



# CONNECTING SOLAR/WIND SYSTEMS

MY CO-OP

**O**EC wants to assist cooperative members interested in owning and installing a renewable generation system. If you're a member of Oakdale Electric Cooperative and are interested in interconnected solar or wind generation, call us at 800-241-2468 or send an e-mail to [toneil@oakdalerec.com](mailto:toneil@oakdalerec.com) for complete information.

## Things You Need to Know:

1. There are rules concerning proper equipment, safety, liability, and metering. Please contact us before you start your project to be sure your plans comply and your project goes smoothly.
2. Review OEC's checklist at right that will help you navigate the interconnection process.
3. Discuss your project with our employees for general information or specific needs. We applaud our members who are working to conserve energy and who support renewable energy. Contact us to learn more about how we can help.

## Interconnection Checklist

Before you begin your interconnection project, review the Interconnection Checklist to help navigate your way through the process.

1. Complete and submit the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Interconnection Application and Interconnection Agreement to Oakdale Electric Cooperative. These documents list the specifications of the equipment to be installed and estimate system performance. Your system provider or installer can provide this information.
2. Contact Focus on Energy for rebate availability at 800-762-7077.
3. Provide a copy of your proof of liability insurance to OEC.
4. OEC will review your plans from your PSC application and notify you of any necessary changes or approve the project to proceed as planned.
5. Notify OEC when the system is ready for inspection and interconnection.
6. OEC performs a field inspection and test of the interconnected system components. Upon passing all tests and inspections you would be cleared to begin generating energy.



# A Holiday

## OF ENERGY-SAVING IDEAS



**T**he Fourth of July is almost here, and that means festivities, food, and fireworks. It's also the perfect opportunity to get outside and give your house a much-needed reprieve from energy use. Follow these ideas to cut back on energy and costs, but not on fun!

Kick start the holiday off by checking out a local celebration. Visit the events listing in the back pages of the magazine for ideas of events happening in your community. Another great option, that doesn't weigh down on the pocket book, is a quick trip to a local or state park to hike, bike, fish, or catch up on a book under a shady tree. No matter what you decide, make time to unplug home devices like coffee pots, phone chargers, and computer cords before heading out the door. Any device left plugged in will continue to use energy and drain power, even when turned off, and can account for as much as 20 percent of your monthly electricity bill.

Keep the curtains closed while away to prevent the sun from heating up your home and making your cooling system work harder. Likewise, turn off any ceiling fans. These are great tools to use when home, but ceiling fans are designed to cool people, not rooms, by creating a windchill effect. Finally, set the thermostat at a warmer temperature than normal. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.

Beat the afternoon heat by cooling off the old-fashioned way—swimming! Venture out to a local municipal pool for an affordable afternoon of fun in the sun, while you give the home air conditioner, or fan, a much-needed break. Whether you are looking for a pool large or small, local communities provide it all. Pack a cooler with refreshments and snacks, and you'll continue to save.

- Elroy City Pool, 301 S Main St, Elroy, WI 53929  
608-462-2400
- La Valle Pool, Hochmuth St, La Valle, WI  
608-985-7778 or 608-985-7695
- Mauston Community Indoor Swimming Pool, 508  
Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI  
608-847-7282
- New Lisbon Community Pool, 419 S. Division Street,  
New Lisbon, WI  
608-982-6262
- Reedsburg Municipal Pool, 425 N. Webb Avenue,  
Reedsburg, WI  
608-524-6404
- Sparta Family Aquatic Center, 725 Pine St, Sparta, WI  
608-269-5344
- Tomah Aquatic Center, 411 East Holton St, Tomah, WI  
608-374-7446
- Village of Wonewoc Pool, 107-199 Pine St, Wonewoc, WI  
608-464-7703
- Wilton Public Swimming Pool, East St, Wilton, WI  
608-435-6666

### Chilling and Grilling

An afternoon of splashing and splashing is guaranteed to leave any swimmer feeling famished. Resist the urge to turn on the oven and opt to grill instead. Not only will you save energy by not cooking on the stovetop or oven, you'll also save from adding extra heat to your home, which makes your air conditioner work harder. Plan for side dishes and desserts that require less energy to be cooked, and you'll continue to maximize energy savings. Salads, fruit bowls, and crudité and hummus platters are all great cold options that pair perfectly with a grilled meal.



Pack up the tableware, but pack away the mobile devices, and set up dinner outside. A delicious outdoor meal with uninterrupted conversations will have you going back for seconds. Keep the thermostat set at as high a temperature as comfortably possible, while still ensuring humidity control. This is more energy efficient than turning the air conditioner completely off, and limits wasted energy spent on cooling an empty home.

Savor the last few hours of the daylight by enjoying an energy-free game. Get up and move with corn hole, badminton, or croquet. Otherwise, if the summer sun is still bearing down, cool off with squirt gun fight or water relays. You'll burn off a few calories and make room for a cool dessert. You can't ever go wrong with ice cream sundaes or root beer floats, both of which take no energy usage to prepare. If a slower pace is more your style, play a few hands of cards as you wait for fireworks displays to begin.

As the sun goes down, skip the yard light and instead light your way with decorative solar-poled lighting or LED string lights, both of which will save on watts.

