

EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Wisconsin

# ENERGY COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY SINCE 1940

AUGUST 2007

News



**SAVINGS  
WITH A  
TWIST.**

**Make your next light  
an ENERGY STAR.**

*See page 5 for more information.*



**focus on energy™**

*The power is within you.*



**We've helped homeowners, farms and businesses across the state save energy and money each year.**

**Now it's your turn.**

**Announcing Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's new partnership with Focus on Energy.**

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy program, is now working with Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Together, we can help you save energy and manage your energy bills.

Check with Focus on Energy before you buy new appliances, heating or cooling systems, light fixtures and bulbs, or equipment for your farm or business. If you make energy efficient choices, you can earn financial incentives when you purchase qualified equipment.

We can answer your questions and tell you about smart energy efficiency and renewable energy options. Call us at 800.762.7077 – our energy experts are here for you.

**Last year, Focus on Energy helped more than 240,000 customers across Wisconsin save energy. It's time to put your name on this list.**

***Eau Claire Energy Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

PO Box 368 Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368  
715-832-1603 • 888-832-1604

[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)

For more information, contact Focus on Energy at **800.762.7077**, or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).



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### ECEC Responds to Fire at WRR Environmental Services

On Friday morning, June 22, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative crews were called to disconnect power due to a fire at WRR Environmental Services on Highway 93 near I-94 south of Eau Claire. At 7:25 a.m., after switching line feeds to keep some critical loads in service, an attempt was made to open the 12,470-volt line switch near WRR, but the ECEC line workers were turned back for safety reasons. The Electrical Operations crew determined the safest way to shut down the power was to open a similar 12,470-volt line switch about 1/2 mile north of WRR. That meant that about 50 homes and businesses would be without power until



The fire at WRR began at about 6 a.m. on Friday, June 22. Fire crews from many local townships and cities worked through the next day to put it out completely.

ECEC crews could connect them to a different feeder.

According to Randy Baier, ECEC line superintendent, “We service that entire area with electricity and

we tried to keep as many members as possible in service while still accommodating the fire department’s request to disconnect power into the burning plant. As soon as the plant’s power was disconnected, our crews worked diligently and safely to re-energize the homes and businesses that had to be disconnected. The total outage time for these members was only about a half hour.”

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative management and crews would like to thank the local fire departments, Wisconsin State Highway Patrol, Eau Claire Sheriff’s Department, and other governmental and

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### Sign up for Youth Ambassador Program

The Eau Claire Energy Cooperative’s Youth Ambassador Program is an exciting program designed to help our high school students learn firsthand many leadership skills necessary in life. Students will learn about cooperatives and energy issues and take part in community service projects. Eight monthly meetings and five community service projects are scheduled from September through May (no meeting planned during December). Here’s what the students do:

- Learn about cooperatives
- Attend ECEC board meetings
- Examine energy issues
- Visit renewable energy facilities
- Polish those leadership skills
- Participate in community service projects
- Gain new friends for life
- Enjoy great food

*(Continued on page 28 ▶)*



This is an ENERGY STAR Home.

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#### What should I do if I want my home to be certified as an energy efficient Wisconsin ENERGY STAR™ Home?

Visit the Focus on Energy web site — [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com) — or call Focus on Energy at 800-762-7077 for the names of builder partners and consultants in your area. If you have already selected a builder that is not a program partner, your builder can learn about the program by visiting the web site or calling program staff at 800-762-7077. Either way, we’ll connect you and your builder with an accredited consultant so that your home is built to program standards.

For more information about the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes program, including the names of Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes builder partners in your area, visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com) or call 800-762-7077.



The easy way to make sure a home is energy efficient is to look for the blue ENERGY STAR mark, the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. Learn more about how you can make your home more efficient with the ENERGY STAR program at [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com) or call Focus on Energy at 1-800-762-7077

# Energy-Efficient Home Lighting

The familiar pear-shaped incandescent light bulb has been a staple in the lighting fixtures in most of our homes. Yet, the incandescent bulb is actually better at producing heat than light and uses a lot of electricity in the process. ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) save energy and money while providing quality light for your home.

