located to various locations within the United States and the Middle East. Sam strives to live up to General Jim Mattis quote: “Carry out your mission and keep your honor clean.”

While Sam is currently deployed, his wife, Leslie Moseley, reflects on life back home. “Of course, there have been many difficult moments, especially emotional, but I kept looking at the positives, especially with keeping our kids’ spirits up,” stated Leslie. She sees this time away as an opportunity for her and Sam to lean into their faith and to grow together.

For a military wife, it’s common to be independent. However, Leslie went on to say, “I have learned the importance of asking for help, and that it’s okay to do so.” She finds a good balance by focusing on the silver lining, while enjoying some of her favorite foods that Sam doesn’t particularly like. As an animal lover, Leslie said she is proud that she only adopted one pet since Sam left, while her family thought he would return to a zoo.

“I keep Matthew 6.25-34 as my desktop background to remind me that I have nothing to be anxious about and to focus on one day at a time,” Leslie concluded.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative thanks Chad Schauf and Sam Moseley for their military services and looks forward to Sam’s safe return.

A RECOGNITION LONG OVERDUE FOR MAUSTON VOLUNTEER

Mauston resident Kathy Green has been a dedicated volunteer at Mauston Community Sharing Pantry for over 25 years and counting. Kathy manages a wide range of volunteers, has the eye for managing shelf quantity, and can navigate difficult times such as the pandemic. A selfless advocate for the food pantry and her community, Kathy Green is well-deserving of the latest Selfless Service Award.

As a driving force within Mauston Community Sharing Pantry, Kathy knew the pantry needed a larger space than 600 square feet, so she secured grants and other financial security to move into the larger building they are in today. Having worked alongside Kathy for over 20 years, president of the pantry Ellen Heitman stated, “No one works harder than her, she is very dedicated.” Kathy accepts additional responsibilities such as handling the senior food box program, and she stepped up when a local holiday toy program needed safe space to operate during the pandemic.

The pantry is made up of all volunteers and manages multiple donations such as fresh produce, local business donations, frozen goods, individual donations and an emergency supply for the homeless or families in need. Geraldine Jessmon, who worked with Kathy for over 10 years, nominated Kathy for the Selfless Service Award and goes on to say, “Despite having loss in her personal life, Kathy shows up to the food pantry without complaint to serve the citizens of Mauston.”

A selfless volunteer and leader behind the operations of Mauston Community Sharing Pantry, Kathy Green is praised by her fellow volunteers and family. Ellen Heitman concludes with, “Kathy is the worthiest of this award; that’s why we all call her Saint Kathy.”



Nominate a Selfless Service Award nominee by visiting
<https://oakdalerec.com/selfless-service-award>
Next nominations are due
December 15.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


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   info@oakdalerec.com

Jackie McGlin, Editor



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at market price, which includes additional generation costs. Increased costs for fuels like natural gas also impact the price of wholesale power.

The current PCA charge(s) is the result of multiple factors, including high energy prices in the market, delayed coal deliveries, and higher-than-budgeted fuel costs. Dairyland owns two combustion turbine plants (also called peaking plants)—the RockGen Energy Center and Elk Mound Combustion Turbines. These plants run on natural gas and are only intended to be called upon when the demand for electricity is at its peak. In the last year, however, both RockGen and Elk Mound have set generation records because of the need for reliable, baseload electricity on the grid when all other available resources have been utilized. Having these facilities in Dairyland’s portfolio has supported reliability in our region. Power sales from their operation have helped moderate—but not eliminate—higher-than-budgeted power expenses.

What is Oakdale Electric Cooperative doing to help?

Times are tough as the cost of gasoline, groceries, and other essential needs are rising. Oakdale Electric is working hard to keep internal costs down, but we can’t control rising fuel costs.

We offer a variety of programs and services to help members save on their energy bills including energy-saving programs, home energy audits, energy efficiency resources, and low-income assistance for the winter.

We are here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your bill or ways to save energy.