

EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Wisconsin

ENERGY COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY SINCE 1940

JUNE 2008

News

Breakfast in the Valley

Friday, June 13, 2008

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**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Everyone wants to save energy. We want to help.

Call Focus on Energy for expert advice on saving energy and possible Cash-Back Rewards when:

- Replacing your appliances
- Making home improvements
- Choosing efficient lighting
- Building a new home
- Utilizing renewable energy
- Upgrading heating & cooling equipment

Income-eligible customers may qualify for financial assistance to complete energy efficient home improvements.

Contact us today.

800.762.7077 focusonenergy.com



focus on energy
The power is within you.

Call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com for details.

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

Cash-Back Rewards available to participating utility customers.

Breakfast in the Valley

Friday, June 13, 2008

Serving
5-10 a.m.

**Eau Claire
County
Expo
Center**

*(Located south of
Eau Claire just past
the intersections of
HWY 93 and 1-94)*

\$5 per person — \$2 children 12 and younger
Tickets available at the door or at the Chamber office!

Must-See Attractions:

- Cooks using a 4-foot skillet preparing 250 eggs at once
- Door prize drawings
- Milk drinking and cow milking contests with local celebrities
- Petting zoo
- Business displays ● Agricultural displays
- Newly crowned 61st Alice in Dairyland
- Antique tractors

Menu:

- Scrambled eggs with ham, cheese, mushrooms and onions
- Mega muffins
- Gordy's cheese
- Milk, Kwik Trip orange juice, and Kwik Kafe coffee
- Hahn's cheese curds
- Traditional June Dairy Month treat—Culver's custard with Cornflakes and strawberries

Free coffee mug
to first 2,800
people in attendance,
compliments of
Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative

New this year:
Antique tractor caravan
on Saturday, June 7,
9:30 a.m. at the
Expo Center

For more information, call 715-834-1204
101 N. Farwell Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

The
Chamber
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce



ECEC Distributes Free CFLs to Members

300,000 CFLs Will be Donated in 2008 Through the “Do the Bright Thing” Campaign

Together, Dairyland Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives, including Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, are encouraging energy users in Dairyland’s four-state service territory to “Do the Bright Thing” by providing members with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. In 2008 alone, 300,000 ENERGY STAR CFL bulbs will be distributed to cooperative members, with more planned in 2009.

“Anyone interested in helping protect the environment can make a truly significant difference by choosing to conserve energy in their homes and offices. One of the best—and easiest—ways to accomplish this is by

switching out standard light bulbs with energy-efficient CFL bulbs,” said Ed West, who leads Dairyland’s energy-efficiency initiatives.

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. By installing CFLs in fixtures that are used the most in your home (such as your kitchen, living room, or dining room), you can save approximately \$30 or more over the lifetime of each bulb.

Dairyland and its member cooperatives are hoping the gift of 300,000 CFLs will encourage people to make energy efficiency a priority and change out more of their bulbs. As an example



of this program’s potential impact, 300,000 19-watt CFL bulbs burned for three hours a day over the lifetime of the bulbs would save enough energy to:

- Power more than 1,200 homes for a year
- Save more than \$20 million in energy costs
- Reduce the demand for electricity in Dairyland’s cooperative system by almost 8 megawatts
- Prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of over 21,800 cars in one year OR planting 31,000 acres of forest.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 19 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland’s service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois). Dairyland’s generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas, and animal waste. For more information, please visit www.dairynet.com.



Midwest Renewable Energy Fair

June 20–22 • Custer, Wisconsin

Since its inception in 1990, the Energy Fair has shown 190,000 fairgoers how to change the world while having fun. Each summer the fair transforms rural Custer, Wisconsin, into the global hot spot for renewable energy education. The Energy Fair is the world’s largest renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living educational event of its kind. ■

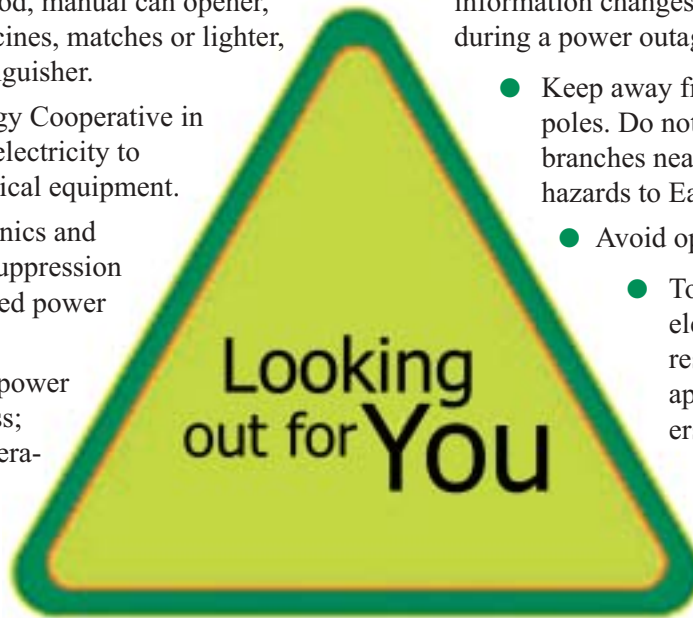
www.the-mrea.org

Straight Talk About...

Summer Storm Preparedness

Prepare for severe weather by planning ahead.

