

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2025 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



REINDEER ACRES HOLIDAY CHEER TAKES FLIGHT

"NOT-FOR-PROFIT" MEANS "ALL FOR YOU"

WATER HEATER WOES

NRECA YOUTH TOUR — MAKE YOUR MARK



SMART ENERGY CHOICES ON THE COLDEST DAYS

**Eau Claire Energy
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By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

With winter comes the need to keep our homes warm despite colder days and longer nights. But winter in Wisconsin also brings the challenge of keeping our homes warm and comfortable without letting energy costs climb out of control. At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we want to help you enjoy a cozy holiday season while making small, smart energy choices that add up for you and for the community.

Keeping your home comfortable doesn't always require big changes. Sealing gaps around windows and doors, checking that furnace filters are clean, and keeping vents unobstructed are simple ways to make your home more efficient. Even minor adjustments, like lowering your thermostat a few degrees during the day or while sleeping, can make a meaningful difference in your energy use and your heating bill. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust your home's temperature

from anywhere and can enable you to program your thermostat to take the guesswork out of it.

For those relying on electric heat, programs like Dual Fuel are designed to help keep homes warm while managing costs. Members receive a lower electricity rate per kWh on their primary heating source on the dual fuel program. The tradeoff? During the coldest days, your primary heating system may be temporarily controlled, but your backup heating system keeps your home comfortable. The change is seamless for you, yet it helps the cooperative reduce the most expensive power purchases and manage system demands.

The holidays also bring extra energy use with festive lights, more cooking, and the warmth of family gatherings. You don't have to dim the magic to be energy smart. Use energy-efficient LED bulbs for decorations and consider grouping them on timers. Even simple actions, like closing curtains at night or

keeping doors to less-used rooms closed, help your home hold onto heat and save energy. Think of these small steps as little gifts to yourself: comfort, savings, and peace of mind wrapped together.

Before the year comes to a close, don't forget to turn in your incentive forms for any energy efficiency upgrades you've made to your home. From new heat pumps to insulation improvements, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative offers incentives to help you save. If you're still considering a project now is the perfect time to make your purchase and claim your incentive before the end of the year.

Throughout the season, small, thoughtful choices can make your home more comfortable and efficient. Whether it's adjusting your thermostat or simply making sure your heating system is ready for the cold days ahead, little steps add up to big energy savings. From all of us at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we wish you a warm and joyful holiday season.



How will you MAKE YOUR MARK?

June 14-20, 2026



A week of building memories, skills, leadership
and friendships that will last a lifetime!

Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!

- Explore Washington, D.C. through historic monuments, world-class museums, and visits with elected officials.
- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from across the country and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.

Learn more and apply at [https://www.ecec.com/
community/youth/washington_DC_tour](https://www.ecec.com/community/youth/washington_DC_tour)

MAKE  YOUR MARK!





NOW TAKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY AWARD

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.



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 

\$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**

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.

ECEC will be closed on December 24, 25, and 26 for the Christmas holiday and January 1 for New Years Day.