

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* November 2025 NEWS



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Place. Your Power. Your Future.

CAMP NAWAKWA REVIVING A CAMP, RENEWING A MISSION

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER

PREP NOW FOR WINTER SAVINGS

KIDS AND CRITTERS





SERVING UP SAVINGS

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be a good time to remind Oakdale Electric Cooperative members of a few programs and efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

Programs designed to help you save.

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows can make a positive impact on energy bills. If you're not sure where to start, contact Oakdale Electric at 608-372-4131 to speak with one of our energy services technicians for extra guidance.

We also offer energy-saving incentives, which can help you achieve greater savings when purchasing ENERGY STAR® certified lighting or appliances. Our team of member relations specialists are available to help, so I encourage you to give us a call if you'd like to learn about specific programs and services that can potentially lower your bill.

Be festive without breaking the bank.

With holiday lights adorning our home for well over a month, we decided to make the switch to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smart phone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to

illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

Cook up energy savings in the kitchen.

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers, and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the oven door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stovetop's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

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, 2025**.

Available ENERGY STAR® Certified Appliance & Lighting Incentives



- LED Bulbs
- Dishwasher
- Dehumidifiers
- Washer/Dryer
- Refrigerator/Freezer
- And more!



BBQ FOR THE BOOKS



Oakdale Electric Cooperative held a successful weeknight Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, October 1. Members were lined up at the door and around the building to attend the new event menu and timeframe. Although a warm evening, over 750 members including first-time attendees, partook in the annual Member Appreciation Day from 4 – 7 p.m.

Dinner was served by the Tomah Lions Club while The Meat Shop provided pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans, and chips. Oakdale Credit Union provided ice cream sandwiches to cool off with and additional prizes. Members also prepared themselves for flu season by receiving their influenza vaccine administered by Monroe County Health Department.

The Kids Korner was a hit as always with face painting by Tappy's Face Painting, balloon creations with Balloons by Kevin, giant games, LEGOS, and new this year members young and old could paint a pumpkin. Young future members

received their own goodie bags and entry cards for the Kids Only drawing. The winners were: dart board, Leah S.; arcade basketball, Eloise E.; and Jenga, Emersyn N.

The fifth Cooperative Principle – Education, Training, and Information was on full display at the family-friendly event. Members could learn about available programs, energy-saving incentives, and safety around electricity with the electrical hotline safety demonstration. The demonstration is presented at elementary schools in spring but is informative to adult members to showcase common power outage scenarios, safety around overhead and underground lines, and procedures to restore power.

Members filled their goodie bags with prizes visiting co-op educational booths and 80 members walked away with \$25 instant Co-op Cash cards. Large item drawings were also held following the event, and those winners were: Igloo cooler, Tim and Vicki C.;



George Foreman grill, William P.; picnic table and lights, Renee F.; and STIHL leaf blower from Hartje's Farm and Power Equipment, Tom M. Drawings also included items from co-op member and owner of The Shed in Tomah, Kathy Von Haden. Those winners were: small pumpkin, Ron B.; sunflowers, Brent G.; rooster, Jennifer S.; gas can jack o'lantern, Simon W.; and large pumpkin, Thomas S.

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





Holiday Giveaway

Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to spruce up twenty 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 11:59 p.m. **Sunday, November 23.**



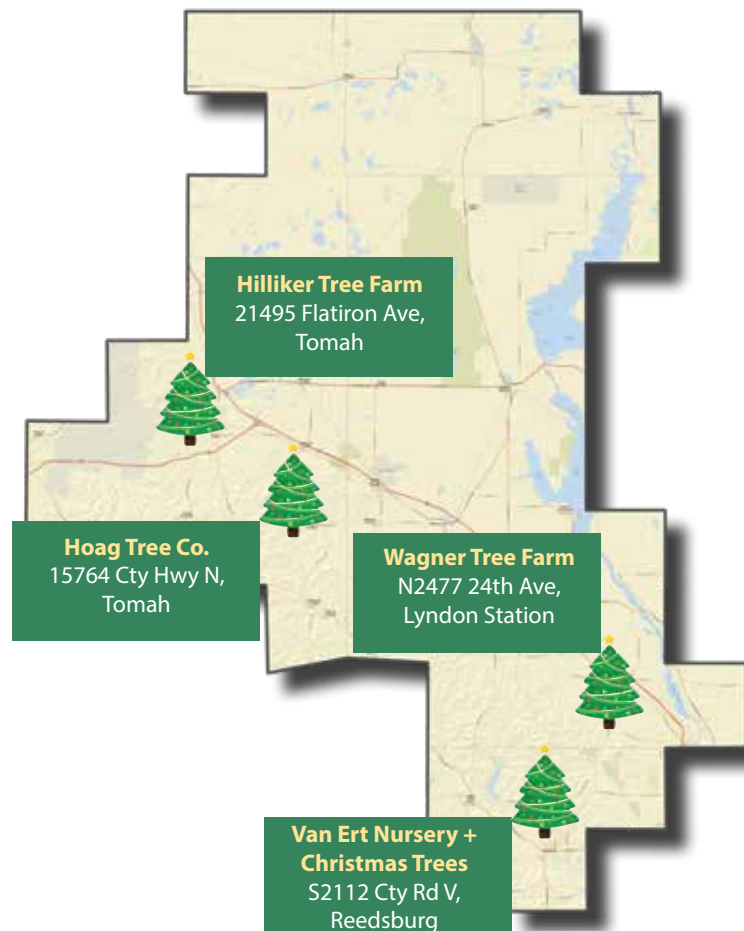
Details:

The contest entries will close on Sunday, November 23, at 11:59 p.m. Five members will be drawn from each of the four tree farm drawings for a total of 20 winners. Names will be randomly drawn on Monday, November 24, 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.



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 27 and Friday, November 28, 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 855-938-3610

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