



# JOIN US FOR THE 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

NOW TAKING NOMINATIONS



Do you know an Eau Claire Energy Cooperative member who has gone above and beyond to help others? Have they made a difference in the community through local service projects, non-profit organizations, or other local events? Nominate a cooperative member for the annual Concern for Community Award by February 15, 2024. The nomination form is available on our website at [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com) under the "Community" tab. The award recipient will be honored at our 87th Annual Meeting on March 19, 2024.



**E**au Claire Energy Cooperative's mission is to provide safe and reliable energy to our members. Equally important is our dedication to upholding the seven cooperative principles. This is what sets us apart from other utilities. Our commitment to serving the long-term interests of our local communities is what we strive for. Members are an essential part of that. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is uniquely positioned to bring together member-owners at our annual meeting.

As a member-owner, you have a valuable perspective. The annual meeting is a great place to share your perspective, learn more about your cooperative, and hear how ECEC works to serve you. Co-op leaders will discuss accomplishments and challenges over the last year, ECEC's financial health, and priorities for coming years.

This is important to keep informed about because your dollars are used to fund projects that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy service, and programs available to you are reinvested in the communities served by ECEC. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative values your input to inform decisions for the future, ensuring that every energy bill you pay contributes to better service and reliability for the entire community.

If you have never attended ECEC's annual meeting, or if it's been a while, please stop by! Mark your calendar for the 87th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at 5 p.m. at the Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with co-op employees, participate in ten \$100 giveaways, and enjoy dinner following the meeting.

**87TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Florian Gardens, Eau Claire

Tuesday, March 19  
Registration begins at 5:00pm  
Business Meeting - 6:00pm





45th Annual



# HOME SHOW

# February 16 - 18

Chippewa Valley Expo Center

5150 Old Mill Plaza, Eau Claire

Join Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for

## Family Day

Sunday, February 18

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bird house & toolbox building, mascot dance  
off, balloon artist & more!

### Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Pre-sale Tickets: \$8

At the Door: \$10

Children 12 & under are free

Pre-sale tickets available at Festival Foods,  
Menards & Green Oasis Jan 15 - Feb 15



Over 100 Vendors • Educational Seminars Friday & Saturday  
Beer & Wine Tasting Friday Evening • Daily Plant Sale

Dream Backyard Grand Giveaway • Scavenger Hunt with \$100 Daily Cash Prize



For more information: [www.cvhomebuilders.com](http://www.cvhomebuilders.com) (715) 835-2526

# Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## guide to a greener Home

### ELECTRIC VEHICLE Programs & Incentives

In addition to the gas savings that comes with an electric vehicle, some electric vehicles (EV) qualify for a tax incentive. Eau Claire Energy also offers a SmartCharge+ program which provides members with a level 2 charger and up to 400 kWh per month in charging for the base rate of \$35 per month. (Additional kWh available on a tiered basis)

## SOLAR ARRAY AND BATTERY STORAGE

### First Steps & Considerations

How do solar panels produce electricity?

When the sun shines onto a solar panel, energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the photovoltaic cells in the panel. This energy creates electrical charges that move in response to an internal electrical field in the cell, causing electricity to flow.

Steps to take if you are considering solar panels and/or battery storage?

1. Call Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's Member Service Department to discuss your home's usage and walk through the steps for potential interconnection.
2. Have a home performance evaluation completed. The key to solar and battery storage is to ensure your home is as energy efficient as possible. Generating more energy to cover excess usage is costly and uneconomical.
3. Work with ECEC and a local installer to determine your needs and guide you through the process of installation.

## GEOTHERMAL Heating & Cooling

### SUMMER COOLING

As outdoor temperatures rise, a geothermal heat pump collects heat in your home and moves it to the cooler earth. Ordinary heat pumps and air conditioners dump the heat outside in the already stifled summer air. That makes cooling systems least efficient when you need them to be the most efficient.

Contact the member services department to find out more and determine if Geothermal is right for your home.

### WINTER HEATING

As outdoor temperatures fall, a geothermal heat pump draws from an underground reservoir of heat and moves it to your home. An ordinary heat pump collects heat from frigid winter air, making it very inefficient. Unlike a furnace, geothermal doesn't create heat through combustion. It simply moves it.

# CASH IN ON INCENTIVES IN 2024



**A**s you shop in the new year, looking for energy-efficient appliances will help reduce electricity use and save you money. Many home devices have electric options, and Eau Claire Energy Cooperative offers incentives for many energy-efficient purchases.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members have the opportunity to receive incentives from both Focus on Energy and Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. With double the opportunities comes double the possibilities. Members can visit [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com) or call 715-836-6467 for valuable information about Eau Claire Energy Cooperative incentives and visit [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com) or call 800-762-7077 about Focus on Energy incentives.

Eligibility criteria for each category

are listed directly on all incentive forms. To receive an incentive, the member must purchase a qualifying item, complete the incentive form, and return the form and required documentation to the cooperative within three months of purchase or installation. Equipment must be installed within Eau Claire Energy Cooperative service territory and, in most cases, be ENERGY STAR® rated. Some items must be enrolled in Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's load management program to qualify.

"It seems counterintuitive to ask members to use less of what we're trying to sell, but this is the Cooperative

Difference," Eric Muller, member services associate, said. "We work hard to keep electricity rates stable and affordable for members, but the cheapest kilowatt-hour is the one that's not used. We want to encourage energy efficiency without sacrificing member comfort and convenience."

Even though 2024 has begun, members who made a qualifying energy-efficient purchase in 2023 are still eligible for 2023 rebates as long as all documentation is submitted within three months of the purchase or installation date, as specified on the incentive form.

**Please stop by our office at 8214 US Hwy 12, Fall Creek, WI 54742, or call 715-836-1603 for more details.**

## **Eau Claire Energy Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**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](http://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.