

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* September 2025 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

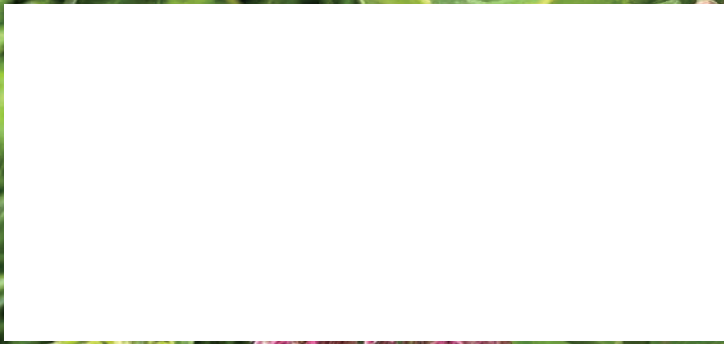
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

## POLLINATOR PATH WITH A PURPOSE

**WHAT SETS CO-OPS APART  
FROM OTHER POWER PROVIDERS**

**PIE FOR DINNER**

**CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL  
ELECTRIC RATES**







# CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATES



By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**A**t Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we work hard to ensure we are keeping our members informed—not just

about changes to your electric service, but also about the “why” behind them. Beginning October 1, 2025, electric rates are being adjusted. This change reflects the rising costs of providing reliable power and the investments necessary to maintain and improve our electric system.

On average, residential members will see a 4.5% increase in their monthly energy bill. We understand that any increase affects your household budget. We want to be open about what’s driving it, how the decision was made, and what sets your cooperative apart when it comes to managing costs and serving members.

Like many businesses and households, we’re facing higher costs across the board. Materials essential to maintain and build out the electric grid — like wire, poles, transformers, and protective equipment — have gone up in price significantly. In many cases, these increases have been steady over the past few years and are now too substantial to absorb without affecting our rates.

We’re also seeing higher administrative and labor costs, which reflect the rising expenses of running day-

to-day operations. Investing in modern systems and technology requires staff to support those systems to make sure they work effectively for our members. These are necessary investments that help us maintain the reliability, security, and service you expect from your cooperative.

Another factor driving the rate increase is the cost of borrowing money. Just like many of our members are seeing with loans or mortgages, interest rates are higher, and that impacts cooperative finances just like it does our members’. We invest in things like poles, wires, substations, and equipment to keep the system running smoothly, and we often finance those projects over time. With today’s higher interest rates, it simply costs more to make those needed upgrades.

This rate increase isn’t about generating profit — it’s about covering the real costs of delivering power to our members. As a non-profit cooperative, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative doesn’t have shareholders and doesn’t aim to make money. Instead, every dollar we collect goes directly toward operating expenses, system improvements, and services that benefit all members.

Every financial decision we make is based on what is needed to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power. And when there’s money left over after those needs

are met, we return it to our members in the form of capital credits—because you’re not just a customer, you’re a member-owner. That’s a powerful example of the cooperative difference in action.

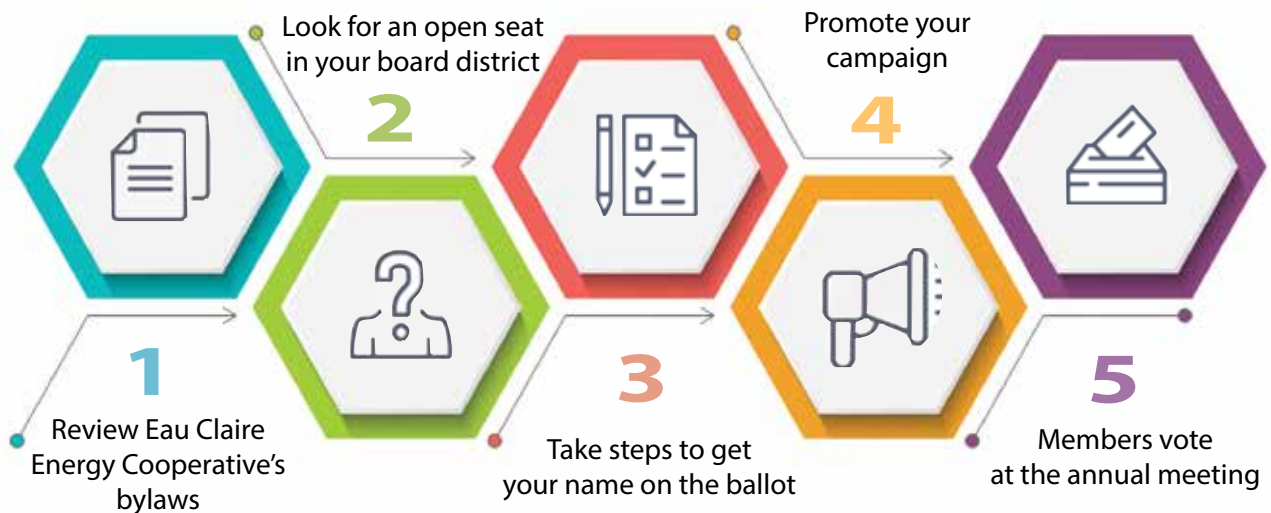
We know that costs are rising in all areas of life. But we also know that transparent communication and member trust are key parts of ECEC’s success. These decisions are not made lightly. They’re made only after careful review of our costs, future needs, and long-term goals.

