



HUNTING FOR WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR COOPERATIVE

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

As deer hunters gear up for the season in Wisconsin, scouting the best spots and preparing their gear, cooperative members have their own opportunities to “hunt” for ways to engage with their cooperative. Just as hunting takes strategy and preparation, engaging with your cooperative brings benefits that go beyond saving energy. Here’s a guide to bagging the best opportunities for involvement and making the most of your membership.

1. Join the Hunt for Advocacy

Your voice matters! Participating in cooperative governance, such as attending annual meetings, running for a seat on our board of directors, or voting in our director elections is one of the most important ways you can engage. By being an active member, you can help guide the future direction of our cooperative—everyone’s contribution counts towards success.

2. Target Savings Through Energy Efficiency Programs

Much like tracking game during the hunt, members can track down savings through programs like load management, dual fuel, or energy efficiency incentives. These programs allow you to reduce energy use during peak times, save money, and contribute to the cooperative’s ability to manage demand effectively. Engaging with these programs is like fine-tuning your hunting strategy—focused efforts lead to greater rewards.

3. Leave Tracks with Your Insight

Just as hunters adjust their tactics to yield better hunts, your cooperative values member insights. Members can provide insight by joining our Member Advisory Council or by responding to surveys. Whether it’s

helping to improve services or guide future programs, your input helps us tailor our offerings to better meet member needs. Think of it as leaving tracks for others to follow—your feedback helps shape the future of the cooperative.

4. Attend Cooperative Events

You can connect with fellow members at cooperative events. From member appreciation gatherings to safety demonstrations, these events provide a chance to learn, engage, and strengthen the cooperative community. Keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to join us.

5. Keep Your Binoculars on Social Media and Newsletters

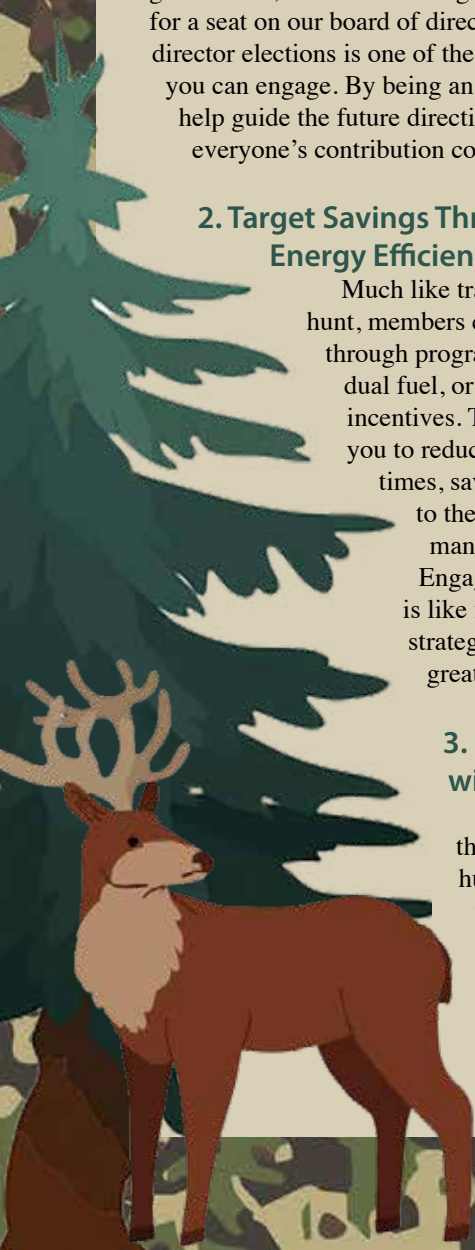
Successful hunters always stay informed. Likewise, members who follow our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube) and read our magazine are more up to date on cooperative news, programs, and energy-saving tips. These communication channels are like your binoculars in the field, giving you a clear view of opportunities for engagement and ways to benefit.

6. Gear Up with Co-op Resources

Before heading into the field, a hunter checks their equipment. Similarly, members can turn to cooperative resources like SmartHub, ECEC’s website, and our Member Service department to manage accounts, monitor energy use, and explore payment options. These tools are like the essentials in your hunting pack, ensuring you’re prepared and equipped to make the most of your cooperative membership.

The Thrill of the Hunt—Why Engagement Matters

Just like a successful hunt brings a sense of accomplishment and connection with the outdoors, engaging with your cooperative provides a deeper connection to the community. Whether you’re aiming to save money, stay informed, or help guide our cooperative’s future, the rewards are clear. This hunting season, take the opportunity to hunt for new ways to engage with Eau Claire Energy Cooperative—you’ll be glad you did.



REMINDER: ANNUAL DUAL FUEL TEST

Members enrolled in the Dual Fuel program should mark their calendars for the Dual Fuel Test on Wednesday, November 20. This event is an important opportunity to ensure that backup heating systems are functioning properly and to prepare for the upcoming load control season. The load control test will begin at 6:55 a.m., with all loads restored by 11 a.m.

Event notifications will be sent out on Tuesday, November 19. Participating in this test helps ensure a smooth transition into the winter season, supporting energy efficiency and reliability during peak demand periods.





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 Monday, January 6, 2025, for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit. To be eligible, you must be an active Eau Claire Energy member and nominate another active member.