- Eau Claire Energy Cooperative works hard to provide reliable power for members, but severe weather can sometimes put us all in the dark. That's why members should plan ahead for severe weather.
- Organize a survival kit that includes a hard-wired phone or cell phone, battery-powered radio, clock or watch, flashlight, extra batteries, tap or bottled water, nonperishable food, manual can opener, first-aid supplies, medicines, matches or lighter, candles, and a fire extinguisher.
- Notify Eau Claire Energy Cooperative in advance if you require electricity to operate life-saving medical equipment.
- Protect valuable electronics and appliances with surge suppression devices and uninterrupted power supply (UPS) systems.
- Have a plan for loss of power on your farm or business; prior to installing a generator, contact ECEC for safety and installation information.



Take action when the lights go out.

- Check fuses and circuit breakers to make sure the problem is not with your electrical equipment. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity.
- Report the outage by calling Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, 800-927-5090 toll free. Phones are answered 24/7. Know where to find ECEC's phone number and your account number in an emergency.
- Notify Eau Claire Energy Cooperative if your account information changes. This information is critical during a power outage or emergency.
 - Keep away from downed wires and power poles. Do not cut or clear away trees and branches near power lines. Report these hazards to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.
 - Avoid opening the refrigerator or freezer.
 - To prevent a heavy burden on the electric system during power restoration, turn off all unnecessary appliances, including air conditioners, and all but one interior light.
 - When power is restored, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your air conditioner to its normal setting.

Restoration of power after a summer outage.

- Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's goal is to restore power to the greatest number of members as safely and quickly as possible.
- First, we respond to hazards that are an immediate threat to public safety, such as power lines on roads.
- When possible, power is first restored to critical accounts, such as medical facilities and those on life-support systems.
- Next, local substations are checked. If the problem can be corrected at the substation, power is restored to hundreds, sometimes thousands, of members.
- Then, major feeder lines that carry electricity from the substation to members are repaired, and power is restored to all members served by these lines.
- Next, smaller tap lines that carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside homes and businesses are restored. Tap lines that serve the greatest number of people are repaired first.
- Finally, individual service lines between the transformer and your home or business are repaired. This may explain why your neighbor has power, but you don't.



Youth Leadership Congress Highlights Cooperative Difference

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative to Sponsor Students

Understanding the cooperative difference and identifying traits of leaders are just two of the topics to highlight the 45th WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC).

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and the WECA Division of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives offer the opportunity to participate in the YLC to high school students throughout the state. The conference, co-sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, is scheduled for July 16-18, 2008. The YLC will be held on the UW-River Falls campus.

Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences, participants will be exposed to a variety of real-life issues and will be given the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. Top-notch professional speakers, teen peers, and exceptional cooperative employees will provide participants with information and tools to deal with the weighty issues high school students face every day.

Dr. David Trechter, UW-River Falls, will open the YLC with an interactive session on "The Cooperative Difference." Also featured at this year's YLC will be nationally acclaimed speaker Craig Hillier. As a part of his dynamic presentation, Hillier will enlighten students about being leaders, stretching their creativity, and discovering the value of cooperation.

Other sessions will focus on how and why co-ops operate and the benefits they provide members. Students will also form and operate a working cooperative.

The YLC is a fun, educational, and unique event that is planned by and for teens. Six students are elected by their peers to serve on the Youth Board. The Youth Board then plans and conducts the next YLC. Youth Board members are eligible to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association National Youth Tour held in Washington, D.C., in June.

Students are sponsored by the electric cooperative serving their area. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is offering sponsorships for high school students who live in households that receive their electricity from ECEC. More information and registration materials are available on the cooperative's web site at www.ecec.com. Click on Youth Programs.

For 45 years, Wisconsin electric cooperatives, including ECEC, and UW-River Falls have co-sponsored this event to demonstrate to high school students the basics of cooperatives and how they can apply the ideals and philosophies of cooperation to their lives. ■



Attention Grain Producers!

If you will be adding or upgrading your grain storage and/or drying capacity, make sure you contact us well in advance. Call Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's Operations Department so we can schedule any necessary utility service upgrades. We can also check for adequate line clearances. Contact us at 715-832-1603 or 888-832-1604 toll free. ■

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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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.

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



CASH BACK REWARDS

for ENERGY STAR Appliances from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Cash Back Rewards available NOW!

Get cash back from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative when you purchase any qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances. You are not limited to any brand you purchase as long as it carries the ENERGY STAR label. You not only save money on your new appliance, but you'll reap the benefits of lower energy use when you use your new ENERGY STAR appliances. Any of the following qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances purchased between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, qualifies.



How much can you earn?

ENERGY STAR clothes washer	\$50.00
ENERGY STAR refrigerator	\$25.00
ENERGY STAR room	\$25.00
air-conditioning unit	



How to qualify:

To qualify for these cash back rewards, you must be a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. That means you purchase the electricity for your home or business from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.

How to get your energy incentive:

To qualify and obtain your energy reward you must:

1. Be a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (purchase your electricity from ECEC).
2. Go to www.ecec.com and print out the Rewards Form. Mail it to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative with a copy of your sales receipt and a copy of the ENERGY STAR label.
3. Qualifying ENERGY STAR appliance must be purchased between January 1 and December 31, 2008. All forms must be received at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative by January 31, 2009.
4. Appliance must be an ENERGY STAR rated appliance.
5. Reward will be credited to member's energy account at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and will be described on your monthly statement.

Looking for additional rewards?

If you are looking for additional cash back incentives, check out the Focus on Energy web site at www.focusonenergy.com, or call them at 800-762-7077. A listing of ENERGY STAR rated products is available online at www.energystar.gov.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

715-832-1603 • 888-832-1604

www.ecec.com



do the
bright
thing!



Replace your incandescent
light bulbs with energy
efficient compact fluorescent
lamps (CFLs) today!



Do the Bright Thing...
because it's the **RIGHT** thing to do!

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

PO Box 368 Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368
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