## Use CFLs in High-Use Fixtures

Replace standard incandescent bulbs within fixtures that are on for three or more hours per day. High-use lighting areas include kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms, and outdoor fixtures. By replacing the incandescent light bulbs in the five light fixtures you use the most frequently with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, you can save as much as \$60 per year.



## About CFLs

Today's CFLs incorporate the best features of fluorescents—high efficiency and long life—and produce steady, quiet, warm, white light. The problems of poor color, flicker, and hum that plagued the first bulbs that were introduced in the 1980s have been eliminated.

CFLs now come in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit different fixtures. Today there are CFLs that work with dimmer switches, three-way lamps, in recessed cans, and outdoor applications. CFLs also last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs so you don't have to replace

bulbs as often. Not only do you buy fewer bulbs, you use at least two-thirds less energy.

## Light Output

CFLs use far fewer watts than incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light. Light output is measured in lumens at the light source. To determine if the light is bright enough, be sure that it produces sufficient lumens to meet your needs. ■

### LIGHT OUTPUT FOR CFLS

Incandescent Bulb	Compact Fluorescent Bulb	(Minimum) Light Output in Lumens
40 watt	9 - 13 watt	450
60 watt	13 - 15 watt	800
75 watt	18 - 25 watt	1,100
100 watt	23 - 30 watt	1,600
150 watt	30 - 52 watt	2,600

### SAVINGS FOR CFLS

Incandescent Bulb	Compact Fluorescent	Lifetime Savings
40 watt	9 - 11 watt	\$15 - \$25
60 watt	13 - 17 watt	\$25 - \$30
75 watt	18 - 20 watt	\$30 - \$35
100 watt	23 - 26 watt	\$40 - \$45
150 watt	32 - 42 watt	\$60 - \$70

BASED ON 8,000-HOUR BULB LIFETIME BURNING 3 HOURS PER DAY AT 9.61 PER KWh.

**CHANGE A LIGHT CHANGE THE WORLD ENERGY STAR**

**SAVINGS WITH A TWIST**

**Make your next light an ENERGY STAR.**  
**\$2 Cash Rewards Available.**

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The steel wall to the left of the transformer helped to protect Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's electrical transformer from the severe heat of the fire. ECEC Line Workers Keith Kaufman and Rick LaPointe remove the protective barriers before inspecting the transformer and the switching enclosure. (Photos by Randy Baier and Line Worker Perry Gilbertson.)

## ECEC Responds to Fire

(Continued from page 4)

community service organizations for their help in making the area safe for our employees to work in order to de-energize the electrical power in a safe manner. Baier stated, "All organizations involved pulled together in an efficient and safe manner for the benefit of controlling the fire and keeping everyone safe."

## ECEC Keeps the Power on for TV 18

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) was able to keep the electricity on for ABC-TV 18 in spite of the intense fire at WRR Environmental Services on Highway 93 on June 22. ECEC crews took extraordinary measures to keep the power on for TV 18 and other critical loads in the area. The ECEC crews worked to safely keep TV 18 on the air broadcasting safety messages while about 50 businesses and homes in the area were without power for a half hour due to the fire.

According to Noble Larson, operations manager at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, "It's important to keep the public aware of breaking news regarding this dangerous fire. Our crews took special measures this morning to keep the power on for TV 18 without any interruptions." (TV 18 is located across Highway 93 from WRR.)

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy Partner, provides electric power and LP gas service to over 10,000 residential, business, and farm members in Eau Claire County as well as parts of Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Jackson Counties in Wisconsin. ■

## Youth Ambassador Program

(Continued from page 4)

Regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters on Hwy. 12 between Eau Claire and Fall Creek. The first meeting is September 19.

### How to Qualify:

To become a Youth Ambassador at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, students must:

1. Live in a household that receives electricity from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.
2. Attend at least 5 out of 13 Youth Ambassador meetings and community service activities per year.
3. Be a sophomore, junior, or senior at one of the following high schools: Altoona High School, Augusta High School, Cadott High School, Chippewa Falls High School, Chippewa Falls McDonell High School, Eau Claire Memorial High School, Eau Claire North High School, Eau Claire Regis High School, Eleva-Strum High School, Elk Mound High School, Fall Creek High School, Home School Association, Immanuel Lutheran high School, Mondovi High School, Osseo-Fairchild High School, Stanley-Boyd High School.

