



**July 2025**

## **BE SAFE: STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES**

Serving our members is the top priority of everyone who works at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. While serving our members, though, doing it in a safe manner is another top priority.

Our linemen take many precautions when they work around power lines. This includes wearing flame retardant clothing, hard hats, and safety glasses. In addition, they also wear special rubber gloves for their hands and rubber sleeves over their arms to help protect them from the electricity flowing through power lines.



With safety a top priority for the co-op while we serve our members, everyone here at CWEC encourages our members to also be safe around downed power lines. Downed power lines are not limited to the summer months, as weather conditions and car accidents that take down power lines can happen anytime of the year.

If you come upon a downed power line, please stay away from it. Even if the downed power line is not smoking, sparking, or on fire, the power line could still be energized. For that reason, it is imperative that you not touch a downed power line, and do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.



## **BOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$900 STEAM GRANT**

The Bowler School District has received a \$900 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be used for purchasing calculators to be used by middle and high school students for science and math classes.

Kathleen Hansen, high school science teacher in the Bowler School District, said many students in the district do not have their own calculator.



"A lot of times it's on the teachers to provide the calculator for the class," Hansen said. "This way, everyone has one available. We're not scrambling around looking for a calculator that actually works."

The funds will be used to purchase 100 calculators, as well as miscellaneous paper supplies to be used by the science and math classes. The calculators to be purchased will be more advanced than a basic four-function calculator, but won't be a highly-advance calculator. They will be used in the following classes: 7th and 8th grade math, pre-algebra, integrated math, biology, ecology, chemistry, physics, and science for grades 7-9.

[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

## **THREE SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY**

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting to your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

### Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.



[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

## METER POLE REPLACEMENT FEE TO INCREASE JULY 1

Beginning July 1, the amount that Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will charge to replace a meter pole on a member's property will increase from \$600 to \$800.





## RECENT REVIEW OF EPA RULES SIGNAL RELIABILITY WINS

By Molly Christian,  
NRECA

Electric cooperatives are applauding a recent series of actions announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These actions would alleviate reliability and cost challenges for electric co-ops across the U.S.



The EPA said it will review and reconsider the Biden administration's power plant greenhouse gas rule. The agency also plans to reconsider other rules hindering America's energy dominance, including the mercury and air rule, ozone transport rule and power plant wastewater rule. The agency will also address a number of fundamental problems with the coal ash program and take other actions to unleash American energy while protecting the environment.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents electric cooperatives in D.C., flagged concerns with these rules in a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin in January. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson



met with Zeldin at EPA's headquarters to discuss these issues. The letter served as a policy roadmap recommending ways the EPA could address harmful regulations for electric co-ops while ensuring reliable and affordable power and promoting a healthy environment.

[READ THE REST OF THE STORY](#)

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025, in recognition of the Independence Day holiday.

From everyone at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July holiday.

## GET YOUR PHOTOS ENTERED IN THE 2024 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

There is less than two months to enter your photos in the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's annual "Life in Rural Wisconsin" photo contest for members' photos to be featured in the 2026 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Central Wisconsin Electric



Cooperative service area.

- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.)
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Contest will run until August 25, 2025; however, submitted photos can be taken during anytime of the year.

### Photo Contest Entry Options:

**Email:** Bert Lehman at [bert.lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:bert.lehman@cwecoop.com)

**Mail:** PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

Online: [www.cwecoop.com/member-photo-contest](http://www.cwecoop.com/member-photo-contest)

**Drop Off:** Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Office – 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size if dropped off at our office.)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website at: [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com)

[ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE HERE](#)

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