

APRIL 12 IS LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



While many other first responders often take center stage, our lineworkers are on the front lines daily to keep the lights on for our membership. Whether it is performing maintenance on our 1700-mile system or responding to storm, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is proud of the work these men perform day in and day out!



A Big Thanks

TO ALL OF THE ECEC LINEWORKERS

(l-r) Lee, Terry, Jeff, Nate, Alex, Beau, Alex, Bob, Fred, Rick, Milt, Jake, Issac and Kris!

Photo taken prior to COVID-19 guidelines

MY CO-OP



BEAVER CREEK
EARTH WEEK
CHALLENGE

BEAVER CREEK
Earth Week Challenge
April 17th - 25th, 2021

JOIN IN ON THE FUN!

- 1) REGISTER
Between April 14 and April 25
- 2) COMPLETE TASKS
Choose "green tasks" from our list
- 3) EARN POINTS
Complete tasks and earn points
- 4) SHOW US!
Show picture proof of completed tasks
- 5) WIN!
Be entered to win great prize packages!






More details at beavercreekreserve.org/events

WIN PRIZES. SAVE MONEY. SAVE THE PLANET

Beaver Creek Reserve | S1 County Rd. K, Fall Creek
715-877-2212 | www.beavercreekreserve.org



**Build. Maintain.
Repair. Repeat.
That's how lineworkers
power our lives.**

Lineworker Appreciation Day
On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker

Each year, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members take advantage of incentive programs designed to reward energy efficiency. While you may first think of energy savings in a residential home, ECEC also has several commercial members receiving incentive dollars each year due to energy efficient construction or upgrades.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS CASH IN ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

RESIDENCE INN



Eau Claire’s newest extended-stay hotel, Residence Inn, was completed and ready for guests by the end of 2020. The 107-room hotel also received over \$10,000 worth of incentives from ECEC! These incentives were for items such as LED lighting throughout the building, energy efficient HVAC equipment, as well as ENERGY STAR® rated appliances in each of the guest rooms. When asked whether incentives played a role in equipment decisions, owner Neil Haselwander answered with a resounding, “Yes!” Haselwander shared how the Residence Inn’s parent company, Marriott International, has very high standard for energy efficiency, with most of the requirements qualifying for incentives from the start. “We were already installing this equipment, so the incentives were a bonus,” he said. The Residence Inn also has plans to add electric vehicle charging as an added benefit for guests.

MARTIN DENTAL



Smaller construction projects are also reaping the benefits of ECEC’s commercial incentive programs. Martin Dental’s new office is located on the east side of Altoona and they, too, were able to get incentive dollars for their energy efficient building choices. While choosing LED lighting for the building, ENERGY STAR® models for needed appliances and highly efficient furnaces with multi-stage electronically commutated motors (ECM blower motors), Martin Dental was able to receive over \$650 from ECEC’s incentive program! Jessica Martin, chief operations officer and co-owner, said, “Working with ECEC was extremely seamless and well worth the effort. I am grateful to have been able to receive the incentives that we were eligible for. The process to do so was very pleasant.”

PACKER MINI STORAGE



New construction isn't the only area where our commercial members can save. Upgrading to energy efficient equipment can also be rewarded through ECEC's incentive programs. That's exactly what Packer Mini Storage, LLC on Eau Claire's south side did by exchanging the fading, dim yellow glow of their security light fixtures with new, bright, energy efficient LED fixtures. In total, 42 security lights were replaced. The result—over \$800 in incentives and a drastically reduced electric bill thanks in large part to cutting over 1,500 kWh of usage per month. Owner Marcia Bowman has been down this road before—she also owns A+ Storage Solutions and cut kWh usage in half with a similar LED upgrade in 2015. Bowman said, "The first thing I noticed was the quality and intensity of the light really updated the appearance of the property. From the first billing cycle, I noticed a reduction in energy usage cost [and] there are no longer expensive bulbs to purchase, change or recycle!"

In addition to ECEC's incentive program, our members are also eligible for many incentives through the statewide energy efficiency program Focus on Energy. And before you ask, the answer is YES! You can take advantage of both incentive programs with the same project.

