

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

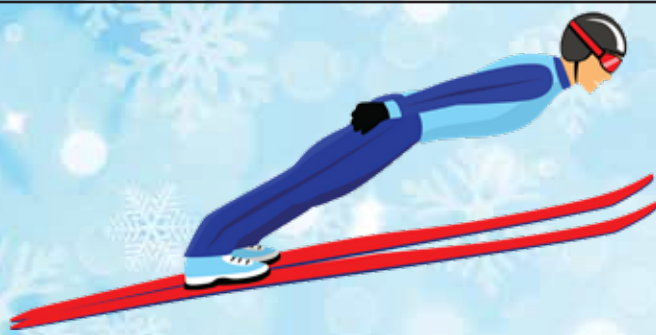


YOUTH AMBASSADOR MEETING

January 15, 2020

Noon-1:30 p.m.

At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

presents the Friday Evening
Ski Jumping Competition



**134th Annual Silver Mine
Ski Tournament**
Friday, January 17, 2020
Gates open at 4 p.m.
Event 7-9- p.m.

At Silver Mine Ski Hill just
southwest of Eau Claire

- **World Class Ski Jumping competition**
- **Junior World Team Tryout**
- **BIG Bonfires**
- **Concessions**
- **DJ**

Admission buttons are available at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Advance admission is \$10 and \$15 at the gate.

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P.O. Box 368
Fall Creek, WI 54742
715-832-1603
www.ecec.com



SAVE THE DATE

**Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 17, 2020 at The Florian Gardens

Member Advisory Council

February 3, 2020

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Meeting and dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting includes a tour of their facilities.
Adjournment at 7:30 p.m.

Each quarter anywhere from a dozen to 22 volunteer ECEC members meet with the Board Chair Clarence Boettcher and President/CEO Lynn Thompson to discuss energy issues at the

"Attending the meetings gives me the opportunity to give input on the direction of the co-op, such as MemberSolar."

*Ruth Campbell,
Member Advisory Council*

co-op headquarters. If you are interested in finding out what the Member Advisory Council is all about or want to sign up, call or click at 715-832-1603 or www.ecec.com.

PRE-THANKSGIVING OUTAGES NEVER ENDING

They were pre-Thanksgiving Day power outages not to be forgotten. And, they wouldn't quit! As soon as a line crew would get electricity restored in one area, the wind would pull another tree across the lines to cause another outage for the same co-op members. Power outages seemed to be never ending for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative employees and members leading up to the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Office employees and line workers were called in to work from time off, and others in the office were reassigned to answer members' phone calls and questions regarding how long the outages would last. There was a lot on the line! We needed

"We really pushed on social media telling people to STAY AWAY from downed power lines."

**— Monica Obrycki,
Chief Administrative Officer**

power to keep our homes warm, and some of us were concerned about whether or not we would be able to get that holiday dinner baked.

"In some places electric lines were only 8 feet off the ground, weighted down by ice and snow," according to Operations Manager Patrick Bethke. "Some lines sagged

so low that one member could not get out of his driveway." Bethke continued, "We even called in extra line crews from Clark Electric Cooperative and Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative because we knew, that with all the high winds, it would be a long, treacherous restoration process."

President/CEO Lynn Thompson took time throughout the night to deliver snacks to the crews and witnessed firsthand the interruptions to the power restoration process. "Our employees were working in some of the worst conditions, sometimes with just the light of a flashlight, depending on where they were working."



This photo, courtesy of Lineworker Alex G., shows the impact of heavy, wet snow on power lines.

The storm was unique in the sense that the snow was very sticky and heavy; many trees and branches were down and when one area would get fixed another tree would fall and create another problem. Winds picked up on Wednesday and did not help the efforts.

According to Chief Administrative Officer Monica Obrycki, "We really pushed on social media telling people to STAY AWAY from downed power lines."

All power was restored by Thursday morning. Employees worked safely to make sure the storm outages wouldn't affect too many members' Thanksgiving Day celebrations. Thank you to the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative line workers and office employees who worked together as a team to restore electricity for over 1,500 members who were out of power that day and overnight.

Thank you to ECEC members for being so patient during the Thanksgiving holiday storm outages.



AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Do you know an Eau Claire Energy Cooperative member who has gone above and beyond to help others? Do you know a member who has made a difference in the community through local service projects or non-profit organizations and local events? Now is the time to nominate your friends or neighbors for the annual Concern for Community Awards. Nominate an ECEC member at www.ecec.com by **February 14, 2020**. This year's recipient will be honored at our 83rd Annual Meeting at the Florian Gardens on March 17, 2020.

ECEC EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE SUPERHEROES!



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative won the “Best Use of Theme Award” at The Clearwater Winter Parade in Eau Claire in December. The float, entitled “When the power goes out, Superman calls US!”, featured our own Superman, Adam Westaby, with Line Worker Beau Blade driving the bucket truck. Little line workers (ECEC families’ children) walked along the float handing out Superhero pencils and candy.

Continue cashing in on incentives in 2020!

As a co-op member, you will again have the opportunity to earn incentives through energy efficiency measures into the new year. Members have already earned thousands of dollars over the years, and the year 2020 will offer much of the same. You can control your energy costs by making your home as energy efficient as possible through lighting, appliances, heating and cooling and more.

Here are some of the incentives directly available through Eau Claire Energy Cooperative:

- Energy Star Appliances
- Appliance Recycling
- Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Air-source Heat Pumps
- Lighting
- Home Performance Evaluations (existing homes)
- Touchstone Energy Home Program (new homes)
- Water Heaters – electric
- Commercial & Industrial Equipment
- Agricultural Equipment



For more information contact ECEC at 715-832-1603 or click on www.ecec.com.



And, don't forget our partnership through Focus on Energy. There are incentives available there, too.

- Home Energy Assessments (existing homes)
- New Home Certificatoin
- Heating & Cooling
- Appliance Recycling
- Renewable Energy
- Solar Electric (PV)
- Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Smart Thermostats
- Free Products for the asking!
- Lighting
- Showerheads
- Faucet Aerators
- Local Retail Discounts
- Commercial & Industrial Equipment
- Agricultural Equipment





APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS BY JANUARY 10!

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

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.

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.



Recycle your holiday string lights here – FREE!

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

Deadline: January 10, 2020!

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PO Box 368 Fall Creek, WI 54742
715-832-1603
www.ecec.com

Your Trusted Energy Advisor

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Lynn E. Thompson, President/CEO
Mary Kay Brevig, Editor, Manager of Communications & Public Relations

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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.