



## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# SAFELY *Jingle* ALL THE WAY

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual: shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings, or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

Between the added traffic and the not-so-ideal road conditions that come along with Wisconsin winters, the risk of car accidents is much higher this time of year. Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns, or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to deenergize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer (the green boxes on the side of the road), which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can—at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season. For more information about safety around electricity, go to [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com).





# SCHOLARSHIPS 2024



*Your Trusted Energy Advisor*

**There is still time  
to apply!**

Scholarship applications are  
due by January 9, 2024

***Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Apply at [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)**

# BRAVO2BUSINESS AWARD: RESILIENT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

We are incredibly grateful and deeply honored to announce that Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has been recognized as the 2022 Resilient Business of the Year. This prestigious award stands as a testament to our collective strength, determination, and unwavering commitment to you, our valued members.

*Thank you!*



In the face of numerous challenges over the past few years, your trust, support, and understanding have been our guiding light. Your unwavering belief in our mission empowered us to navigate these hurdles with resilience and creativity. Together, we have not only sustained our operations but also adapted to meet your evolving needs, ensuring that our members remain connected, supported, and empowered.

This award belongs to each and every one of you. As we celebrate this honor, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for being the driving force behind our success. We look forward to continuing

our journey together, fostering a brighter, more sustainable future for our cooperative membership. Thank you for being the best part of ECEC!

## Recycle your holiday string lights here – FREE!

January 12, 2024 deadline

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

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[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)



 **Your Trusted Energy Advisor**



Please have a safe and joyous holiday season!

# 12

## DAYS OF ENERGY SAVINGS

You can enjoy lower energy bills with these 12 cost-saving tips.

1

Inspect windows and doors for leaks and seal them with caulk or weatherstripping.



2

Have your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.



3

After your holiday meal, scrape dishes instead of rinsing them, and run only full loads.



4

Light up your home for less by switching to energy-efficient LED holiday lights.



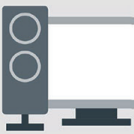
5

Bake multiple batches of holiday cookies and pies at one time to maximize energy use.



6

Turn off your stereo or TV after listening to holiday music or re-watching holiday classics.



7

Optimize savings and convenience by using timers to turn holiday lights on and off.



8

Give energy-saving gifts. LED bulbs and smart plugs make great stocking stuffers.



9

Taking a holiday trip? Turn off lights and equipment and set the thermostat to vacation mode.



10

Make handmade decorations, such as a wreath for your door, that don't use energy.



11

Turn down the thermostat when holiday guests arrive. Those extra bodies mean free heat.



12

Start the new year by making a resolution to use energy more efficiently every day.



### **Eau Claire Energy Cooperative**

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**Monica Obrycki, President and CEO**

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and Communications Coordinator**

8214 Hwy 12, P.O. Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368

www.ecec.com   

**Lobby Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday;  
7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Friday

**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.