



Valuable Savings that Sparkle!

LED Holiday Lighting Incentives – More Value for Members!

It's another value added service for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members! Earn a \$2 reward from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for each string of LED holiday lights you purchase this year. It's easy. Submit your receipt (or a copy) with the UPC labels from the holiday light packages and the incentive form to ECEC by January 15, 2012. Incentive forms are found at www.ecec.com or by contacting our office. All qualifying holiday lights must be purchased by December 31, 2011. Limit of 12 sets per ECEC member. Each holiday light string must contain at least 25 lights. (This value packed offer not available to non-members.)

LED holiday lights are both beautiful and energy efficient

There is an energy efficient and practical option to consider when purchasing holiday lights. Light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights significantly reduce energy use, are safer and allow for more convenient bulb replacement.

There are a variety of advantages to using ENERGY STAR® qualified LED lighting technology compared to standard incandescent lights. ENERGY STAR qualified LED lights are:

- **More energy efficient.** LED holiday lights use up to 90 percent less energy than standard mini lights and up to 99 percent less energy than standard C-7 holiday lights.
- **Longer lasting.** LED lights can last up to 200,000 hours when used indoors, and some manufacturers also provide a five-year warranty.
- **More convenient.** LED holiday lights are available in a variety of colors with varying numbers of lights per string. If one bulb burns out, the other bulbs will

stay lit so bad bulbs can easily be replaced.

- **Safer.** LED lights produce almost no radiant heat and don't have the same components that cause traditional lights to burn out or combust.
- **Sturdier.** These bulbs won't break. In fact the casing for the diode is solid plastic so it's almost impossible to break.

More information

For more information on LED Holiday Lights, please visit ENERGY STAR, www.energystar.gov. ■



Shoebbox Project Overflows!

ECEC employee Pam Donaldson shows off the over 200 personal toiletry items that were collected and donated by employees and board members. Toiletry items were collected in September and October for the Shoebbox Project sponsored by the Emerging Leaders of the Chippewa Valley United Way. The shoeboxes will be provided for homeless and financially insecure individuals in our local communities.

LIVE UNITED. United Way

Cumbersome NO MORE!

New "Drop Box" makes it easy to make payments from your vehicle

It's Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's new and improved "Drop Box" for payments from your vehicle. Just drive alongside the new box (it's in the same spot as the old one in our parking lot) and "drop" your payment envelope into the box. There's NO MORE cumbersome door to fumble around with — just a cleverly positioned envelope slot through which you drop your envelope. Positioned for most vehicle heights, it's easy to reach from your car or truck. ■



Looking for a New Propane Provider?



Customer service is a top priority at Energy Connections. As a part of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for over ten years, we believe quality local service and local ownership is important to us and to our customers.

Make the switch to a quality propane provider offering top quality service for your heating system. To switch to Energy Connections contact us at 715-832-1603 or toll free 888-832-1604.



Updating Your Heating System?

First, ask the right questions:

1. What type of system do I need for the size of my home?
2. Is the existing duct work adequate?
3. Will the old thermostat work with the new system?

FREE Estimates

For answers to these and other questions you may have about installing a new system, or repairing your current one, look to the folks at Energy Connections.

They have the answers, plus, 24/7 service!



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www.ecec.com



Need Help Paying for Higher Education?

Apply at www.ecec.com

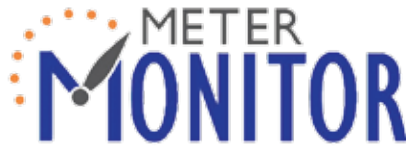
Higher education costs keep going up. And, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative can help members with \$500 scholarships through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarships. But, you need to act by January 13, 2012. Members with students looking for help with higher education costs can apply for these scholarships through our web site at www.ecec.com (click on the Youth tab). Or, contact your school for the scholarship application. ■

Make Life Easier!