After a successful holiday of energy savings, it's time to put your feet up and enjoy the final hours of the day with a celebratory fireworks show.—*Deana Protz*

*Let our co-op chefs provide you with a little recipe inspiration this Fourth of July that are big on flavor, but low on energy usage!*

### MANDARIN ORANGE SALAD

Maribeth O'Dell, Consumer Service Specialist,  
5 years of service



#### Sugared Almonds:

1/4 cup sliced almonds  
4 teaspoons sugar

#### Sweet-Sour Dressing:

1/4 cup vegetable oil  
3 Tbsp sugar  
2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar  
2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley  
1/2 tsp salt  
3-4 shakes/dashes of red pepper sauce

#### Salad:

1/2 small head lettuce,  
torn into bite-size pieces (3 cups)  
1/2 bunch romaine lettuce, torn  
into bite-size pieces (3 cups)  
2 medium celery stalks, chopped (1 cup)  
2 medium green onions, thinly  
sliced (2 tablespoons)  
1 can mandarin orange segments,  
drained (11 oz)

#### Instructions:

1. In a 1-quart saucepan, cook almonds and 4 tps sugar over low heat for about 10 minutes, stirring constantly, until sugar is melted and almonds are coated. Put on wax paper and when cool break apart.
2. In tightly covered container, shake all dressing ingredients. Refrigerate until serving time.
3. In large bowl, toss salad ingredients, dressing and almonds. Serve immediately.

#### Maribeth's Tips –

- Can substitute Roman salad in a bag, or try a mix green salad blend.
- Add grilled chicken breast for heartier appetites.
- Dressing can be made ahead of time and stored 1–2 weeks in fridge.
- Dry parsley may be substituted.
- Almonds can be prepared ahead of time.

### CHARCOAL GRILLED WHOLE BEEF TENDERLOIN

Recipe is based on 4–5 pound tenderloin.

Joe Engel, Construction Foreman, 35 years of service



#### Marinade:

1 cup soy sauce                      1/2 cup pineapple juice  
1/2 cup brown sugar                2 tsp salt  
1/2 cup white vinegar               1 tsp garlic powder

#### Marinade Directions:

1. Make marinade ahead of time. Mix all ingredients in a sauce pan, and bring to simmer over stove.
2. Let cool completely. Store in fridge until ready to use.  
*\*Joe's tip – Double the recipe, and use the additional marinade for basting tenderloin.*
3. Place tenderloin with marinade in a 2 gallon Ziploc bag for 8–12 hours.  
*\*Joe's tip – Add minced garlic for extra flavor to the marinade bag.*

#### Grilling Directions:

1. Prepare charcoal grill for indirect heat. Make two small piles of charcoal on both sides of grill, and place a drip pan in the middle.
2. Turn and baste the tenderloin with the extra marinade, and grill for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.
3. Using a meat thermometer, check the temperature at the thickest part of the tenderloin at 45 minutes. Remove tenderloin from grill when it reaches 125–130 degrees.
4. Let the tenderloin rest for 10–15 minutes.
5. Slice, serve, and enjoy!  
*\*Joe's tip – Serve with grilled ciabatta toast.*

### PINEAPPLE FRENCH TOAST

Travis Champlin, Field Engineer, 21 years of service



#### Ingredients:

1 whole pineapple                      Cinnamon  
Sugar                                        Vanilla Ice Cream

#### Directions:

1. While grill is still warm, peel the whole pineapple, remove the core, and cut pineapple into rings.
2. Place pineapple rings on grill and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Grill for approximately 4 minutes.
3. Flip pineapple over and sprinkle with remaining sugar and cinnamon.
4. Remove pineapple from grill when it softens.
5. Take half of the pineapple and crush in a bowl.
6. Put the remaining pineapple rings in serving bowls. Top with vanilla ice cream and crushed pineapple.

*\*Travis' tip – Top with chocolate syrup or hot fudge!*



# CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

## Careers with Wings and Wheels

Oakdale Electric Cooperative volunteered at Necedah Area School District's Second Annual Careers with Wings and Wheels on May 2, 2018. Over 700 students in the K-12<sup>th</sup> grade stopped by the booth to learn more about co-op careers firsthand. As always, the bucket truck rides proved to be a crowd favorite for kids of all ages!



Above: Journeyman Lineman Dan McGarry manned the bucket truck rides.  
Left: Even big kids can't resist climbing into the bucket!

## Lunchtime FUNd-raising

An additional agenda item has been worked into the monthly safety meetings at Oakdale Electric Cooperative this year—FUNd-raising during the lunchtime break. This year alone, over \$1,000 has been raised by employees and donated back out to help members and organizations in need. More lunch FUNd-raising ideas are in the works, keeping the co-op's concern for community filling and satisfying.



Above: Over 15 different crockpots of soup were donated by employees for the Soup-er Luncheon.

Left: Employees—and sous chefs—Chad Schauf, Heather Linenberg, and Kurt Spolum prepared brunch.

## Change for Change

Each month, Oakdale Electric Cooperative “rounds up” the electric bill of participating members to the next highest dollar. For example, a member's monthly bill of \$52.73 would be automatically rounded up to \$53.00, with the additional 27 cents going to the Operation Round-Up fund. This small contribution may not seem like much, but the dollars add up quickly when enough members participate. Since the program's inception in 2002, close to \$60,000 has been put back into the our local communities! That's a lot of change!

If you'd like to participate in Operation Round Up, visit [www.oakdalerec.com/content/operation-round-application](http://www.oakdalerec.com/content/operation-round-application) or call 800-241-2468.



K-9 Kelton of the Monroe County K-9 unit, which received an Operation Roundup donation, with Deputy Mike Geier.


### Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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### Deana Protz, 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 866-392-4307

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