

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* November 2025 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

CAMP NAWAKWA REVIVING A CAMP, RENEWING A MISSION

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER

PREP NOW FOR WINTER SAVINGS

SERVING UP SAVINGS THIS THANKSGIVING





Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

THE POWER OF GRATITUDE



By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

November typically signifies a season of thankfulness. Families gather around

Thanksgiving tables and neighbors lend each other a hand (or a shovel) as the snow starts to fly. It's fitting that November is also National Gratitude Month. A time when we can pause and reflect on what we are most thankful for. At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, gratitude is not just a seasonal sentiment. We have plenty to be thankful for all year.

Every day, I am grateful for the employees of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Whether it's a lineworker climbing poles in the middle of the night, a member service representative helping someone navigate their bill, or IT protecting our members' information, employees show up every day with dedication and pride in their work.

Training and technology may have changed how jobs look compared to decades ago, but one thing hasn't changed: the heart they put into serving the cooperative's members.

During Co-op Month, we had the chance to celebrate our members at our Member Appreciation event. Seeing

families enjoy pie and ice cream while stopping to visit with employees and board members was a reminder of the strong connections that we have with our cooperative community. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and for the opportunity to serve you.

I am also thankful for the guidance of our board of directors. Their commitment ensures we remain financially responsible, forward-looking, and focused on the best interests of our members.

Gratitude isn't just a seasonal sentiment — we have plenty to be thankful for all year.

As you reflect on the people you're thankful for this season, I encourage you to consider nominating a fellow Eau Claire Energy Cooperative member for our Concern for Community Award. This annual award honors members who go above and beyond to make a positive impact through volunteer work, service projects, or community leadership. Nominations are open through January 5, 2026, at www.ecec.com under the Community tab, or you can scan the QR code on page 16. The award recipient will be recognized at our 89th Annual



Member Appreciation 2025

Meeting on March 17, 2026, and the member who submits the winning nomination will receive a \$25 bill credit.

I encourage you to take part in National Gratitude Month. Thank a neighbor, recognize someone who made your day easier, or take a moment to reflect on the things you're thankful for, big and small, in your own life. Gratitude doesn't just brighten someone else's day; it has the power to strengthen us all.

From all of us at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your membership, and the opportunity to serve you. We are grateful not just in November, but every day of the year.

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 5, 2026, 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 89th Annual Meeting on March 17, 2026.



REMINDER: Annual Dual Fuel Test

Members enrolled in the Dual Fuel program should mark their calendars for the Dual Fuel Test on Wednesday, November 19. 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 18. Participating in this test helps ensure a smooth transition into the winter season, supporting energy efficiency and reliability during peak demand periods.

Serving

Thanksgiving is about gathering around the table, enjoying family traditions, and reflecting on what we're grateful for. However, between baking, cooking, hosting, and keeping the house cozy for guests, your electric use can add up quickly. The good news? A few smart choices can help you save energy without missing a single slice of pumpkin pie.



g up Savings On Thanksgiving

Hosting Thanksgiving can feel like running a small restaurant for a day. Ovens working overtime, stovetops bubbling, dishwashers churning, and lights burning late into the evening. All of that activity makes memories, but it also makes your electric meter spin faster than usual. With a few simple changes, you can enjoy the holiday just as much (maybe even more!) while saving energy and keeping your bill in check. Think of it as preparing a recipe for efficiency—every ingredient helps.

Your Recipe for Energy Savings

Preheat once, bake many.

Instead of turning your oven on and off for each dish, cook several items at once. Pies, casseroles, and stuffing can often share the oven.

Use your dishwasher wisely.

Skip the drying cycle and run full loads only. Believe it or not, modern dishwashers use less water and energy than hand-washing.

Use glass.

Glass and ceramic dishes retain heat better than metal, potentially reducing cooking time and temperature.

Make the right match.

For stovetop cooking, minimize energy waste by selecting a pot or pan that matches the size of the burner.

Bring in the helpers.

Slow cookers, microwaves, toaster ovens, and air fryers are energy-efficient alternatives for side dishes.

Keep it clean.

Clean burners after every use. A clean burner heats more efficiently, using less energy.

Don't peek.

Every time you open the oven door, the temperature can drop 25 degrees or more. Use the oven light to check progress instead.

Let it cool.

Before loading up the fridge with leftovers, let food cool on the counter. This keeps your refrigerator from working overtime.

Lid it up.

Covering pots and pans traps heat, reduces cooking time, and cuts down on energy use.

Adjust the thermostat.

With a house full of guests and a hot oven running, try lowering your thermostat by a degree or two.

After following these tips, you'll be thankful not only for the time spent with friends and family, but also for lower energy bills. Whether your holiday table is filled with turkey, pie, or takeout pizza, we hope these small steps help you enjoy a cozy, affordable, and energy-smart celebration.

\$1,000 FEDERATED YOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

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 and home school seniors, as well as 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 9, 2026 • 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 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving.