



AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY POWERS QUALITY OF LIFE

Most of us use electricity at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your phones, computers, tablets, TV(s), and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial

sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing and will continue to increase. Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. However, the cost of electricity only increased 1.1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

The next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life. We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Oakdale Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life—reliably and affordably.—*Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO*

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. 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 1, 2021. You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence of your right to receive the same by November 1, 2021, these funds will be forfeited to the cooperative, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03(10).

Please visit Oakdale Electric Cooperative's website at <https://oakdalerec.com/capital-credits> for a complete list of member names and addresses identified as having unclaimed funds with Oakdale Electric Cooperative. *Published on September 2, 2021.*

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

It takes many hands to make light work. In order to organize, prepare, and serve a free meal for hundreds of individuals in one night, it takes an entire community.

Since the start of the pandemic, community volunteers have put their hands to work consistently serving nutritious meals, and doing so safely, to feed those in need. Not only have the numbers of meals served increased, but so have expenses due to the unforeseen need for to-go containers.

To help offset these costs, Oakdale Electric Cooperative partnered with CoBank, a member-owned cooperative bank, to contribute nearly \$20,000 to six community meal sites across the cooperative's service territory. The communities of La Valle, Mauston, New Lisbon, Pittsville, Tomah, and Warrens each received a \$3,300 donation to use towards the costs of foods, supplies, and equipment to continue nourishing the members of their communities.





"Oakdale Electric Cooperative recognizes the passionate dedication of the countless volunteers across all of our communities working hard to feed those in need. It takes many hands, working together, to make these meals happen month after month. We thank, and appreciate, all volunteers for their strong commitment to their communities!"

—Deana Protz, Oakdale Electric PR & Communications Specialist



SAFETY NIGHT OUT

Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s Safety and Compliance Coordinator Ben Bella participated in the mock crash demonstration at Monroe County’s National Night Out on August 3 in Tomah. He narrated to the onlooking crowd on what to do if your vehicle were to be in an accident that involved a utility line.

Bella stated, “National Night Out is a great opportunity to educate over 500 adults and children about the dangers of overhead and underground lines. Failure to understand the consequences of coming in contact with one these lines can be a deadly oversight. Oakdale Electric Cooperative is committed to raising awareness about these dangers and provide proper precautions to take around them.”

Review Ben’s questions and answers below. Knowing what to do can 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 your car or truck. 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 line or other electrical equipment is involved. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.



(l-r) Journeyman Lineman Brock Brown and Apprentice Lineman Ryan Betthausner removed the de-energized power line during the mock crash.

Q: Is there any reason I should get out of 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 without touching it, and then hop with feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground as far as you can—preferably 50 or more feet away.

Q: What else can I do?

A: Put 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 <https://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO

P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468

info@oakdalerec.com

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.