Toolkit of Value-Added Services Helps Members Control Energy Bills

Choose from a variety of tools to find specific products and services to help you control your energy bill and live easier. Many of these tools are FREE to ECEC members—that's a great VALUE!

Evaluate your own household energy usage with Meter Monitor. This is one of our newest value-added tools, and it's FREE! With the installation of automated meters, the Meter Monitor tool allows you to easily track your energy usage online and identify when your household uses the most energy. Plus, you can overlay daily weather information to see how that may have affected your energy usage.



Remember, your household energy use is different from your neighbor's, so your energy bills will differ. Track your own usage with Meter Monitor. All you need is access to a computer, your own e-mail address, and your Eau Claire Energy Cooperative account number.

Want to get started right away? It's easy! Go to www.ecec.com and click on the Meter Monitor icon. Then take a virtual tour before signing up. Meter Monitor is just one of many value-added tools available to ECEC's members.

How would you like to know if that old refrigerator in the basement is using too much electricity? And, how much "phantom electricity" do all of those electronics (like TVs, phone chargers, DVDs) use by being plugged in even when you're not enjoying them?

Just plug it into the wall outlet and then plug in your appliance or electronic device to find out how much electricity is used when your item is in use and when it's not in use. Readings on the display will help you calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month, or year. Members are encouraged to call our office to reserve the Kill-A-Watt meter. Make a \$10 security deposit, which is returned to you after you bring the meter back a couple weeks later. Or, check it out for FREE at a local library in



the Chippewa Valley. (If your favorite library in our area does not have one in stock let us know.)

Let the Internet help you find more tools to control your energy costs and live better. Find all of these tools and links on our web site at www.ecec.com. Where are the energy hogs? Find them online at any of these web sites or through the Questline newsletter. Sign up for that FREE newsletter at www.ecec.com.

www.ecec.com • www.togetherwesave.com
www.focusonenergy.com • www.ENERGYSTAR.gov/taxcredits
www.OurEnergy.com • [Questline online newsletter](#)

Don't forget print items can help control your energy bill. Get tips on how to use those energy-saving tools every month in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine mailed right to your home (that's what you're reading right now). Or, access it on our web site as you can the other items listed. We'll be glad to mail these items to you.

**WEC News magazine • Home Energy Savings Guide
Use Energy Wisely guide • Questline online newsletter
101 Low Cost/No Cost Energy Savings Measures**

Go Green – Go Paperless – Go Sustainable. More value-added tools in the tool kit include paperless options for bill payments, such as Bill4U. And, it's easy to enroll online so you can make your energy bill payment every month or go automatic so you don't need to worry about it. Check out the other payment options available to co-op members. There's bound to be one to fit your lifestyle.

**Bill4U • Budget Payment • Direct Bill
VIP • Evergreen Program**

Explore other opportunities to "Go Green" with the VIP and Evergreen programs to help support sustainability through ECEC. It's easy to sign up online. ■



- **Make your home more energy efficient**
- **Help control energy costs**
- **Enjoy a more comfortable home**
- **Lower energy use means fewer environmental effects on our air, water and land**
- **Identify energy efficiency problems in your home**
- **Experienced consultants provide you with solutions**

Questions?
 Contact a Member
 Service Associate



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
www.ecec.com



If you need assistance paying for your heating this winter, help may be available through your county energy assistance program. Don't miss the chance to receive financial help on your energy costs, including propane gas and electricity. If you feel you qualify for energy assistance, call the county agency where you live. Applications are being taken October 1–May 15. Additional crisis services are available all year.

Eau Claire County.....	715-839-6905
Chippewa County.....	715-726-7840
Clark County.....	715-743-5233
Jackson County.....	715-284-4301
Dunn County.....	715-232-1116
Buffalo County.....	608-685-4412
Pepin County.....	715-672-8941
Trempealeau County.....	715-538-2311
Starting Points (Chippewa Co.).....	715-726-7937
Western Dairyland.....	715-836-7511

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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: 811 or 1-800-242-8511

Call 3 working days before you dig.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 