

Need money for higher education?

**\$750 – Each Scholarship
19 Scholarships Available**



This is a wonderful chance for students living in member homes to apply for money for higher education. This year up to sixteen \$750 scholarships will be awarded to students attending area high schools — one for each of the following:

- Altoona
- Augusta
- Cadott
- Chippewa Falls
- Chippewa Falls McDonell
- Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran
- Eau Claire Memorial
- Eau Claire North
- Eau Claire Regis
- Eleva–Strum
- Elk Mound
- Fall Creek
- Mondovi
- Osseo–Fairchild
- Stanley–Boyd
- Home School/Charter School

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



One \$750 scholarship will be awarded to a current student at each of the following schools:

- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

One \$750 scholarship for the Electric Power Distribution – Lineworker program at the Chippewa Valley Technical College is also available.

To qualify, the applying student must fit the following criteria:

- The student's parent or guardian must be a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and currently receive ECEC energy service at their residence.
- Display average or above-average academic records.
- Display potential to achieve success in a postsecondary public or private college, university, junior college, or vocational school program.
- The scholarships should be awarded to qualifying students who would not otherwise receive scholarships from other sources.

Apply on or before January 10, 2020. You can obtain your scholarship application at any of the schools listed here. Or go online and print the application at www.ecec.com (click on the COMMUNITY tab).

All applications must be completed and returned to the high school, technical college, or university student office on or before the deadline. Do not submit application to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.

Questions?

For answers to your questions about Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's Federated Youth Foundation Scholarships, contact Jeni Thorpe at jthorpe@ecec.com or 715-836-6466.



Apply on or before January 10, 2020.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE READIES DIRECTOR ELECTION

They have already met once to review the rules they must engage for the upcoming 2020 Director Election at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Thank you to these three co-op members who have stepped up to tackle the task of serving on the Nominating Committee:

- District #1 – Tom Hanks
- District #5 – Katie Wehling
- District #8 – Matt Gabler

Each year members of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative have the opportunity to run for election to the nine-member board of directors. The process is based on Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control. In 2020, three board positions will be up for election. The following board members are currently serving Districts 1, 5, and 8 and have the option to run again for these positions:

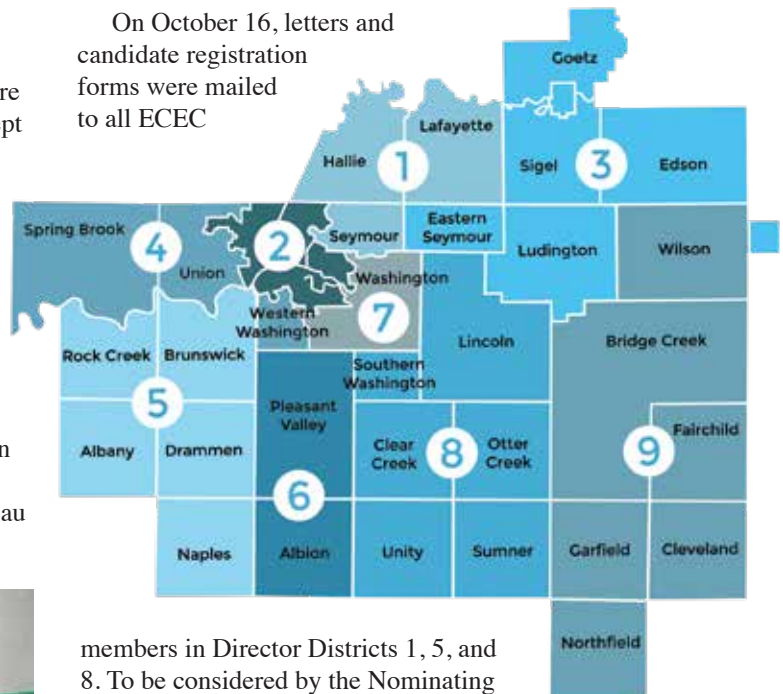
- **District #1 – Thomas W. Schwartz**
Serving Seymour, west of County Road UN, Eau Claire County; Hallie and Lafayette, Chippewa County, except land in District 2 and the Village of Lake Hallie.
- **District #5 – Joseph Becker**
Serving Brunswick and Drammen, Eau Claire County; Rock Creek, Dunn County; Albany, Pepin County; Naples, Buffalo County, except service area in District 2.
- **District #8 – Jeffrey Frieberg**
Serving Lincoln, Clear Creek, Otter Creek, and Washington, south of Walnut Rd., south of easterly extension of Walnut Rd. to Mathwig Rd., and south of Mathwig Rd., Eau Claire County; Sumner and Unity, Trempealeau

This annual election process supports Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control

“Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.”

ECEC members Tom Hanks, Katie Wehling, and Matt Gabler have stepped forward to serve on the Nominating Committee.

