

EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Wisconsin

# ENERGY COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY SINCE 1940

AUGUST 2008

News



Stay cool,  
save energy  
this summer.

Page 4

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**focus on energy™**

*The power is within you.*



# 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](http://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](http://www.focusonenergy.com), or call them at 800-762-7077. A listing of ENERGY STAR rated products is available online at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

715-832-1603 • 888-832-1604  
[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)

### Our Energy, Our Future

#### Begin a Dialogue With Your Legislators Today!

Join the thousands of American consumers who have already sent 250,000 letters and e-mails to elected officials asking about our nation's energy and climate policy.

Start by asking your elected officials these questions to get the dialogue headed in the right direction. Tell them you expect some straight answers to the following questions:

- **Capacity**—Experts say that our nation's growing electricity need will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation, and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- **Technology**—Our country faces a crisis as electricity use increases faster than the available supply. I believe that by unleashing American ingenuity, we can solve this problem. What are you doing to speed the development of new technology that will allow me to have the electric power I need while meeting our national climate policy goals?
- **Affordability**—Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill, and what will you do to make it affordable? ■



As temperatures rise, so can energy costs. These simple tips can help you stay cool and comfortable this summer while saving energy and money.

**Switch it out.** Changing your five most used standard light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs can save you \$60 a year.

**Tune it up.** Schedule yearly maintenance of your air-conditioning equipment to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs. Change the filter regularly.

**Turn it down.** Set your thermostat between 73 and 78 degrees when you are home and higher (or off) when you are away. Every one-degree increase in temperature is equivalent to a three-percent savings in your cooling costs.

**Use a ceiling fan.** Set fans to rotate counter-clockwise in summer to push air downward and create a cooling breeze.

**Close shades, blinds, and draperies** on south- and west-facing windows to reduce solar heat gain during the day. If it's dry and cool at night, open your windows and let the outdoors do the air conditioning for you.

**Limit indoor cooking on warm days,** or just fire up the grill. Use smaller appliances for smaller meals, such as a toaster oven or microwave.

**Landscaping.** Carefully positioned trees can provide effective shade and save 25 percent of a typical household's cooling energy.

**Look for the STAR.** ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, electronics, and lighting save energy and money compared to standard devices.

For more energy-saving ideas, call Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com) today. ■

# Support Electric Co-ops Through ACRE

**E**au Claire Energy Cooperative, as a member-owned utility, must be diligent in looking out for the interest of its members. At the local level and through contacts with our state and national legislators, we monitor regulatory developments to try and make sure that local, state, and federal laws and rules are not detrimental to the energy interests of our members.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is a political action committee that co-op employees, trustees, and members can participate in to help support the positions of electric cooperative members.

Founded in 1966, ACRE supports candidates for state and federal offices — those in office now and running for office — who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners. For a low monthly cost you can become a member of ACRE and have a profound effect on the political process. A list of current political issues relevant to energy cooperatives is available on our web site, [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com).



**Sign up for only  
\$2.08 per month**

It does not take a lot of time or money to be a cooperative advocate. For only \$2.08 a month (about \$25 a year), you can sign up to become a member of ACRE. Your monthly contribution will be added directly to your electric bill so that there will be no additional inconveniences for you as a member.

To sign up, go to

[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com) and click on the red ACRE logo in the lower right corner of our home page. For your contribution you will join over 25,000 supporters of electric cooperatives. You will also receive information on cooperative issues through political action workshops and quarterly issues of the ACRE Action Newsletter, which includes legislative alerts, profiles of cooperative leaders, and other timely features. ■

## Take Charge of Your Electric Use With Kill-A-Watt

**T**ake charge of your electric use with Kill-A-Watt Electricity Usage Monitor. It's a unit that you plug directly into the wall. Then you plug your 120-volt appliance into it. The monitor will help show you which appliances and equipment are consuming more power and draining more dollars. You can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month, or year. Start making decisions about your lifestyle and save on your energy bill.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has some of these units in stock that you can check out so you can test your appliances. Place a security deposit of \$10 and you will receive your deposit upon its return. To reserve your Kill-A-Watt monitor, call us at 715-832-1603 or 888-832-1604 (toll free). (ECEC also has 240-volt monitors — call for more information.)

The Kill-A-Watt monitor can also be purchased at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for \$24.95. ■

## Become an Member!

Becoming a member of ACRE is easy. Simply sign up using this form and you will help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process. The monthly contribution of \$2.08 will added to your energy bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**Regular ACRE Member \$2.08 per month  
(\$25 per year)**

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds and agree to an addition to my monthly energy bill that will be sent to the The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE)

Check to Accept This Agreement

# Candidates Energy Forum

**Tuesday,  
October 14, 2008**

**10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
The Plaza Hotel & Suites  
1202 W. Clairemont Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI**

**This is your chance to ask your  
legislators for straight answers  
to your tough questions  
about energy issues prior to  
the November elections.  
Start the dialogue.**

## Sponsored by:

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**The  
Chamber**  
Eau Claire Area



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

Choosing an Energy Star-qualified clothes washer over a standard model can lower your utility bills and save energy and water without sacrificing performance.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Watch our web site at [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com) and our WEC News magazine for information about upcoming rewards on LED holiday lighting.

### **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.

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



*FREE CFLs  
Available  
at ECEC Office*

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members are invited to pick up FREE compact fluorescent light bulbs at the co-op headquarters on Highway 12 between Eau Claire and Fall Creek. Stop in when you are in the area, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each member who stops in will be given two free CFLs. Hurry because quantities are limited.



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 Truistone Energy® Partner   
PO Box 368 Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368  
715-832-1603 • 888-832-1604  
[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)



# ENERGY-EFFICIENT CLOTHES WASHERS



Energy Star<sup>®</sup>-qualified clothes washers use the latest technology to substantially reduce energy and water consumption. They must boast a modified energy factor of at least 1.72 and a water factor no greater than 8.0—criteria that generally limit them to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, thereby reducing drying time and energy use.

New top-loading models typically employ spray valves to rinse clothes instead of using a new tub of water. Repeated high-pressure rinses that remove soap residue not only reduce the energy required for water heating, but typically save an average of 15 gallons of water per wash.

Qualified top-loading models also have sensors that monitor the incoming water temperature, keeping it hot enough to dissolve detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize damage to fabrics. This technology results in less hot water and less energy consumption.

*Source: NRECA Cooperative  
Research Network*



**Focus on Energy saves Wisconsin farmers thousands of dollars each year.**

## Are you one of them?

More and more Wisconsin farmers are turning to energy efficient practices and renewable energy systems. It's time you reaped these benefits as well. Focus on Energy can show you how to boost your farm's profits and productivity through energy efficiency and renewable energy options.

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

**800.762.7077** [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)



**focus on energy**<sup>®</sup>

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

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 get 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](http://focusonenergy.com).