



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

Our team at Oakdale Electric Cooperative cares about your well-being. This month, I'd like to share a few tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first.

My family enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we do that, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't damaged. This allows us to know that our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check

the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

My wife and daughter also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so I recommend making it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bill.

Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers, and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for meals and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, please visit our website at www.oakdalerec.coop. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.



Shopping for new appliances this holiday season?

Everything you do—from flipping a switch to upgrading your appliances—can add up to big energy savings. Check out Oakdale Electric Cooperative's energy efficiency incentives at www.oakdalerec.coop/incentives.

Incentive forms must be submitted within three months of purchase and installation. The deadline to submit incentives is **December 26, 2024**.

Available ENERGY STAR® Certified Appliance & Lighting Incentives

- LED Bulbs
- Dishwasher
- Dehumidifier
- Electric Water Heater
- HVAC
- Washer/Dryer
- Refrigerator/Freezer
- And more!



HURRICANE RELIEF IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Oakdale Electric Cooperative Journeymen Linemen Dalton Linzmeier, Ryan Betthausner,

Adrian Gebhardt, and Brock Brown were four of 45 crew members from 15 Wisconsin electric cooperatives who assisted with storm recovery in South Carolina following Hurricane Helene.

A full article will be published in the December *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* that will outline their hurricane relief efforts.

Holiday Giveaway

Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to spruce up 20 lucky members' homes! Members can enter the contest for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to a co-op member tree farm of their choice.

How to Enter:

1. Scan the QR code by hovering your phone camera over it and click on the link that pops up. Or visit our website at www.oakdalerec.coop/holiday-giveaway.
2. Complete the required information and choose one (1) tree farm drawing you would like to be entered in to win.
3. Entries must be submitted by 4 p.m. Monday, November 25.
 - Hoag Tree Co. – 15764 County Hwy N, Tomah
 - Hilliker Tree Farm – 21495 Flatiron Ave, Tomah
 - Van Ert Nursery + Christmas Trees – S2112 County Rd V, Reedsburg
 - Wagner Tree Farm – N2477 24th Ave, Lyndon Station



Details:

The contest will close on Monday, November 25, at 4 p.m. Five members will be drawn from the four tree farm drawings for a total of 20 winners. Names will be randomly drawn on Tuesday, November 26, and winners will be contacted by phone. There will be no physical gift certificates; the tree farms will be notified of the winners to apply their \$50 gift certificate at the time of purchase. For assistance in entering, contact our office at 608-372-4131.

Contest Rules:

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

RECAP ON CO-OP CAMP

Oakdale Electric Cooperative had another successful Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 12. Over 650 members attended the event and partook in the pancake breakfast provided by Tomah Lions Club while Oakdale Credit Union supplied a special treat and prizes.

Members prepared themselves for flu season by receiving their influenza vaccine administered by Monroe County Health Department. The kids' corner was loaded with activities including craft painting by Craft Time Studio, face painting by Tappy's Face Painting, balloon creations with Balloons by Kevin, touch-a-truck, photo booth, giant games, and LEGOS. Young members received their own goodie bags and could enter the Kids Only drawing. The winners are: Connect 4, Liam T.; Ring Toss, Adilynn C.; and Coney Island Toss, Amelia F.

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. Members filled their goodie bags with prizes by visiting co-op educational booths. There were \$2,000 in Co-op Cash winners along with five separate large item drawings. The winners are Leaf Blower, Al and Lutrelle M.; Igloo Cooler, Bob H.; Smores Kit with mini-Solo Stove, James P.; Fire Ring made by John's Welding LLC, Jesse R.; and a set of camping chairs, Lucyna K.

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



WATCH YOUR OCTOBER BILL FOR YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND

Oakdale Electric Cooperative members will be experiencing one of the benefits of membership this month when capital credit refunds are applied to qualifying active accounts. Refunds are applied to the October bills, which members should receive around November 5.

Capital credits represent your ownership of this non-profit, member-owned cooperative. Capital credits

are created when the cooperative has earnings, income minus expenses. At the end of each year, these earnings are spread proportionately to all active cooperative members according to the amount of money each member spent at Oakdale Electric Cooperative that year.

Capital credits accumulate in an account in each member's name and are paid as a percentage each year. The size of the percentage is determined by

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors according to the cooperative's financial condition.

Checks will be issued to those who no longer receive electric service from Oakdale Electric but are still owed capital credits.






We're Grateful for Your Membership

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends this special time with loved ones.

From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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: 1-855-938-3610

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