



ELECTRIC VEHICLE FAQs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) members, so I thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue.

Q: Why is OEC communicating about electric vehicles?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and OEC is providing information about EV charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Why does OEC have an EV(s)?

A: We purchased our first EV in 2021 for research and development purposes. Our EV and charging stations help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. We have a Model 3 Tesla and Ford Lightning to help raise awareness and promote understanding of EV technologies. We also have our EV Ride & Drive event coming up September 18, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. for members to ask questions and test drive an EV for themselves.

Q: Why is OEC involved in EV infrastructure issues?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs—without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, OEC is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more OEC members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 608-372-4131 or contact us at info@oakdalerec.com.

EV RIDE & DRIVE

Wednesday, Sept. 18 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Oakdale Electric Co-op Headquarters
489 N Oakwood St. on Hwy PP,
north of Interstate 90/94 in Oakdale

chargEV™
POWERED BY CO-OPS

Take a ride or test drive an electric vehicle, learn about charging requirements, and check out an assortment of EVs from local dealers!

Lunch will be provided.



CONNECTING CO-OP TEENS AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

A statewide electric cooperative tradition, Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) sponsored 13 high school juniors from six area schools to attend the annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). The event is organized by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).

More than 50 teens from electric cooperatives across the state gathered for the three-day event, held July 16–18, at the University of Wisconsin–Stout. The YLC program is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative business. This energetic leadership conference is facilitated by teens who were elected to the WECA Youth Board the prior year.

New friendships were made through days packed with team-building activities, break-out sessions, and campaigning for the Youth Board. Motivational Speaker Craig Hillier had an interactive breakthrough session with students that focused on the five “P’s” of leadership: people, passion, perspective, process, and principle.

Safety was top-of-mind with Safety and Loss Control Manager Ben Bella. He spoke on the importance of safety in the workplace, behind the wheel, and how accidents occur by paying no mind

to the “near misses.”

While students took in building blocks for enhancing their leadership skills, they also partook in a formal etiquette dinner to prepare them for proper manners in a formal or interview dinner setting. Teens also got to kick back a little with a hypnotist that provided a multitude of funny photos and stories to tell.

The final day consisted of speeches from teens vying for a position on the WECA Youth Board. There were

exceptional candidates that caused a three-way tie; those students could then “plead their case” for why they should be on the board. Teens then cast their finalized vote and following elections, it was happy trails from there.

After attending YLC, students had scholarship opportunities to apply for through WECA and OEC. Interested in attending YLC next year? Contact Jackie McGlin, jmcglin@oakdalerec.com, to learn how you can take part in this cooperative tradition.



SELENA MEACHAM

Big Heart in a Small Town



In a town of a little over 500 people, better known as the “Cranberry Capital of Wisconsin,” Warrens is home to a special community-focused individual. Whether it’s bringing family and neighbors together for various holiday celebrations or coordinating youth summer activities, Selena Meacham is instrumental in carrying out community events. Therefore, Selena Meacham was recently presented the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Selfless Service Award.

A lifelong Warrens resident, Selena is the secretary of the Warrens Area Youth Association (WAYA), has operated her personal cleaning business for over 25 years, and is on the Warrens Area Foundation Board of Trustees. While planning year-round activities for WAYA, Selena is also a full-time wife and mother to two daughters.

Through fundraising efforts, Selena was instrumental in establishing the playground at Warrens Ball Park and continues to maintain the equipment and grounds. During the summer months, she coordinates youth activities including T-ball once a week, the kickball program, and swimming lessons held at Three Bears Resort.

Various youth gatherings put on by WAYA and directed by Selena are the Easter breakfast, Fourth of July celebration, and the Halloween party. Her specialty is providing kid and family-friendly activities, snacks, games, and more. You may

even see Selena with an extra hop in her step around Easter.

To round out the year, WAYA arranges a Christmas party in conjunction with the Warrens community meal. With a youth flair, the party is complete with a kid-friendly menu, decorations, and viewing of the Redneck Christmas tree contest entries where the public can vote for their favorite in various categories. The party is in conjunction with Hope for the Holidays, which is for families in need. Anonymous families can register, and Hope for the Holidays will provide Christmas gifts and a full Christmas dinner meal.

Selena was nominated by Warrens community member Nodji VanWychen. “Selena is extremely resourceful and talented in how she can easily gain volunteers for various events,” Nodji shared. “She has a big heart, and it shows through her devotion to the youth activities and overall passion in making the community a better place to live.”

The award was presented on August 14, in conjunction with the Warrens Community Meal and ribbon cutting for the new addition on the Lion’s Community Log Building. Fellow Warrens Area Foundation board member Sara Moseley concluded, “Selena has been fundamental in the creation of the foundation, and we’ve learned she is both a visionary and a do-er in making all the dreams come to fruition.”

Next deadline for SSA nominations is Friday, September 20.

YOU ARE THE KEY TO YOUR SAFETY

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) attended the community gathering National Night Out event in Tomah and Necedah on Tuesday, August 6. Area Service Linemen Brock Brown and Dane Pasch taught a key safety procedure on how to properly exit a vehicle after an accident involving electrical equipment. Review the Q&A below to know what to do to save your life.

Q: What should I do if I am in an accident involving a power line or other electrical equipment?

A: DO NOT get out of the vehicle. It is always safer to remain inside a vehicle, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 911 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.



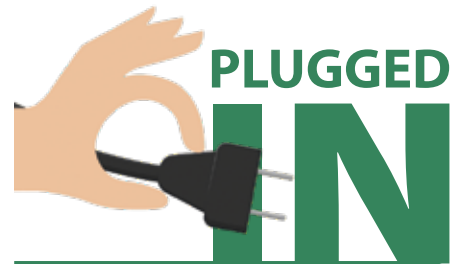
Q: Is there any reason I should exit the vehicle?

A: Yes, but only when your vehicle is on FIRE, or you see smoke. If that is the case, make a clean jump from the vehicle with your feet together and without touching the vehicle. Then hop with feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground, 50 or more feet away is preferred.

Q: What else can I do?

A: Roll your window down and yell to others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

Learn more by visiting <http://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>.



Into the Woods Safety Tips

As hunting season starts ramping up, it's important to be aware of extra safety measures whether you're handling a bow or firearm. Here are a few friendly reminders to ensure you have a safe hunting season.

- Always check your stands and equipment prior to use or installation.
- Be sure to wear an approved safety harness to prevent injury from potential falls.
- Keep elevated stands away from powerlines and off utility poles.
- Know your target and what's beyond it.
- Tell a friend or family your plans and be sure to check in with them.
- Food plots in rights-of-way are fine but be aware that OEC may need to access our equipment for maintenance or outage restoration.

We wish all the hunters a safe and prosperous hunting season.



Andy Steele
Field Engineer

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.