

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

October 2023

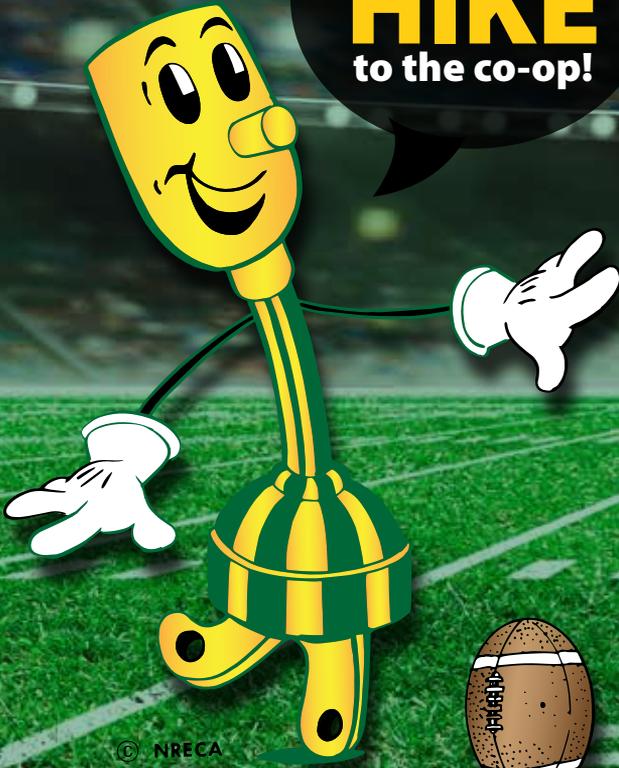
NEWS



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

HUT, HUT,
HIKE
to the co-op!



© NRECA

OCTOBER 14TH

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

A FREE Touchdown Event for All Members!

Saturday, October 14
7:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Located at Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Hwy. PP, just north of Interstate 90/94

- Pancake Breakfast by Tomah Lions Club
- 50 Tailgate Toolkit Giveaway (see inside cover)
- Co-op Educational Booths
- \$2,000 in Bill Credit Drawings
- Flu Shot Clinic by Monroe County Health Dept.
- Ice Cream by Oakdale Credit Union
- Gift Bags with Member Featured Calendars
- Hotline Demonstrations
- Kids Activities and Prizes (see back cover)



Members who attend Member Appreciation Day will have the chance to enter for one of 50 Tailgate Toolkit giveaways. What's inside? One 24 can cooler, stadium cushion/blanket, portable speaker, full-size football, popcorn from Humbird Cheese, and a \$15 gift certificate to The Meat Shop, LLC.

How to Enter:

1. Receive a "coach's playbook" (entry card) in goodie bag at the cooperative's front desk during Member Appreciation Day, Saturday, October 14.
2. Complete any three "plays" listed on the coach's playbook to gain yards for a touchdown.
3. Return completed coach's playbook to the Touchdown Table located in the middle of the shop on Member Appreciation Day, receive a gift and a chance to win a Tailgate Toolkit.

Contest Rules:

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

Details:

Fifty names total will be randomly drawn to win a Tailgate Toolkit from the complete coach's playbook cards during Member Appreciation Day on October 14, at **9:00 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.**

Winning members' names will be posted at the Touchdown Table. Pictures may be taken of members and their winnings, if available. Members who do not pick up their basket will be notified by phone on Monday, October 16. Toolkits can be picked up at the cooperative during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. By entering the contest, members agree to the rules and details associated.





FIVE REASONS ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE GREAT PLACES TO WORK



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

The electricity in your home can seem like an impossible miracle to explain. But one way to understand it is to think about the variety of skills and job roles it takes to make that power happen.

Running electric utilities today takes just about every skill imaginable. Some jobs call for the physical ability to climb a utility pole, others the technical know-how to create intricate cybersecurity systems. Some require the interpersonal skills of talking with a member about how they can lower their electric bill, others the logistical knowledge to get essential equipment delivered through a challenging supply chain.

An industry that depends on such a vast range of abilities offers job seekers a variety of career opportunities.

Careers in Energy Week is October 16-20, 2023. To highlight this unique industry and the many career paths it offers, here are five ways the unique characteristics of electric co-ops make them a great place to work:

1. Stability.

You can count on homes and businesses needing electricity now and in the future. One analysis predicts electricity demand will grow even faster in the 2020s than it has in the previous two decades. Employees typically stay in the industry more than 15 years.



As electric vehicle purchases rise, Oakdale Electric Cooperative installed an EV charger at the co-op headquarters to offer another charging station location.

2. Excitement.

While utility work is reliable, it's also at the cutting edge of innovation. Electrification is the centerpiece of the push for greener energy. The number of electric vehicles is doubling



The Webster Creek Solar Garden was constructed and electrified in 2023, just south of New Lisbon.

every year, which means new workforce skills are needed to figure out how to keep all those cars and trucks plugged in and charged up. Two of the 20 fastest-growing occupations are wind turbine technician and solar voltaic installer. More than \$120 billion a year is being spent to modernize the U.S. electric grid to manage new patterns of electricity use. The energy industry is changing, and it's an exciting time to be part of it.

3. Variety.

The skills needed in the utility industry range from advanced college degrees to trade school, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. And the range of positions is staggering—accountants, social media managers, IT specialists, engineers, human resources professionals. There are more unique positions as well—drone operators to inspect power lines, data analysts to coordinate the flow of electricity, and power plant operators to oversee electricity generation.



Engineering Assistant Breanna Linzmeier, Accountant Rachel Winrich, and Consumer Service Specialist Heather Linenberg welcome and register members at the annual meeting.

4. It's local.

The thing about electricity is that maintaining the service needs to happen nearby. That means that much of the work takes place near your hometown. Not only can a utility



Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Deana Protz presents a donation to Tomah Fire Department Chief Tim Adler.

worker make a living and raise a family in the place they choose to live, if they decide to move to another part of the country, there will likely be energy career opportunities there as well.

5. Satisfaction.

Any lineworker will tell you even when they've just climbed down from a pole in the middle of the night during a rainstorm, there's no better feeling than knowing the power outage you've just restored brought light and heat back into the



Apprentice Lineman Ryan Betthaus, smiles while restoring power in the December 15, 2022, snowstorm.

homes of hundreds of people. The same goes for the utility truck dispatcher back at headquarters, and the media specialist getting the word out about the status of power restoration. The same goes for the system resilience planners, working to avoid an outage in the first place. And the engineers creating an energy system for the future with renewable energy technologies and utility-scale batteries.

Electric co-ops offer a unique business model that's led by its members who utilize the co-op's electricity. It's a form of business committed to improving the quality of life for the local community, which can call for jobs like partnering with local groups to bring broadband to rural areas. With work that's as essential and profound as keeping the lights on, utility workers know they're making a difference by powering their neighbors and the nation.

As a reminder, our Member Appreciation Day Event is on Saturday, October 14, starting at 7:30 a.m. I encourage all members to attend and meet your local cooperative employees, your neighbors.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

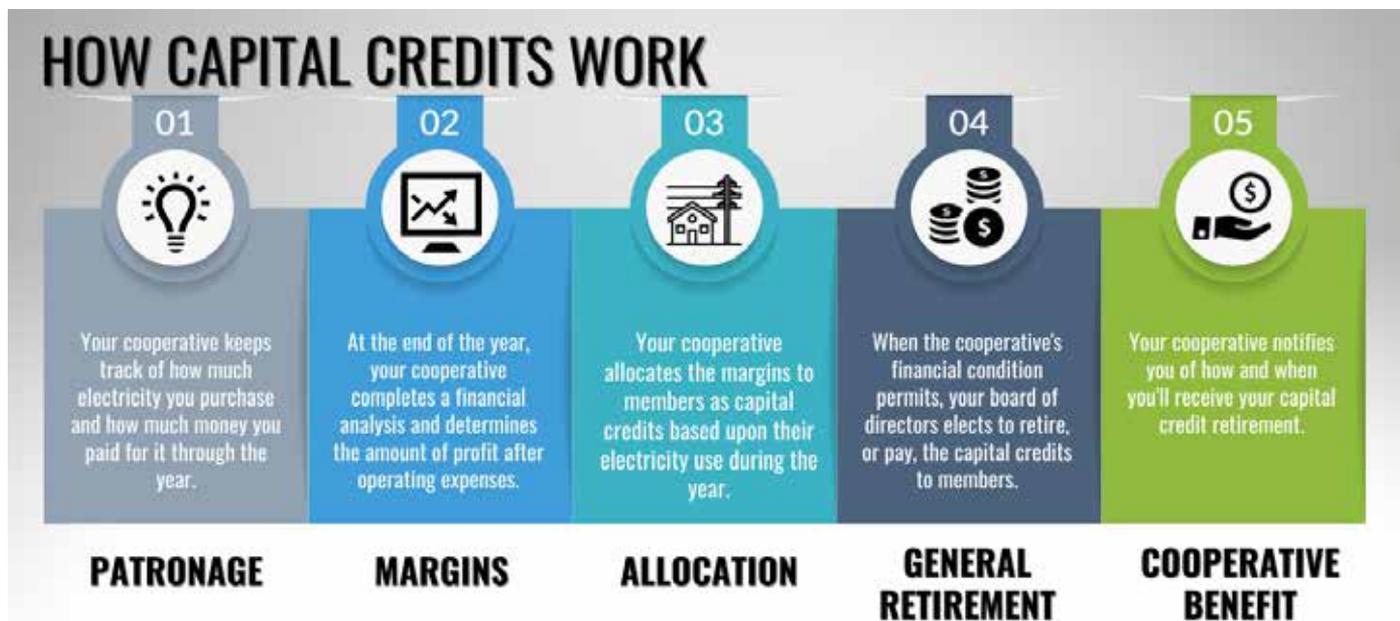
Notice of forfeiture of funds held by Oakdale Electric Cooperative

You are hereby notified that Oakdale Electric Cooperative of Oakdale, Wisconsin, has unclaimed funds belonging to our members that was issued in 2019.

You may claim these funds by contacting the cooperative at 1-800-241-2468 or emailing tvonhadn@oakdalerec.com and furnishing proof of your legal interest in such funds on or before November 3, 2023. You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence

of your right to receive the same by November 3, 2023, these funds will be forfeited to the cooperative, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03(10).

Please visit Oakdale Electric Cooperative's website at www.oakdalerec.com/capital-credits for a complete list of member names and addresses identified as having unclaimed funds with Oakdale Electric Cooperative.





JANUARY



2024



DECEMBER



FEBRUARY

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

- Audra Bissen – Elroy
- Jesse Cantwell – Reedsburg
- Joclynn Dudzinski – Elroy
- Debra Galston – Mauston
- Derek Nelson – Elroy
- Marie Pierce – Mauston
- Rita Shepherd – Tomah
- Jason Skinner – La Valle *Cover Winner
- Mike Tucker – New Lisbon

Honorable Mentions:

- Amber Betthausen – Wilton
- Melissa Franson – Pittsville
- Felica Nofsinger – Mauston
- David Riley – La Valle
- Matt Stein – Tomah



NOVEMBER



OCTOBER



MARCH



SEPTEMBER



APRIL

Be sure to stop by Member Appreciation Day on October 14 for your copy of the 2024 Member Photo Featured Calendar.



JUNE



AUGUST



MAY



HONORABLE MENTION



JULY

1

Unplug Devices

Appliances that don't get used often should be unplugged until you need to use them.



Identify and Eliminate ENERGY VAMPIRES

2

Power Strips

Power strips allow the convenience of powering devices on and off to avoid consuming energy while you're away.



3

Smart Upgrades

ENERGY STAR appliances use less energy than general appliances. Oakdale Electric Co-op offers energy-saving incentives for members.



Top Energy Vampires

1. TVs
2. Computer equipment
3. Surround sound systems
4. Cable or satellite TV boxes
5. Video game consoles
6. Cell phone & tablet chargers
7. Household items with a clock (microwave, DVD player, etc.)

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

When searching for new appliances and LED lighting, search for the ENERGY STAR certified logo. To learn more about all the incentives available to members visit: www.oakdalerec.com/incentives.



UNDERGROUND SERVICE REMINDER

All underground construction paperwork and fees need to be submitted by November 1, 2023. If you have construction plans that are not already scheduled, call Oakdale Electric Cooperative today! We cannot guarantee completion of any underground work once the frost sets in; however, we will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and install your electrical service before winter.

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.

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO VISIT ALL THE CO-OP BOOTHS

There are multiple drawings members can enter to win, so don't delay of game!

While you wait in line for the Tomah Lions Club pancake breakfast, make your first play at the Board of Directors' booth. Toss a miniature football, see where it lands and win a prize!



L-R: Richard Barrett, Robert Hess, Martin Potter, Jonathan Williams, Gregory Eirschele, Robin Craker, and James Van Wychen.



Ask Kurt about the free and secure SmartHub mobile app. Learn how you can view your energy usage, make payments easier with Auto Pay, enroll in email or text alert notifications, and more.



Kurt Spolum, GIS/AMI Specialist

Visit the line operations booth and talk with crew members about tree trimming, electric safety, digging requirements, generator guidelines, and more. Trucks will be on display for all members to explore, so bring the kids!



Young co-op members posing for a photo in a bucket truck at the 2022 Member Appreciation Day.

Parking Options:

- 1) Oakdale Electric Cooperative
489 N. Oakwood St. Tomah, WI 54660
- 2) Granger's, LLC
566 N. Oakwood St. Tomah, WI 54660

Shuttle Assistance Available:

Cooperative employees will be available to assist members with golf cart transportation from parking to the co-op entrance.



KIDS KORNER

- **Balloons by Kevin**
- **Craft Time Studio**
- **Football Drill Camp**
- **Face Painting by Tappy**
- **Giant Games & LEGOS**
- **Touch a Truck**

NEW this year, all kids attending Member Appreciation Day will receive a goodie bag at the cooperative entrance with an entry card to place in one of three prize drawings!

Drawing Rules:

- ONE entry per child.
- Parent or guardian must be a member.
- Employees, directors, as well as immediate family of Oakdale Electric Cooperative, are not eligible.

