

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

April 2023

NEWS

***Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

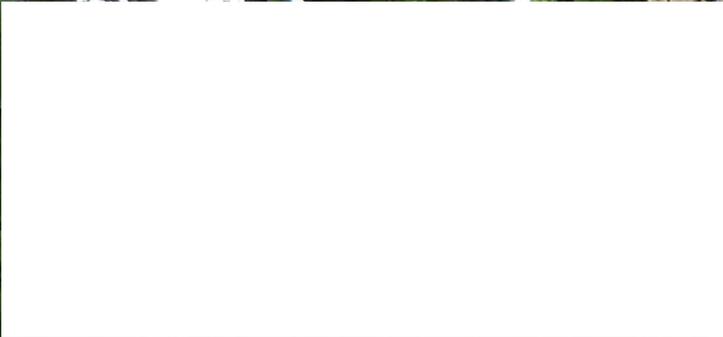


THE POWER BEHIND
OUR POWER:
WE SALUTE OUR
LINEWORKERS

OBSERVING EARTH DAY

CONTACT YOUR CO-OP BEFORE
MAKING THE CALL ON SOLAR

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY!





GREEN GRASS WITHOUT THE GAS

ELECTRIFY YOUR LAWN CARE THIS SPRING

With the spring flying in fast, we find ourselves looking forward to all the season has to offer. Warm sunshine, snow melting...and the inevitable lawn clean-up which has been hidden nicely under the cold, white winter blanket. Before beginning the yearly struggle of getting your lawn equipment started again, consider this: instead of cleaning carburetors, mixing (and undoubtedly spilling) gas, checking spark plugs, or pulling the starting cord dozens of times before walking away in a frustrated frenzy, you could simply attach a charged battery and go. Does it sound too good to be true? Maybe...but it doesn't have to be!

The shift towards electrification has become increasingly evident over the past few years, and lawn equipment is turning into an easy way for consumers to replace aging gas equipment with new, simple battery-powered counterparts. With increasingly few exceptions, homeowners can tame the most overgrown hedges, trim back creeping weeds on landscaping edges, cut up wood for the next bonfire, till or

cultivate your garden, and mow up to 2 acres of lawn with powerful, reliable, battery-powered equipment. In fact, new riding lawn mowers available now can mow up to 90 minutes on a single charge—enough to handle 2 acres of lawn.

Making the switch from the tried and true can seem a little daunting at first. Here's some advice to help you get plugged in to the electric side of lawn care.

1. **Start small.** The easiest first step to take is a small one. Instead of jumping on a brand new, battery-powered, zero turn riding lawn mower, you may get less anxiety giving a hedge trimmer, leaf blower, or string trimmer a shot. You'll still be able to enjoy the convenience of electric without taking a large bite on the upfront cost.
2. **Stick with the name brands.** The shift towards electric has not been ignored by the big names in the lawn care industry, and while there are a few stand-alone "electric" name brands that have entered the field and gained a strong reputation, sticking to the names you know and trust will always be a safe option. Take your time to do your research, check out consumer reports, talk to friends and neighbors...you may be surprised at what you find.
3. **Shop local.** Your local lawn care specialists can help guide you to the right piece of equipment to meet your needs. They will have the knowledge to help answer your questions, demonstrate the products features and benefits, and will be there after the sale to assist you.

Unfortunately, switching to electric won't make the work any more enjoyable. Quieter, perhaps...but you'll still need to put on your gloves, lace up your boots, and get a little dirty to get your lawn green...and at the end of the day, you wouldn't want it any other way.



BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

Earth Day Every Day

Beaver Creek Reserve was founded 75 years ago by a group of Eau Claire County residents wanting to offer area youth environmental and recreational education opportunities. Today, Beaver Creek Reserve is home to over 400 acres of diverse habitats and nearly 9 miles of beautiful nature trails. They offer many youth camps, a space observatory (Hobbs Observatory), the Scheel's Discovery Room, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, a seasonal butterfly house, group tours, and so much more!

Beaver Creek Reserve is a friend to the

environment in more ways than one! In addition to being a wildlife and nature sanctuary, they also are extremely energy friendly. All of Beaver Creek's buildings are 100% renewably sourced. Between their energy saving measures, solar array, and MemberSolar subscription through Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, all of their power used is generated by sustainable resources. By being a friend to the planet, they are also lowering their energy costs and creating a sustainable future for Beaver Creek Reserve. This Earth Day, celebrate with Beaver Creek all month long.



BEAVER CREEK

EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY

ALL MONTH LONG!

APRIL 2023



Earth Week Open House
 Thursday, April 20
 5:30-7:30 PM
 The Brewing Project



Earth Day Walk
 Saturday, April 22
 1:00-4:00 PM
 Wise Nature Center



Earth Week Photo Contest
 April 17 - April 23
 #bcerearthweek



**Eau Claire County
 Parks FREE Admission**
 April 17 - April 23

**BECOME AN
 ECO-CHAMPION!**

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



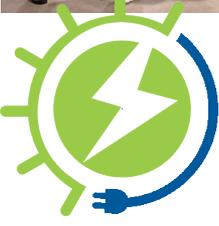
CELEBRATE THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Some of the most visible employees of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative are our hard-working lineworkers. They work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7. If you use electricity, a lineworker has had an impact on your life. Being a lineworker takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and commitment. This year on National Lineworker Appreciation Day we would like to recognize the 14 dedicated lineworkers who keep the lights on at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.

Bob – 39 Years of Service
Rick – 38 Years of Service
Fred – 36 Years of Service
Jeff – 36 Years of Service
Terry – 23 Years of Service
Beau – 23 Years of Service
Nate – 16 Years of Service

Milt – 15 Years of Service
Issac – 14 Years of Service
Kris – 9 Years of Service
Alex K – 6 Years of Service
Alex G – 4 Years of Service
Jake – 3 Years of Service
Josh – 1 Year of Service

On April 10, or any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

visit Metropolis Resort!

The Youth Ambassadors gathered in February with an exciting trip to one of ECEC’s member businesses known for their attractions—Metropolis Resort! Billy Bandli, Action City’s general manager, led the group through the attractions at Action City, the amenities of the 111-room Metropolis Hotel, the aquatic fun of Chaos Waterpark, and even the resort’s newest addition, the City Eats restaurant (which is open to the public). The students saw the giant water pumps, heaters, filters, and other cleaning equipment running almost non-stop to keep all areas clean. The students also heard about the many perks of employment at the resort including access passes and even internships for college students.

Interested in joining Youth Ambassadors? Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors meet once per month for educational learning sessions, field trips, and community service projects followed by lunch. If this sounds like fun to you, apply today!

Youth Ambassador Meeting Dates

April 19, 2023
May 24, 2023

Time for Spring Cleaning

Are your bills a mess? It’s time to clean them up by setting up recurring and stored payments through SmartHub. While you’re there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Communicate directly with the co-op
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Report outages
- Manage your account
- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage



View & Pay Bill

Clean up your bills by signing up for SmartHub online. It’s Eau Claire Energy Cooperative’s FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.



Sign up to be a Youth Ambassador today!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Monica Obyrcki, President and CEO

Taylor Skibba, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

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www.ecec.com   

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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.

ECEC’s office will be closed for Good Friday April 7, 2023