



**August 2024**

## **GILMEISTER, MELUM AWARDED UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIPS**

Kalee Gilmeister, of Eland, and Carter Melum, of Iola, have each been named recipients of the 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. Each will receive \$1,000 for their studies.

CWEC established the scholarship to help address a forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility.



**Gilmeister**

**Melum**

### **Kalee Gilmeister**

Gilmeister, a 2024 graduate of D.C. Everest High School, said she decided to pursue a career as an electric utility worker because she wanted to pursue a career in the trades, and to do something that helps other people.

"I feel like it's going to be something that I honestly will really enjoy," Gilmeister said.

Because Gilmeister's mom works for a plumbing, heating, and electrical company, Gilmeister said electricity is something that has interested her. This had her thinking about becoming an electrician. But after speaking with the career coach at D.C. Everest, Gilmeister said he encouraged her to consider the Electrical Distribution program at Northcentral Technical College (NTC).

[READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

# OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

With donations from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's members through the Operation Round Up program,

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
TO OUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

\$24,400 has been awarded to students pursuing a post-high school education. Of that total, \$19,000 was approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, to be awarded to first-time scholarship applicants who will be attending a technical college or university. For more information about the 38 students who were awarded a \$500 scholarship, click the button below.

CWEC also awarded \$200 Operation Round Up scholarships to 27 repeat scholarship applicants.

We thank our members who participate in the Operation Round Up program.

[VIEW THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS](#)

## DID YOU GET A CALL FROM CWEC?

With the discontinuance of the load management program for water heaters, we are in the process of contacting members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative who were part of the program. The purpose of the contact is to schedule an appointment to remove the load management receivers from their water heaters. If you receive a message from CWEC regarding the removal of a load management receiver, please return the message so we can get your appointment scheduled. Only members who have load management receivers will be contacted. If you have any questions, please call 715-677-2213.



## ELECTRICITY PROVIDES POWERFUL VALUE

For a lot of people, there are aspects of their lives that become sort of a daily routine. We may get ready for work, get in our car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At

lunchtime, we may drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once we finally end the day at home, we may stream an episode or two of our favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, we

begin to think about our daily routine and how much value it has provided compared to the money we spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink can set you back \$10, and a Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even if you start packing your own lunch, a latte would still cost you about \$120 a month. This can cause you to wonder if this is the best value for your money?

# Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. That's real value.



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

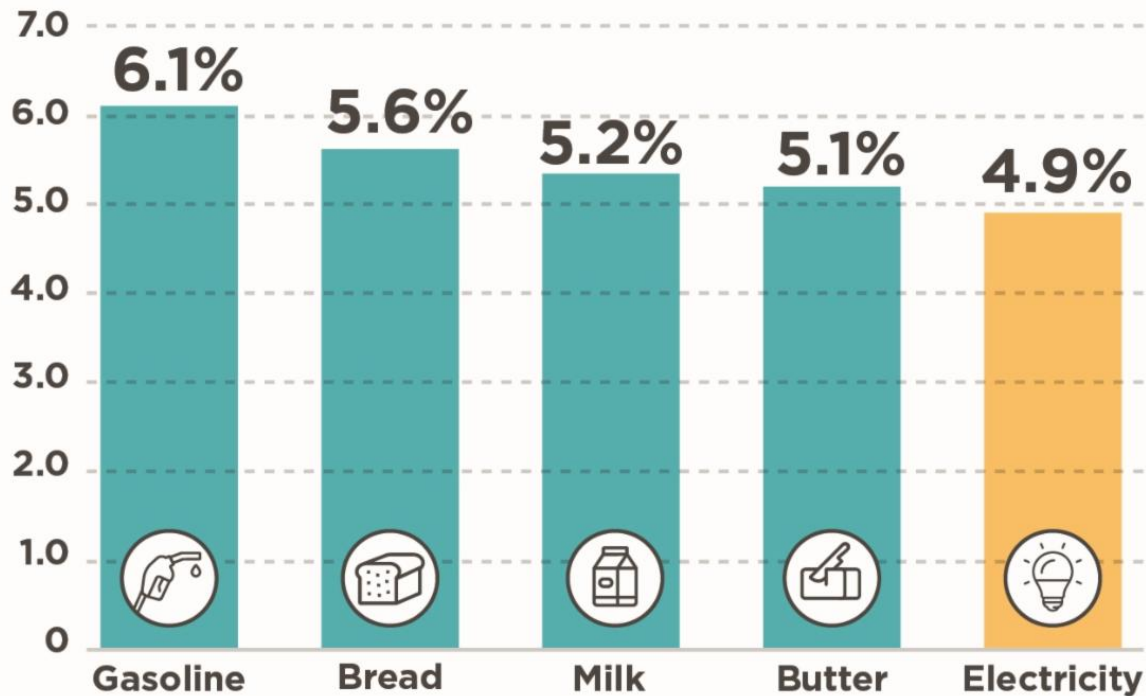
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# ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

## Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023

Percent



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index

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

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding its annual "Life in Rural Wisconsin" photo contest for members' photos to be featured in the 2025 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 26, 2024; 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](#)

## EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

As a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do.

Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, we believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

### IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1** Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2** Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3** Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4** Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5** Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

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**THE POWER OF SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES**

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can conveniently control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.



## TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

- 1. Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
- 2. Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
- 3. Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength.
- 4. Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.

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