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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

January 2026

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**QUILTS, COMMUNITY,
AND CREATIVITY
BIND IN WITTENBERG**

PICKING WINNERS AND SOLAR LOSERS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
89TH ANNUAL MEETING!**



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

As we look ahead to 2026, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is preparing for a year centered on reliability, community engagement, and continued investment in the future. January is always a natural time to share what's on the horizon, and while I can't cover everything here, I'm glad to give you a glimpse of the work and opportunities ahead.

Out in the field, our crews will continue the regularly scheduled powerline rebuilds outlined in our system work plan. These projects help replace aging infrastructure, strengthen the grid, and reduce the likelihood of outages. Members will also see vegetation management crews throughout the year, with spraying in parts of the Ludington, and Cadott area and trimming schedule in parts of the Hallie, Layfayette, Seymour, and Washington areas of ECEC service territory. Routine pole inspections will take place in parts of the Lincoln, Washington, and Seymour areas, and underground inspections will take place in parts of the Washington and Pleasant Valley areas of our service territory. All members affected by these will receive

communication prior to inspections or vegetation management. These efforts may not be visible day to day, but they play a major role in keeping electricity safe and reliable for everyone.

We also look forward to gathering with members at two of our biggest events of the year: our Annual Meeting on March 17, 2026, and our Member Appreciation Event on October 10, 2026. These events are meaningful opportunities to connect face-to-face, share updates, and hear directly from the members we serve. We hope you'll join us and take part in the cooperative community that makes Eau Claire Energy Cooperative stronger.

Next year is also an election year, and ECEC will continue to advocate for issues that impact the energy industry and the members who rely on us. We will engage with policymakers, provide information on the challenges and opportunities facing electric cooperatives, and work to ensure that member interests are represented. As part of this effort, we will again host our Candidates Energy Forum on October 6, 2026, giving local candidates the opportunity to discuss energy-related

issues that affect our region.

Investing in the next generation continues to be a priority for us. Our Youth Ambassador Program meets monthly during the school year and provides local students with hands-on opportunities to learn about energy, cooperative leadership, and community involvement. Statewide programs like the Youth Leadership Congress and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., offer students additional opportunities to grow, learn, and broaden their horizons. We also continue to support local member-students through our scholarship program, which helps them take their next steps after graduation. In the coming year, we look forward to expanding these opportunities and continuing to support programs that build strong future leaders for our cooperative and our communities.

As we move into 2026, the work we have planned, whether in the field, in our communities, or in classrooms, reflects our commitment to our members. We are grateful for your continued trust and engagement, and we look forward to the progress and opportunities the new year will bring.

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!





89TH ANNUAL MEETING – CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER



Annual meeting is an important time of year for Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. It gives us the opportunity to connect with our members and reflect on the work that keeps your power reliable and your cooperative strong. It's our opportunity to highlight the dedication, expertise, and service that drive our cooperative forward.

At the meeting, you'll hear important cooperative and financial updates, learn about key projects and initiatives from the past year, and help honor this year's Concern for Community Award recipient. Members will also have the opportunity to meet and interact with cooperative employees who maintain the lines, support our members, manage innovative programs, and keep ECEC

running smoothly. And as always, members attending in person will be entered to win one of ten \$100 bills!

Your engagement plays a vital role in shaping the future of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. The annual meeting is a great opportunity to stay informed, stay connected, and learn more about the work being done on your behalf.

Mark your calendar and join us for the 89th Annual Meeting of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Florian Gardens. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will follow. We look forward to celebrating the people behind your power, and connecting with you—our members. We can't wait to see you there!

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join us for the 89th Annual
Meeting of Eau Claire
Energy Cooperative on
Tuesday March 17, 2026 at
the Florian Gardens.

Happy New Year

MAKE YOUR 2026 RESOLUTION TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY

A new year is the perfect time for a fresh start. Whether it's improving your fitness, saving money, or reducing stress, resolutions often inspire positive change, but they can be notoriously hard to stick with. We've got a few resolutions that are simple, practical, and easy to keep.

Stay Connected and in Control with SmartHub

SmartHub makes managing your electric account easier than ever. From your smartphone, tablet, or computer, you can view and pay bills, track energy usage, report outages, and receive important notifications. SmartHub puts your account at your fingertips, helping you stay informed and engaged year-round.

Simplify Your Life with Autopay

Autopay takes the stress out of monthly bills. Set it up once, and your payment is automatically processed each month. That means no more due dates to remember, no more late fees, and one less thing on your to-do list. Autopay helps you start the year organized and stay that way, freeing you to focus on what matters most.

Use SmartHub to Track and Improve Energy Efficiency

SmartHub isn't just a billing tool; it's a powerful way to understand and manage your home's energy use. By reviewing your past months of usage and adopting simple, no-cost habits like turning off lights and unplugging devices, adjusting your thermostat a few degrees, and checking for drafts around windows and doors, you can make meaningful changes that save energy and money. With SmartHub guiding your usage awareness, small adjustments can lead to big results.

Start 2026 with a resolution you'll actually keep. Enrolling in SmartHub and Autopay is quick, simple, and delivers benefits all year long—greater convenience, fewer hassles, and better control over your energy use. Sign up today through the SmartHub app or at www.ecec.com/my_account/smarthub.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

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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.