

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Many Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Youth Ambassadors celebrated a significant milestone! Happy YA graduation to all TEN seniors this year: Grace Allen, Isabella Bauer, Isabel Carlson, Hannah Fredrickson, Alayna Jastrow, Josie Rechek, Owen Rozeboom, Hailee Schmidt, Abigail Turk, and Alyssa Wirth. This dynamic program, designed for high school students in our service territory, has once again demonstrated its power to inspire, educate, and prepare the next generation of community leaders.

The Youth Ambassadors program offers a unique blend of learning and fun, providing students with an opportunity to engage deeply with the electric cooperative and our local community. Throughout the year, participants attended monthly meetings, participated in engaging activities, and heard from industry experts about the challenges and innovations in the electric cooperative world. These sessions were not just informative but also interactive, encouraging students to ask questions, explore new ideas, and develop a deeper understanding of the role of electric cooperatives in our everyday lives.

But it's not all work and no play. The Youth Ambassadors program is known for its engaging



(L-R): Owen Rozeboom, Grace Allen, Alyssa Wirth, Abigal Turk, Alayna Jastrow, Isabel Carlson, and Hannah Fredrickson

and enjoyable activities that foster camaraderie and teamwork. From team-building exercises to social events, students forge lasting friendships and create memories that go beyond the program itself. This blend of education and enjoyment ensures that students not only learn but also have a lot of fun along the way.

As we celebrate the graduation of our current Youth Ambassadors, we look forward to welcoming the next group of enthusiastic and curious students. This program is not just about learning; it's about growing, making connections, and having fun. We are

proud of our graduates and excited for the future leaders they will become.

Getting involved in the Youth Ambassadors program is easy and rewarding. High school students who are interested in learning more about the energy industry, making new friends, and developing leadership skills are encouraged to apply. For more information on how to get involved in the Youth Ambassadors program, visit our website or contact our office. Join us in empowering tomorrow's leaders today!



There are energy villains lurking in our homes—air conditioning, water heating, pool pumps, lighting, and household appliances, to name some large culprits. Electricity is a crucial part of our daily lives, and smart electricity use helps keep electricity rates stable. That’s why Eau Claire Energy Cooperative encourages members to “Do the Summer Shift” during summer weekdays (June–August).

What is the Summer Shift?

The Summer Shift supports stable rates by helping members use less electricity during times of high demand. Anyone can participate in the Summer Shift by “shifting” non-essential energy use to before 1 p.m. or after 7 p.m., during summer weekdays (June through August). That afternoon window of time is usually when the demand for electricity is at its peak. With a successful Summer Shift program, the cooperative’s wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, purchases less electricity during times of peak demand and high prices. Reducing the price paid for our wholesale power contributes to stable retail electricity rates in the long term.

Providing electricity to all members exactly when it’s needed is part of a larger, complex effort among Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, Dairyland Power, and the regional grid operator—the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). MISO oversees the reliable generation and delivery of electricity for a region that

spans 15 states plus parts of Canada. That’s meeting the real-time electricity needs of 45 million people. Dairyland works with its 24-member cooperatives, including Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, to cover all our electricity needs 24/7/365. By joining with other cooperatives, the benefit of the Summer Shift is multiplied. As the day progresses and demand escalates, the cost of electricity rises, calling for more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) to power our daily lives.

Doing the Summer Shift moves non-essential electricity use away from these more expensive times, which helps keep electricity rates stable. To be fair: Doing the Summer Shift may not mean a reduction in actual electricity used because you will still run your dishwasher or take a shower, but shifting to earlier or later in the day will help reduce costs for the cooperative. Members looking for a few power-saving tips can not only do the Summer Shift, but also save energy and improve in-home comfort this summer.