Sign up today at [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com). Click on "Youth Programs" for more information about the program and the online enrollment form, or call 715-836-6471. ■

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## Does Your Life Depend on Constant Electricity?

**D**o you or a member of your family have life-sustaining medical equipment that relies on electricity in your home? Your cooperative works to maintain service at all times, but power outages do occur occasionally. If your life depends on electricity, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative needs to know so that we can give your home priority service in the event of an outage. If anyone in your home depends on electricity for life-support equipment, please contact us at 715-832-1603 or toll FREE 888-832-1604. ■

### *Happy to be Green*

#### Evergreen Continues to Grow

**W**hat is the Evergreen Program? It's the renewable energy program available to you through local Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. If you choose to invest in Evergreen—by purchasing special energy “blocks”—you will be supporting electricity generated by renewable resources. Because our wholesale energy supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, provides a progressive mix of fuel sources for electricity production, the Evergreen Program is thriving. More than just wind energy, Evergreen renewable energy also comes from waste-to-energy sources like landfill gas and livestock manure.

Since we purchase electricity from Dairyland Power Cooperative, this renewable energy becomes part of the generation mix that powers area homes and businesses.

#### How You Can Participate

If you already participate in the Evergreen Program, thank you! If you don't and are interested in learning more, contact Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, or go to [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com).

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Now we can help you too.

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#### **Eau Claire Energy Cooperative**

John W. Luehrsen, CEO  
Mary Kay Brevig, Editor  
8214 Hwy 12 PO Box 368  
Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon–Fri

**Non-emergencies:** 715-832-1603

Toll FREE 888-832-1604

**Emergencies & outages:** Toll FREE 800-927-5090

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Diggers Hotline:** 1-800-242-8511

Call 3 working days before you dig.

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### **What is an ENERGY STAR™ Home?**

You may not be able to tell just from the outside appearance of a home if it is an ENERGY STAR Home. A certified Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home has been designed, built, and performance tested to ensure it exceeds nationally recognized and proven construction standards. Construction standards that are specific to Wisconsin’s weather conditions and address a variety of building issues, beyond energy efficiency — such as occupant comfort, combustion safety, building durability, moisture and indoor air quality — that affect a home’s performance.

The Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes program is a voluntary program designed to provide a variety of services — from consulting, performance testing, and troubleshooting new homes to education and training for builders, contractors, and homeowners in the new construction market. The program operates in coordination with independent, professional building consultants throughout the state, accredited to deliver program services to an increasing number of builders in the state.

### **Will I save money on heating bills by building a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home?**

Yes, certified Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes are, on average, 25 percent more efficient than homes built to Wisconsin’s Uniform Dwelling Code, and that is only in terms of heating and cooling.

### **What makes a certified Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home different from other homes?**

In a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home you’ll find greater attention to construction and installation details combined with independent verification of building plans and performance. ENERGY STAR qualified homes can include a variety of energy-efficient features, such as effective insulation, high performance windows, tight construction and ducts, efficient heating and cooling equipment, and ENERGY STAR qualified lighting and appliances. These features contribute to improved home quality and homeowner comfort, and to lower energy demand and reduced air pollution.

Peace of mind and knowing the home is well built. Each certified Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home comes with a certification report providing specific information on the home’s performance, an identification plaque for increased resale value and a homeowner’s operation manual to maximize the home’s potential and worth for a lifetime.

### **What should I do if I want my new home to be certified as a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home?**

Visit the Focus on Energy web site, [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com), or call Focus on Energy at 800-762-7077 for the names of builder partners and consultants in your area. If you have already selected a builder that is not a program partner, your builder can learn about the program by visiting the website or calling program staff at 800-762-7077. Either way, we’ll connect you and your builder with an accredited consultant so that your home is built to program standards.

### **Is it more expensive to build a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home?**

No, not in terms of material, but maybe a little more in terms of time, to plan ahead and look after the construction and installation details that determine building performance and quality. It really depends on your building plan, builder and contractors, and any options and upgrades you may want to consider.

### **How can I learn more about the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes program?**

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