The nomination form is available on our website at www.ecec.com under the “community” tab, or you can scan the QR code to make a nomination. The ECEC member nominator of the awarded recipient will be notified and receive a \$25 bill credit. The award recipient will be honored at the 88th Annual Meeting on March 18, 2025.



ECEC HOSTS CANDIDATES ENERGY FORUM

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative invited candidates to join in a conversation on energy-related issues on October 7. The Candidates Energy Forum is a bi-annual event co-sponsored by Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation, Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce, and Chippewa Valley Homebuilders Association. Six representatives from State Senate District 10 and Assembly Districts 91, 92, and 93 joined the forum. Candidates included Paul Hambleton, Rep. Jodi Emerson, Michele Magadance Skinner, Rep. Clint Moses, James Rolbiecki, and Christian Phelps. Jason Herbert, vice president of external affairs at Dairyland Power Cooperative, moderated the forum and posed various questions to candidates regarding Right



of First Refusal (ROFR), reliability and affordability, community solar, and beneficial electrification. Candidates noted that this was the only forum they had an opportunity to participate in this year. Their positions on energy-related issues are very impactful to affordable,

safe, and reliable power in years to come.

Scan the QR code or visit www.ecec.com to learn more about the energy topics that were discussed and candidate responses.



Thankful FOR ENERGY SAVINGS



As we approach the Thanksgiving season, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) is especially thankful for the opportunity to help our members save energy and reduce costs through our various incentive programs. Each program is designed to support energy efficiency upgrades in homes and businesses, empowering our members to make improvements that benefit both their wallets and the environment.

We all know the end of 2024 is in sight. With that in mind, here are some excellent opportunities for members to take advantage of before the end of the year:

Appliance Incentives

Consider EnergyStar-rated models when replacing old appliances. EnergyStar models meet rigorous energy efficiency standards set by the EPA, and ECEC offers a \$25 rebate on qualifying appliances like refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, electric dryers, and dehumidifiers. Upgrading to more efficient appliances will help you lower energy consumption and cut monthly utility bills.

Water Heater Incentives

Water heaters play a significant role in your home's energy use, and the last thing anyone needs is a failed water heater either not working or, worse yet, leaking. If you find yourself in need of a new water heater, ECEC has incentives available for up to \$300 to help—and don't forget, ECEC carries highly efficient Marathon water heaters for our members!

HVAC Incentives

Efficient heating and cooling systems are essential for managing energy costs throughout the year. ECEC offers a wide range of incentives for HVAC equipment, including \$35 for an energy-efficient ECM blower motor in a standard furnace and up to \$500 per ton for installing a geothermal heat pump, one of the most efficient heating systems available.

Home Performance Program

Our Home Performance program

provides valuable support for improving the overall energy efficiency of your home. You can receive a \$100 incentive for having a certified consultant conduct an energy evaluation, identifying areas to enhance air sealing and insulation. After implementing the recommended improvements, you can qualify for up to \$500 in additional incentives.

New Home Certification

If you're building a new home, take advantage of our New Home Certification program. A certified energy consultant will work alongside your builder to ensure the home meets high energy efficiency standards. Not only will you receive a \$500 incentive for certifying your home, but your builder can also benefit from savings. It's a win-win for everyone involved.

LED Lighting Incentives

Switching to LED lighting is one of the easiest ways to reduce energy use. ECEC continues to offer rebates on energy-efficient lighting—members can earn \$0.50 per bulb (minimum of six

bulbs), or receive \$0.50 per 800 lumens of light output. Unsure about your LED bulbs? Let our Member Services staff assist you with determining which incentive is right for you.

Agricultural, Commercial & Industrial Incentives

If you operate a farm or business, energy efficiency improvements can lead to substantial savings. ECEC provides incentives for upgrades like exhaust and circulation fans, heat recovery units, pre-coolers, and variable frequency drives. Contact our Member Services team to learn more about how your operation can benefit.

Focus on Energy

Through our partnership with the statewide Focus on Energy program, ECEC members can access even more incentives. Don't forget to claim your once-per-year **FREE Energy Savings Pack**, which includes energy-efficient items for your home. Visit www.focusonenergy.com to explore additional offers and savings.

As we give thanks this November, let us also appreciate the many ways we can save energy, reduce costs, and contribute to a more sustainable future. Whether you're upgrading appliances, improving your home's efficiency, or making changes in your business, ECEC is here to help every step of the way.

If you have questions about any of our programs, please don't hesitate to reach out. Call us at (715) 832-1603 to speak with one of our energy advisors, and let's work together to ensure you're maximizing your energy savings!

Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for being part of our cooperative community!

\$1,000 FEDERATED YOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

2025

Hailey B.
Mondovi High School

“Receiving this scholarship makes me feel lucky to come from such a caring community that wants to support me and my dreams.”

Benjamin D.
Osseo-Fairchild High School

“The scholarship was a great honor to receive. It allowed me to continue my education and not worry as much about how to fund my schooling.”



Valued at \$1,000 each, scholarships are awarded to area high school seniors and current students at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Chippewa Valley Technical College. The student's parent or guardian must be a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and currently receive ECEC energy service at their residence. Visit our website for more details!

JANUARY 7, 2025 • APPLICATION DEADLINE

A scholarship application form must be completed and returned to the high school, college, technical college, or other post-secondary school student office (whichever applies).

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

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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.

ECEC will be closed November 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.