



Eau Claire County



**BREAKFAST
ON THE FARM**

The third annual Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm will be hosted by Bischoff Farms! Join us for a day of fun, agricultural education, and great food!

HOSTED AT:

**Bischoff
Farms**



**FARM TOURS
INCLUDED**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Come out to enjoy breakfast, educational booths, farm tours, face painting, and much more!



**BENEFITS EAU CLAIRE
COUNTY AGRICULTURE**

DETAILS

-  **BISCHOFF FARMS**
-  **BREAKFAST SERVED FROM 7AM-11AM**
-  **SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024**
-  **OFF-SITE PARKING AT EQUITY LIVESTOCK - SHUTTLE AVAILABLE**
-  **ADULTS: \$10 | KIDS 5-11: \$5
KIDS UNDER 4: FREE**

ENERGY SCAMS UNMASKED

Consumers with water, gas, and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases the risk of potential scams.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether a financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, we'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

Scammers typically disguise themselves—either physically or digitally—as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal information. A common

trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails, and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguising caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call. Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a

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SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.



utility payment webpage—and what’s worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Other recent scams involve phone calls, text messages, or emails claiming you overpaid your electric bill and will receive a cash or banking refund. This offer may seem too good to be true, and it is—it’s likely a scam aimed to steal your personal information.

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn’t made immediately.

Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it’s likely a scam.

You’ve probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors, and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

What Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Will (and Won’t) Do

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative will never ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, on our website, scheduled payments, and in the SmartHub app.

Avoiding Scams

Whether in-person, over the phone, or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be an Eau Claire Energy Cooperative employee requesting banking or other personal information. We will only send you text messages if you have opted in for important alerts like outage notifications or peak alert notifications from our SmartHub App.

If you’re ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call at 715-832-1603 so we can assist. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative wants to help protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.



Make your life easier with SmartHub, an online application to help you manage your account 24/7. With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your ECEC bill and view billing history
- Report and view outages
- View and manage your electric usage
- Find ways to lower your energy bill

Available on your Apple or Android device

Download the FREE mobile app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



50TH PARADE OF HOMES

**JUNE
8-15**

TOUR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES
in the Chippewa Valley


11 New Homes • 2 Remodeled Homes • 2 Virtual Homes

Tickets: \$8 through June 7 \$10 after June 7

Celebrating 50 Years of the Parade of Homes

Enjoy food trucks at select Parade Homes June 8 & 9 and participate in the Gold Coin Hunt June 10 - 14!

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**GREAT AMERICAN
FIREPLACE**

Denny's Appliance • Fireside Hearth & Home • HomeTech by Mosaic • Xcel Energy
Kristy Thiess, Your Real Estate Guide • JM Builders LLC • Royal Credit Union
Ashley Construction • Cesspool Cleaner Company & Portable Toilet Rentals, LLC • Eau Claire Insulation & Exteriors
Gerhard's Kitchen & Bath Store • Johnson Roll-Off Service • Everyday Surveying & Engineering, LLC
JASK Visual • iHeart Media • WEAU 13 News

www.ParadeOfHomesCV.com

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

ECEC will be closed July 4 for Independence Day

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.