Discover Power Saving Tips

- Cook outdoors to avoid additional heat from the oven.
- Close blinds to help keep the house cool; use a ceiling or table fan to circulate air.
- Catch a summer breeze! Line dry your clothes.
- Utilize an ENERGY STAR dishwasher over hand washing to conserve water and energy.
- Run the dishwasher after 7 p.m., opening up the door to let dishes air dry overnight.
- Charge any electric vehicles overnight (after 9 p.m.).
- Adjust the water heater to no higher than 120 degrees.

Before 1 p.m. and after 7 p.m.: When we all work together to shift non-essential electricity use to off-peak times, we can all help keep rates stable. Utilize the power-saving tips shared above to help save energy and save money. Reach out to your trusted energy advisor at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for more information.

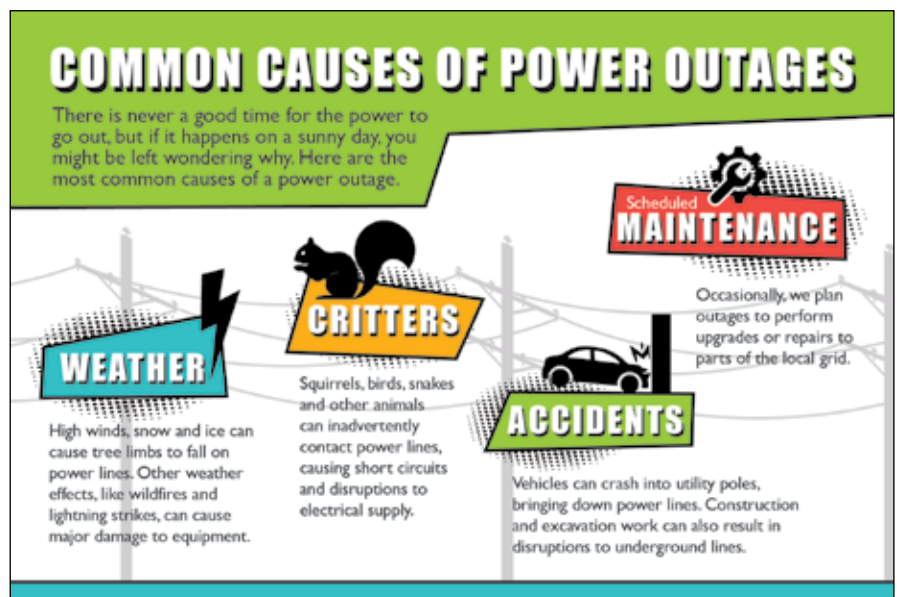
EIGHT THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT POWER RESTORATION

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That’s called a jump cut. While we wish we could “jump cut” from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

We understand questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there’s simply never a good time to be without it. The likelihood of summer storms and power outages can be much higher this time of year. As such, we’d like to shed light on ECEC’s restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are eight things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. It’s a team effort.** Every one of ECEC’s employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our front office staff and member service representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, dispatchers are organizing crews, lineworker crews are clearing hazards, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because Eau Claire Energy is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you’re without power, our people might be too.
- 3. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don’t know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 4. Restoration is normally prioritized.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first, working from largest volume outage to least.
- 5. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for weather elements, falling trees, and fast-moving cars.
- 6. Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these “blinks” are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 7. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life-support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don’t always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you’re unsure what to do, call us so we can help you understand what you need to be prepared.
- 8. Sometimes it’s a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they’re going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by calling 800-927-5090 or by downloading and using the SmartHub app!





FREE SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we believe that electrical safety education is crucial for everyone. That's why we offer tailored safety demonstrations to suit any group's needs, from first responders and highway departments to elementary school students, high schoolers, senior citizens, and professional development groups. No matter the age or skill level, our electrical safety demonstrations are designed to educate and engage, ensuring everyone understands the importance of electrical safety and what it means to our community.

Best of all, these demonstrations are provided for FREE in our service area. You can come to our cooperative, or we can bring the safety demo to you. To schedule a safety demonstration, please reach out to our office today.



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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ECEC will be closed July 4 for Independence Day

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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.