

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* August 2025 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

GROWING HOPE

COOL SAVINGS

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

YOUR VOICE MATTERS
IN SHAPING OUR
ENERGY FUTURE





YOUR VOICE MATTERS IN SHAPING OUR ENERGY FUTURE



By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we take pride in providing you — our member-owners — with safe, reliable, and affordable power. But delivering on that promise is becoming more complex as energy policy decisions in Washington, D.C., and Madison increasingly impact how electricity is generated, transmitted, and delivered.

The demand for electricity is skyrocketing, driven by growing populations, expanding industries, and new technologies like data centers, electric vehicles, and AI-powered systems. According to recent projections from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), peak power demand is expected to grow by more than 18% over the next decade. At the same time, some federal regulations are pushing reliable generation resources — like natural gas and coal — offline at a pace that is faster than they can be replaced with dependable alternatives.

Recent actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revisit and reconsider some of these rules signal a positive step toward protecting grid reliability. At ECEC, we welcome common-sense energy policy that supports environmental goals and ensures power remains affordable and available

when our members need it most.

We believe smart policy should support practical solutions — like maintaining reliable baseload generation, modernizing our grid, and investing in technologies that enhance reliability and efficiency.

Policy advocacy isn't just something that happens in Washington — it starts right here, with you. As a member-owner of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, your voice carries real weight. Whether you're voting in local, state, or national elections, contacting your legislators, or simply learning more about the issues, your involvement helps shape a stronger energy future for our community.

And you're not alone in that effort. The board of directors and leadership team at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative meet regularly with local, state, and federal legislators to educate them on cooperative priorities and advocate for policies that support reliable, affordable electricity for our members. Biannually, we host a local Candidates Energy Forum to engage directly with those running for office on the energy issues that matter to our members. We also participate in WECA's Lobby Days at the state Capitol and attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., ensuring your voice is heard at every level of government.

These efforts help make sure rural perspectives are represented when energy policy decisions are being made.

That's why Eau Claire Energy Cooperative supports Voices for Cooperative Power — a grassroots platform created to educate and empower cooperative members like you. The site offers nonpartisan information about key energy issues and how public policy affects the availability and affordability of electricity. You can learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting voicesforcooperativepower.com.

Our promise to you is simple: we will continue to monitor and engage in the policymaking process to ensure your interests are represented. We'll advocate for thoughtful regulations that support reliability, affordability, and innovation — and push back on those that don't. And we'll keep you informed every step of the way.

Electric cooperatives were built by the people, for the people. And today, your voice matters more than ever. Together, we can help shape a brighter energy future for rural America.

Scan the QR code
to learn more
about Voices
for Cooperative
Power.



CLEGHORN HARVEST FEST



September
5, 6 and 7, 2025
Cleghorn, Wisconsin



Come Join the Fun!

Sponsored By:
Community Champion



Flyers proudly printed by:
Johnson Litho Graphics
of Eau Claire Ltd.

Fireworks



Saturday Night!



Community Promoter



Community Supporter

Auto Value - Eau Claire
Briggs Tent & Party Rental
Cambridge Senior Living
Caring Transitions
CED (Consolidated Electrical Distributors)
Cleghorn Keg
Donivan's Vending
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
Eau Claire County
Dairy Promotion
Edward Jones - Craig Fladden
GFL
Hansen's Corner Store
Kwik Trip
Myren's Trucking
North Park Dental
North Point Advisor Group
PAC Basic
Park Ridge
Pawlak Construction
Phat Bob's
Pleasant Valley Contractors
PQS - Precision Quality Systems
Sequin's Valley View Acres LLC
Truckaline Suspension Center
Wiersgalla Plumbing and Heating Company
Wissota Collision & Customs
Zank Electric LLC

Community Friend

Barks & Recreation
Birch Street AutoCare of EC
CCF Bank
Chippewa Valley Engine & Machine Inc.
Culvers
Eau Galle Auto Body
Fran's Heating & Cooling
Frandsen Bank & Trust
Inside Out Renovations
Jaquish Farms
Menards
Norske Nook
Oak Park Dental
Oatman Concepts
Olympic Flame Eau Claire
Precision Auto Body & Sales
Robbe's Family Market
Stokes, Prock, and Mundt
Funeral Chapel & Crematory
Westconsin Credit Union

Friday, September 5

1:00p.m. Tractor Ride - 12:15p.m. Registration (Weather Permitting)
5:00p.m. Kitchen / Snack Shack Open
6:30p.m. Men's Wood Bat Softball Tournament
7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Live Music - Virginia Steel
7:00p.m. Dart Tournament - 6:30 Registration
7:00p.m. Bingo (Community Center) - 6:15p.m. Registration
7:00p.m. Silent Auction Begins!

Saturday, September 6

9:00a.m. Softball Tournament
9:00a.m. Harvest Fest Hustle - 8:00a.m. Registration
10:00a.m.-4:00p.m. Craft & Vendor Show
10:00a.m. Kitchen / Snack Shack / Museum Open
12:00p.m. Grand Parade & Ol' Timers Parade
12:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Mike Floire - Juggler
1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Kids Games
1:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Face Painting by Cindy Solberg & Donna Thiess
1:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Inflatables provided by Wisconsin Fun Factory
1:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Sweet & Treats (Community Center)
2:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Live Music - Joyann Parker Duo
2:00p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull by Kinsdchi Pedal Pulls
3:30p.m. Dartball (by Fire Station) - 3:00p.m. Registration
7:30p.m.-11:30p.m. Live Music - Crimson Theory
9:00p.m. Fireworks (Weather Permitting)

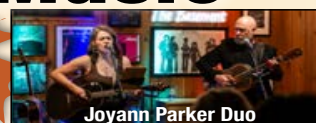
Sunday, September 7

7:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Pleasant Valley Firemen's Breakfast (Community Center)
9:00a.m. Softball Tournament
10:00a.m. Kitchen / Snack Shack / Museum Open
10:00a.m. - 2:30p.m. Car, Truck, Motorcycle & Tractor Show
10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. Live Music - The Thundermen
11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. Inflatables provided by Wisconsin Fun Factory
2:00p.m. Silent Auction Ends (Pick up by 4p.m.)
All events are subject to change.