To learn more about ECEC's incentive program, visit our website at www.ecec.com or call (715) 832-1603.

By Adam Westaby, Member Services Associate

MY CO-OP

Cash in on both ECEC and FOCUS Incentives!

Members have earned thousands of dollars in energy efficiency incentives through Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and Focus on Energy. The year 2021 should be no different. We want to help you control your energy costs by helping you make your home as energy efficient as possible...and help you cash in on the incentives.

Check out these incentives available in 2021. Further information is available at www.ecec.com or by calling us at 715-832-1603.

Incentives available directly through Eau Claire Energy Cooperative include:

- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Energy Star Appliances
- Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Air-Source Heat Pumps
- Lighting
- Home Performance Evaluations & Improvements (Existing Homes)
- Touchstone Energy Home Program (New Homes)
- Electric Water Heaters
- Commercial & Industrial Equipment
- Agricultural Equipment
- And, more!



Through our partnership with Focus on Energy, you also have access to many of the incentives they offer!

- Home Energy Assessments (Existing Homes)
- New Home Certification
- Heating & Cooling
- Renewable Energy
 - Solar Electric (PV)
 - Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Smart Thermostats
- Free Products for the asking!
 - Lighting
 - Showerheads
 - Faucet Aerators
 - And, more!
- Local Retail Discounts
- Commercial & Industrial Equipment
- Agricultural Equipment



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DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is one of 24 member distribution cooperatives that receive and purchase power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, which is headquartered in La Crosse. ECEC Board Member Clarence “Butch” Boettcher serves on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors and provided the following highlights:

- Dairyland’s leadership team and the Board of Directors continue to address ongoing changes in the energy industry known as the “Four Ds”: Decarbonization, Deregulation, Digitalization and Decentralization. To be sustainable, Dairyland must address these challenges and create long-term value for Dairyland’s members.
- Without a culture of safety, nothing is sustainable, and safety remains the highest priority at Dairyland. Dairyland is implementing human performance tools to strengthen and maintain a culture of safety as they strive for an operational goal of “zero incidents.”
- One thing that hasn’t changed is the value of our Cooperative Principles and relationships. Dairyland has demonstrated commitment to transparent governance and strong relationships with members.

- Asset reliability and diversification are a priority as Dairyland transitions its energy resources to a lower carbon future. The Sustainable Generation Plan provides a framework for energy diversification, considering the economic impact on members, technological feasibility, social implications, and environmental responsibility. The retirement of Dairyland’s coal-fired Genoa Station #3 (G-3) is scheduled for June 1, 2021. Natural gas will serve as the bridge to a low-carbon future, supporting renewable energy investments while giving new technologies time to advance.
- Financial and competitive strength is critical to sustainability. Dairyland balances building financial strength with ensuring competitive rates and sound operations.
- Growth and Innovation will foster sustainable business and long-term competitive rates for members. Dairyland and its members are also implementing strategies to support electric vehicle growth through the creation of CHARGE EV, LLC.



Learn more about Dairyland Power at www.DairylandPower.com.

EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATES IN EMERGENCY LOAD REDUCTION DRILL

We’ve all seen the implications of the rolling blackouts in Texas and other southern states. (See “What Broke Texas?” article on page 9) Though similar events here in Wisconsin are unlikely, ECEC and Dairyland Power Cooperative are prepared to address the need for emergency load reduction and have plans in place to ensure a safe and reliable electric grid. ECEC purchases power from Dairyland and Dairyland participates in the Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional transmission market. In March, ECEC and Dairyland coordinated the annual emergency load reduction drill to simulate how our cooperatives would respond if MISO would experience

a shortage in electricity generation. Eight lineworkers drove from substation to substation simulating the load reduction plan. Office staff practiced the plan for communicating with our key accounts and the general membership. In a live event, ECEC would minimize the impact on our members, through this coordinated and deliberate plan. This is just another way that your cooperative works to bring you safe and reliable energy services.

Above right, Line Superintendent, Josh Vaningan, communicates with lineworkers during the emergency load reduction drill. Right, lineworker, Kris Dubiel, simulates shutting down a substation.



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Lynn E. Thompson, President/CEO

Monica Obrycki, Chief Administrative Officer

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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.