On October 16, letters and candidate registration forms were mailed to all ECEC



members in Director Districts 1, 5, and 8. To be considered by the Nominating Committee for a director position at ECEC, fill in the Director Candidate Registration form enclosed with that letter or online at www.ecec.com. Click on MY CO-OP and then ANNUAL MEETING. Be sure to mail, fax, or email the form to ECEC by November 14, 2019. If you have any questions about the director election, please contact Monica Obrycki at 715-836-6461. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

All ECEC members will have the opportunity to vote at the 83rd Annual Meeting or by absentee ballot. The meeting will take place at The Florian Gardens south of Eau Claire on Tuesday evening, March 17, 2020. Watch our website and the March 2020 issue of the *WEC News* magazine for more information.



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YOUTH AMBASSADORS LEARN CO-OPS MEAN BUSINESS

At their first meeting of the season, 20 Youth Ambassadors learned about the co-op business model and cooperative principles. Led by Cathy Statz, with a fun and interactive learning style, the high school students were presented with different types of businesses that people might not think are co-ops. Students learned how co-ops were started, filling a void for many farmers and producers who were trying to bring products to market, and how co-ops have evolved. It's a fascinating history that began well over 100 years ago.

Co-ops ranging from very large companies such as Ocean Spray (cranberries) and Florida's Natural (orange juice) to smaller co-ops such as Eau Claire Energy Cooperative continue to adhere to the Seven Cooperative Principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperative Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

With 25 area high school students already signed up for the Youth Ambassador Program, they will continue to learn about area businesses, energy issues, energy industry careers, and leadership skills as well as organize community service projects. They meet September

through May; this is the 15th year of the popular program. Students can still sign up at www.ecec.com. Click on the COMMUNITY tab to access more information about the program.

Students meet from 12–1:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning with a light lunch provided by the co-op.



SHARING A FURRY FRIEND CAN BOOST YOUR MOOD

Snuggling with furry pets can certainly boost your mood. That's what our student Youth Ambassadors found out firsthand when they toured the Eau Claire County Humane Association at their regular October meeting. The Humane Association's Operations Director Karen Rabideaux opened up some of the cages so the students could get up close to the animals. According to Rabideaux, "When you decide to adopt a pet, you are gaining a lifelong companion and providing a stable home. Whether it's your first or second pet, it's an exciting adventure. Rescuing a pet is rewarding and fun."

The Youth Ambassadors were surprised to hear that the shelter is currently holding 225 animals, with 75 others located in foster care homes, waiting for their forever homes.

Rabideaux explained the process of becoming a volunteer, stressing the need for people to help at the shelter and to foster pets in their homes. The shelter gets no government funding even though the word "county" is in its name. So, with costs of \$15 per day per animal, fund-raising events are very important.

Schools hold events to raise money and a local school has even adopted a turtle through its fundraiser. Lists of needed items to run the shelter are listed on their website at www.eccha.org. Items range from blankets to toys to food to leashes and collars. Some organizations even collect aluminum cans and old cell phones to raise money.

To join other high school students in the Youth Ambassador program, go to www.ecec.com and click on COMMUNITY. The Youth Ambassadors meet on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. They learn about energy issues, energy careers, leadership skills, and volunteer opportunities during their 12 noon–1:30 p.m. meetings that include a light lunch. There are no fees. Just be a high school student living in a home served by Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.





MEMBER ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSES VARIETY OF TOPICS

Brought to order just past 5:30 p.m. by ECEC Board Chair Clarence Boettcher, the October 7 Member Advisory Council meeting opened with discussion of a number of items of interest. Some agenda items were added to the discussion by members in attendance.

- New board member (Mike Golat) announcement
- Strategic planning process
- Annual budgeting process
- 2020 Farm Technology Days – ECEC’s role at the July 21–23 event in Eau Claire County
- Annual director election process – three positions up for election
- Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship application process
- NRECA International Program – ECEC lineworker in Guatemala
- Area solar facilities

The next meeting for the Member Advisory Council is set for January 20, 2020, at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative headquarters.

Get engaged in your cooperative!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members are encouraged to sign up to participate in the Member Advisory Council. It is a non-elected council which discusses co-op items of interest. It’s a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and to offer your input. The council meets in January, March, July, and October with a light meal at each evening meeting (5:30–7:30 p.m). To sign up, go to www.ecec.com and click on the COMMUNITY tab. If you have any questions about the council, call us at 715-836-6471.

Recycle your holiday string lights here – FREE!
January 10, 2020 deadline

Drop off your dud holiday light strings at ECEC headquarters at 8214 Hwy. 12, Fall Creek, and we’ll get them recycled for you.

Please have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Your Trusted Energy Advisor

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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