

MAKING THE SWITCH TO AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

As electric vehicles (EVs) become more prevalent, many are noticing more electric vehicles (EVs) on the road and charging stations in shopping areas and other public locations. The increasing popularity of EVs is being driven by several factors, such as new vehicle options, lower prices, additional charging stations, and financial incentives.

According to Kelley Blue Book (KBB), EVs accounted for 7.6% of all sales in 2023, which is up from 5.9% in 2022. That market share is even larger when factoring in hybrid vehicles.

While EVs may not work for everyone's daily driving requirements, which depend on commute times, public charging availability, and additional factors, EVs can provide many benefits, such as lower operating costs and less maintenance. For those considering the switch to an EV, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is here to help. As a trusted energy advisor, the cooperative can provide guidance on home charging options and considerations to determine if an EV fits your driving needs.

Types of EVs

There are three common types of EVs. All-electric vehicles, also known as battery electric vehicles or BEVs, are powered solely by a large battery. Because BEVs are powered by a rechargeable battery and do not use gasoline, they produce zero emissions. On average, BEVs can run on a full battery for 110-300 miles.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are powered by a combination of a large battery, an electric motor, and a gas-powered engine. PHEVs recharge battery power from regenerative braking and can also be plugged in to a standard outlet. Depending on the model, they can run on full battery power (alone) for 15-60 miles.

Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) use an electric motor to assist gas-powered engines. Similar to PHEVs, HEVs can also recharge their battery power from regenerative braking, but the power comes from the gas engine, and they do not plug in to an electrical outlet.

Home Charging Options

Most new BEVs and PHEVs include a Level 1 charging unit (110-volt-compatible), which can be plugged into any standard household electrical outlet. A Level 1 charger typically provides two to five miles of range per hour of charging, which may work for those with shorter daily commutes.

For lengthier daily drive times, Level 2 chargers can be installed for faster charging, at 10-30 miles of range per hour. A Level 2 charger uses 240-volt service, which may require electrical upgrades conducted by a licensed electrician.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative can help

Consumer interest in EVs is growing and that's why Eau Claire Energy Cooperative provides all the information we can about EVs, so our members can make informed EV purchasing decisions. We also offer a special rate for EV charging called SmartCharge to help save on your electric bills.

If you own an EV or purchase one in the future, we encourage you to contact Eau Claire Energy Cooperative to learn more about what is available to you. As more consumers make the switch to EVs, it's important for the co-op to understand EV charging needs for our local community. If you're considering making the switch to an EV, contact our office or visit our website for more information about charging options and requirements, as well as energy-saving tips for the road ahead.

EV BUYER'S GUIDE

Considering an electric vehicle? Use this guide as you consider vehicle options.

Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV):
Fully powered by an electric battery; no gas-powered components.

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):
Contains an engine, electric motor and large battery; can operate in electric-only mode, engine-only mode or hybrid mode (battery and gas).

Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV):
Low-emission vehicles; electric motor assists gas-powered engine. Fully powered by gasoline (no charging).

Average Battery Range

BEV: 110-300 miles **full battery*

PHEV: 15-60 miles on battery power **full battery (PHEVs can run on battery and/or gas power.)*

Home Charging Options

Level 1:

- 110-volt service
- 2-5 miles of range per hour of charging
- Typically does not require electrical upgrades

Level 2:

- 240-volt service
- 10-30 miles of range per hour of charging
- Faster than level 1
- May require electrical upgrades

Considerations Before Buying

- Public charging options near you
- Federal, state and local financial incentives
- Battery warranties
- Potential changes to auto insurance



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
From,
EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE



HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING IS BACK!

Drop off your dud holiday light strings at ECEC Headquarters at 8214 US Hwy 12 Fall Creek, and we will get them recycled for you - for FREE!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Your Trusted Energy Advisor

SAVE LIKE *Santa*



The holiday season is finally upon us, Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year. It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop- how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

- Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so he uses LED holiday light strands to save money on his monthly electric bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 20 seasons, making them a great option for any festive home.
- Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with ENERGY STAR rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the United States used ENERGY STAR-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved- that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!
- Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.
- Santa wears a heavy red coat with fur trim while he works, so he doesn't need to keep the thermostat in his workshop set very high. According to the Department of Energy every degree of thermostat adjustment per eight hours saves about 1 percent, so turning the thermostat down even a few degrees at nighttime or when you're away from home can make a difference in your energy bill.
- A crackling fire keeps the Clauses' North Pole home warm and cozy, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

This holiday season let's take a page from Santa's handbook and remember to save energy when possible. With these tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully the "nice" list too)!

THERE'S
STILL TIME!

\$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

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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 December 24 and 25 for Christmas