



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Smart CHARGE

Home electric vehicle charging made simple!

\$35⁰⁰
per mo.

-  Unlimited off-peak charging between 9:00 PM – 5:00 AM*
 - On-peak energy rates will apply outside of this time
-  Level 2 smart charger (\$1,100 value)
-  Installation of level 2 charger
-  Lifetime warranty on charger
-  24/7 support on charger
-  Software license fee & access to charging data
-  Mobile app

Contact us today to learn more. We're happy to discuss your charging needs to determine which SmartCharge program is right for you.

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Visit www.ecec.com for details & Frequently Asked Questions.

* Based on a 400 kWh average per month. If member utilizes more than 600 kWh per month for three consecutive months, additional charges will apply.

CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

New makes and models of electric vehicles (EVs) are popping up all the time. At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, more and more members are considering EVs. Most EV charging happens at home, and our member services team is here to help you plan for at-home charging. We also have programs and subscription rates called SmartCHARGE to help you save!



Adam Westaby,
Member Services
Advisor

We're not only helping members with at-home charging, along with our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, we are placing level 2 chargers in our community. This is through a cooperative collaboration effort called CHARGE™. Three chargers have already been installed—Residence Inn and Fairfield Inn at Princeton Crossing and at Beaver Creek Reserve. Our neighboring cooperatives are adding chargers in their service territory too, so EV owners can find more places to charge when they leave their home. We will keep working hard to bring chargers to more locations in the future.

If you have an EV or are considering one, please give us a call! We would love to talk to you about your vehicle and charging needs.

By Adam Westaby, Member Services Associate



Your Trusted Energy Advisor



Jeff



Beau



Jake



Kris

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11



Bob



Fred

You've likely noticed Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United

States. Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions.

The job requires technical skills, years of training, and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker takes more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the challenges, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's lineworkers are committed to powering our community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. The family of lineworkers are also dedicated to the service and understand the importance of the job in the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in

our service territory, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has 14 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,733 miles of power lines across seven counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of lineworkers, we would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11.



Terry



Alex



Alex



Rick



Nate



Milt



Issac



Josh

BEAVER CREEK
EARTH WEEK
CHALLENGE

BEAVER CREEK
Earth Week Challenge
April 16 - 24, 2022

JOIN IN ON THE FUN!

- 1) REGISTER**
Registration opens **April 11**
- 2) COMPLETE TASKS**
Choose "green tasks" from our list
- 3) EARN POINTS**
Complete tasks and earn points
- 4) SHOW US!**
Send us your pictures of the completed tasks
- 5) WIN!**
Be entered to win great prizes!

POLLINATOR RUN/WALK - Saturday, April 23
Starts at 2 PM, Beaver Creek Reserve
\$10 for BCR Members \$15 for Nonmembers

WIN PRIZES. SAVE MONEY. SAVE THE PLANET
Beaver Creek Reserve | S1 County Rd. K, Fall Creek
715-877-2212 | www.beavercreekreserve.org

Register online!

PET SUPPLIES Drive

APRIL 1 - APRIL 22

DONATE PET TOYS, FOOD, & OTHER SUPPLIES

BRING DONATIONS TO EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE OFFICE

8214 U.S. HWY 12
FALL CREEK, WI 54742

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YOUTH AMBASSADORS

CHECK YOUR SUMP PUMP BEFORE APRIL SHOWERS

Many Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members live in a rural community and have probably experienced firsthand, or know someone who has dealt with, a mess when a sump pump fails.

Like electricity, it is easy not to think about a sump pump until it doesn't work. Take a few minutes to test and inspect your sump pump to make sure it's ready for spring.

"Sump pumps are important because they are the first line of defense to keep water out of your basement, protect your possessions and protect the foundation and structural integrity of the house," said Tom Scherer, agriculture engineer at North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension. "In the early spring when we have a lot of snow melt or in summer when we have heavy rains, your sump pump is going to be running. It may not have run for a while—last fall or up to a year ago—so we need to check it annually to make sure it's running properly."

First, remove the sump lid and check for debris and worn parts. Debris should be removed to prevent the pump from

blocking the drain lines. If you notice rotten, moldy smells or rust on the pump, it may be time to replace the pump. Pumps last, on average, seven to 10 years.

Next, make sure your sump pump is plugged in to a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet for safety. It may seem silly and the sump pump may be located where no one should be messing with it. But, stranger things have

happened. It never hurts to check just to be sure.

To test a sump pump, slowly pour a bucket of water into the sump. If the pump doesn't automatically kick-on once the water hits a certain level, the pump may be broken. Check the breaker for the outlet. Otherwise, a licensed plumber can help repair or replace the pump.

Sump pumps should have a battery back-up that will kick-in if the power goes out. It is important to check the battery once or twice a year to make sure it's in good shape.

- Be sure the battery is rated to accommodate the pump and is fully charged.
- Check the voltage of the battery with a voltmeter.
- Turn the sump pump off and pour water into the sump. The battery should kick in once the water reaches a certain level. If not, a new battery may be needed.

Check with a local plumber if you have other questions or concerns regarding your sump pump.—*Source: North Dakota State University Extension*



Safety tip: Make sure a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet is used to plug the sump pump into.



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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Lynn E. Thompson, President/CEO

Monica Obrycki, Chief Administrative Officer

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Non-emergencies: 715-832-1603

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.