Live Music



Virginia Steel



Joyann Parker Duo



Crimson Theory



The Thundermen

Tasty Food All Weekend!

Charcoal Chicken, Brats, Hot Dogs, Burgers and the Snack Shack



www.facebook.com/CleghornHarvestFest

www.cleghornharvestfest.com



ENERGY-SAVING TRICKS FOR THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



When the dog days of summer hit — those hot, sticky weeks when even the family dog seeks shade — it's a good time to think about how you use electricity. Between rising outdoor temps and increased indoor cooling, summer can take a bite out of your energy budget. But with a few smart adjustments, you can stay cool and save money — without giving up comfort.

Just like we look after our pets, it's important to look after our homes during extreme heat. That means using energy wisely, especially during peak demand times. Here's how to do just that — with a little inspiration from ECEC employees' furry friends.

Keep Cool Air Where It Belongs

Your HVAC system works hard during the summer. Help it perform better — and waste less energy by:

- ❖ Changing your air filter every month. A clean filter means better airflow and less work for your system.
- ❖ Clearing the area around your outdoor A/C unit. Trim bushes and remove debris within two feet of the unit for optimal airflow.
- ❖ Sealing air leaks. Check around windows, doors, and baseboards for cracks or gaps. Weather stripping and caulk are inexpensive fixes that can keep cool air in and hot air out.

Program Like a Pro

If your thermostat is still set manually, it might be time for an upgrade.

- ❖ Install a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures when you're away or asleep.
- ❖ Set it a few degrees higher when no one is home (or just the dog is!), and use fans to stay comfortable.
- ❖ Remember: ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave a room.

Avoid Peak Times — Even Your Pup Likes to Nap Then

Afternoons can be tough on both pets and power grids. From 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., energy use is at its highest, and the grid is working overtime.

Here's how to be a cool co-op member:

- ❖ Delay energy-heavy chores. Run dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers early in the morning or late at night.
- ❖ Avoid heating up your kitchen. Grill outdoors or prep no-cook meals like sandwiches and salads.
- ❖ Keep curtains closed during the day to block out sunlight and reduce indoor temperatures naturally.

Create a Cool Zone for You and Your Dog

Your pup probably has a favorite cool corner of the house — and you should, too. Try these tips to make your home a summer haven:

- ❖ Stick to the lowest level of your home — heat rises, so basements and ground floors are naturally cooler.
- ❖ Dress for the weather. Lightweight, breathable clothes mean you can set the thermostat a little higher and still be comfortable.
- ❖ Unplug devices you're not using. Chargers, printers, and electronics still draw power when plugged in.

Track Your Usage with SmartHub

Want to know exactly when your usage spikes? The free SmartHub app makes it easy to monitor your energy use in real time. You can see daily or hourly breakdowns, compare trends, and even set usage alerts. With SmartHub, it's easier to adjust habits, detect unusual usage, and avoid surprises on your bill — all from your phone or computer. If you're not using SmartHub yet, download it today or visit our website to get started.

Not sure where your energy is going? A home energy audit can help you sniff out areas where you can improve efficiency. From insulation to appliances, a trained professional can guide you on which upgrades offer the best return. Bonus — ECEC offers energy audit incentives. Ask us about audit options, rebates on smart thermostats, and tips tailored to your home. We're here to help you make the most of every kilowatt.

The Bottom Line?

You don't have to sweat the summer heat. With just a few easy changes, you can lower your bill, reduce demand on the grid, and keep your home — and your pets — cool and comfortable.

Want more energy-saving tips or info on efficiency programs? Visit www.ecec.com or call 715-832-1603. Let's make this summer a little less *ruff* — together.





CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to explore the cooperative difference, learn from area leaders, and experience how Eau Claire Energy Cooperative demonstrates our commitment to community? Youth Ambassadors (YA) at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative have a ton of fun. They do so while making connections in the community and adding extracurriculars to their college applications. Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors will meet once per month for educational learning sessions, field trips, and community service projects, followed by lunch. If this sounds like fun to you, apply today! The cooperative will sponsor YAs to attend Youth Leadership Congress at UW-River Falls, and two students will have an opportunity to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



2025-2026 Meeting Dates

September 24, 2025
October 12, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 17, 2025

January 21, 2026
February 18, 2026
March 18, 2026
April 22, 2026
May 2026 TBD



Apply now at www.ecec.com under the "Community" tab or by following the QR code. Current Youth Ambassadors are encouraged to invite friends and classmates to join.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

ECEC will be closed on September 1 for Labor Day.

The sweet side of Membership



**Save the Date -
Member Appreciation
Celebration!**

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

*You're the reason we're here - have
a scoop and a slice on us!*

Stop by cooperative headquarters on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 1–4 p.m. for pie, ice cream, face painting, bounce house, and fun for the whole family. The first 100 attendees will take home a cozy fleece ECEC blanket! We can't wait to celebrate the sweet side of co-op membership with you!

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.