We’re committed to making smart investments that keep power reliable. We’re planning ahead for the future, and we’re doing so with the same fiscal responsibility and care that has guided ECEC for more than 85 years.

We also want to remind members that if you’re facing financial hardship or have questions about your bill, we are always here to help. We offer a variety of payment options, energy-saving resources, and budget billing programs to help you manage your energy use and costs throughout the year.

If you have questions about your bill or upcoming rate changes, we’re always happy to talk. As your local cooperative, we’re committed to keeping you informed, listening to your concerns, and making decisions with your best interests in mind — because our members are the heart of our cooperative.

# HOW TO JOIN ECEC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## DISTRICTS UP FOR ELECTION IN 2026

### District 1

Seymour, west of County Road UN, Eau Claire County; Hallie and Lafayette, Chippewa County, except land in District 2 and the village of Lake Hallie.

### District 5

Brunswick and Drammen, Eau Claire County; Rock Creek, Dunn County; Albany, Pepin County; Naples, Buffalo County, except service area in District 2.

### District 8

Lincoln, Clear Creek, Otter Creek, and Washington, south of Walnut Rd, south of easterly extension of Walnut Rd to Mathwig Rd, and south of Mathwig Rd, Eau Claire County; Sumner & Unity, Trempealeau County.





# TIMELINE TO 2026 DIRECTOR ELECTION

**10/1/25****Co-op Board  
Candidate Session****5:30 p.m. at  
cooperative  
headquarters****10/16/25****Candidate  
Interest  
Forms Due****11/6/25****Candidate  
Packet Due  
by 3 p.m.****3/17/26****Annual  
Meeting at  
5:30 p.m. at the  
Florian Gardens**

## INTERESTED?

If you are a member of district 1, 5, or 8, and would like to be considered by the Nominating Committee for the 2026 Director Election, please fill in the information to the right and return it to ECEC or complete the interest form online by October 16, 2025.

Once we receive your request, we will send you a director information packet for you to review. All inquiries will remain confidential. A member of the Nominating Committee may contact you to discuss your interest in becoming a candidate. This committee will meet to review and select the final slate of candidates.

Interested candidates will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about what it means to be an ECEC director at the Co-op Board Candidate Session on October 1 at 5:30 p.m. ECEC staff and directors (who are not currently up for re-election) will be available to provide insight and answer questions. If you have any questions, please contact the corporate secretary at 715-836-6461.

**YES**, I am interested in becoming a candidate  
for the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Board of  
Directors 2026 election.

(Please print information below.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this Candidate Interest form to be received at  
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative by November 6, 2025:**

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative  
Attn. Corporate Secretary  
PO Box 368  
Fall Creek, WI 54742



# The Sweet Side of Membership



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

*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!



## Your Voice Matters!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative will be conducting a member satisfaction survey in September 2025. Your feedback helps us improve service and plan for the future. We appreciate your feedback! The information you provide will be confidential. These surveys will be conducted via email at random. This is not a scam email.

The survey will not ask for any bank or credit card information. If you are suspicious of any potential survey email, please be sure to contact our office at 715-832-1603. Thank you for participating!

## **Eau Claire Energy Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Monica Obrycki, President and CEO**

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and  
Communications Coordinator**

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.