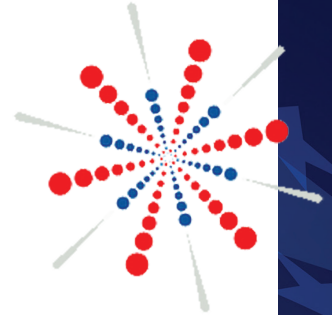


HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Fireworks displays are best left to the experts; however, if you choose to use legal fireworks, keep the following safety tips from the National Safety Council in mind:

- Never allow young children to use fireworks. Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should use protective eyewear.
- Use fireworks away from people, houses, and flammable material, and never point or throw them at another person.
- Light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Soak spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Consider safer alternatives to sparklers, which can burn at about 2,000 degrees, for young children. Glow sticks are a safer option.



WATER SAFETY

If you're planning to spend your Fourth of July at the lake, keep these safety tips from Safe Electricity in mind:

- Do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.
- If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized.
- If you own a boat and/or dock, make sure it has proper safety equipment, complies with applicable standards and codes, and is checked out at least once a year.

GRILL SAFETY

Electric grills are a safe option for preparing your July 4 picnic because there are no flames, gases, or carcinogens. However, you should still consider some basic safety tips:

- Do not leave the grill unattended.
- Turn off and unplug electric grills after use and before cleaning.
- Inspect the power cord, plug, and heating element before you plug in and operate an electric grill.
- Never expose/immerse an electric grill cord in water.



WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU



“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us—your local electric cooperative—they mean everything.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative was created to serve our community. When we were formed, neighbors banded together and created our co-op. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the rural areas where there was none. In doing so, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That’s why we’re adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs, and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you’re looking for ways to save energy, check out our website (www.ecec.com) for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling an energy audit to identify ways you can save energy at home. Eau Claire Energy can recommend vendors to contact. You could even qualify for a rebate for the audit! Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

If you’re considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to help you weigh pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it’s important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities of the parties involved, cooperative policies on distributed generation, and potential energy savings. We will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must

undertake their due diligence, and we’re here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle options. ECEC provides information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs. We also offer SmartCharge to our members. SmartCharge offers installation of an electric vehicle charger, charger rental, and unlimited overnight charging

for a flat rate of \$35/month. No matter what our members drive, we want to help you achieve energy savings.

So, the next time you hear Eau Claire Energy Cooperative use the phrase “we’re here to serve you,” we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We’re here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through the SmartHub app, or our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS

tour CVTC Transportation Education Center!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's Youth Ambassadors met one last time for the school year to celebrate our graduating seniors and tour CVTC's new Transportation Education Center. Dean of Agriculture, Energy, Construction & Transportation Adam Wehling led the group on a tour throughout the entire campus, highlighting the wide variety of training and career opportunities available in the transportation sector including auto body repair, auto mechanic, diesel mechanic, and more!

This year, we celebrate as four of our Youth Ambassadors graduate. Colin, Keyliana, Ashley, and Kenzie were congratulated with a certificate of completion as well as a gift to remember their Youth Ambassadors experience. We wish them nothing but the best with the bright futures they have ahead!



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. The regular Youth Ambassador season will begin again in September. If this sounds like fun to you, apply today!



10 TIPS FOR SUMMER ENERGY USE

- 1 Clear the Air:** Open windows to allow fresh (free!) air to circulate.
- 2 Cook Outside:** Enjoy a few hours of sunshine by using your grill or smoker to add festive flavors to meals.
- 3 Search and Seal:** Cracks and spaces let conditioned air outside; seal them with caulk and weather stripping. Check for gaps between stationary objects like door and window frames.
- 4 Natural Light:** Open blinds and curtains, and turn off the lights to take advantage of the natural light and save energy.
- 5 Be Fan Friendly:** Use ceiling fans to circulate airflow. If your ceiling fans are still in winter mode, switch them so the blades turn counter-clockwise, pushing the cool air down towards you. Just remember to turn the fans off when you leave the room; fans cool people, not rooms.
- 6 Atmospheric Adjustment:** Remember to adjust your thermostat settings for the summer months, keeping it as high as comfortably possible and turning it up when no one is home. Use a programmable thermostat if you tend to forget to adjust the thermostat yourself.
- 7 Tune Up:** Schedule an appointment with your HVAC technician to identify any potential problems with your system.
- 8 Peak Savings:** Plan household chores that require electricity, such as laundry and running the dishwasher, during off-peak hours when energy demand is low.
- 9 Take Charge:** Consider disconnecting electrical devices you don't use regularly until you need them. Plugged-in devices use energy even when not in use.
- 10 Move Outdoors:** Time spent outdoors offers opportunities to turn off lights, televisions, computers, and home appliances. You'll be more active, have more fun, and save more money.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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