



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

INSTALLATION OF NEW METER SYSTEM BEGINS

The installation of a new meter system for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) began in August, when new meters began to be installed as part of a pilot program of 178 meters in the area of the Iola substation. Once the meters are installed and operational, information from the meters will be transmitted to the CWEC office and downloaded. Residential meters can be read every hour, while commercial meters can be read every 15 minutes.

Once we know that everything is working properly with the meters in the pilot program, meters will begin to be installed throughout the CWEC territory.

We have contracted with Allegiant Utility Services to swap out the old meters with the new meters. The technician will be driving a truck with Allegiant on the side of it. When the technician arrives at a property to install the new meter, he will knock on the door of the residence to inform the resident he is there to install the new meter. He will also give the resident a door hanger notifying them that the new meter has been

installed. The only disruption to power should be a “blink” when the old meter is switched to the new meter.

The start of this project is the culmination of work that began in May of 2021. At that time the co-op hired Power System Engineering (PSE) to help us choose a new meter system. The meter system being replaced was implemented in 2007 and has become obsolete. We can no longer purchase meters for the system. The system also requires co-op personnel to manually read 900 meters each month. It takes our entire line department two full days to read all the meters. The new meter system uses radio frequency (RF), so data can be transmitted to our office electronically, thus saving many hours of labor for CWEC personnel.

In August 2021, CWEC chose Eaton/Cannon as the vendor for the new AMI meter system to be installed at CWEC. Eaton was the vendor that best fit our needs for metering data and financial costs. This system was the least expensive of all the systems reviewed by the co-op, but the system has all the features that we requested. The CWEC Board of Directors approved the project at its

October meeting in 2021.

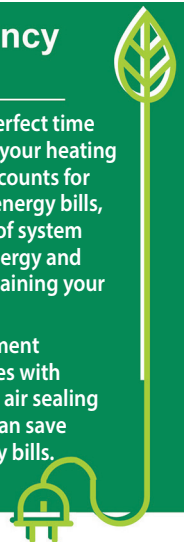
We were finally able to start purchasing items for the new AMI system in April 2022. But due to supply-chain issues, there was a delay of 6-9 months in receiving the ordered equipment. Even though the project was delayed, and has taken longer than anticipated to begin, I am happy that we are finally moving forward with it. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The June regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on June 29, 2023 at 7:59 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the May 25, 2023 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and co-interim CEOs' expenses.
 - Jarret Brow gave an informational presentation to the board on his experience in Chinle, AZ, helping with the Navajo Nation Lighting Project.
 - Michael Greiveldinger and Scot McClure from Alliant Energy gave an informational presentation to the board via Teams on how the annual true-up is calculated for West Riverside.
 - Dee Fox gave an informational presentation to the board on CWEC's safety program over the past year.
 - The board approved the continued use of the Community Room for the following:
 - Town of Alban – monthly board meetings and elections, with the acceptance of a written agreement
 - Co-op related business meetings and events
 - Employees
- Rental of the room by members or outside groups will no longer be allowed.

- The board approved an economic development REDLG loan for the Village of Rosholt in the amount of \$200,000.
- The board approved ATC's Notice of Third Capital Call for Voluntary Additional Capital Contributions in 2023 in the amount of \$41,308.

Operations – Kevin Kurtzweil reported all the Gateway poles have been set. Operations is researching the cause of the recent outage at Neuske's. The fire protection system has been repaired and is now working. The material inventory graph was reviewed, showing lower inventory 2017-2020 with 2021 to current being higher due to an increase in the work plan.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower reported May has had the largest PCA in quite some time. Next month's numbers should be better due to increase in sales and West Riverside being in operation all month. Vegetation management will be completed in August.

Member Relations – Brenda Mazemke reported Richard Beyer has agreed to serving on the Member Advisory Group. Top Brass has paid off their revolving loan. Mary Erickson from WECA will be featuring our Navajo article in their magazine. Rural Health Initiative stopped by to pick up their donation check from the Federated Youth Foundation Funds.

Administrative Services – Lori Patoka reported on the letter received from Federated Insurance regarding changes to their cyber insurance program and the anticipated rate increase moving forward.

Interim CEOs – Kevin Kurtzweil and Lila Shower reviewed their co-interim submitted CEO reports.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

OPERATION ROUND UP CONTINUES TO HELP AREA COMMUNITIES

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?

Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month. Electric bills are simply “rounded up” to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly “round up” could be as little as a single penny, but never more than 99 cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.



Wittenberg Booster Club

Chester L. Krause Legacy Park



Iola Historical Society

Rosholt School District

Jensen Community Center



Iola-Scandinavia School District

Birnamwood Polka Days



Scandinavia Fire Department

Mama's House of Hope

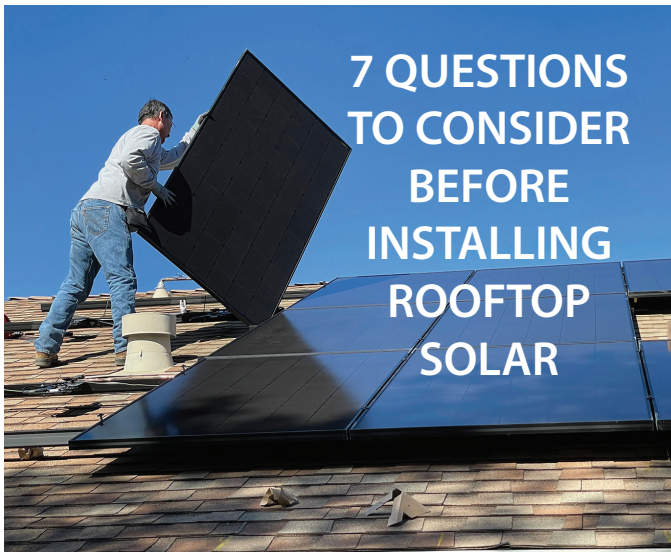
**TOTAL OPERATION
ROUND UP FUNDS
DONATED: \$639,564**

FIRST QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- **\$1,000 – Rosholt School District** to be used for their “Learning Buddies” programs and field trips or learning opportunities.
- **\$1,000 – Chester L. Krause Legacy Park** to help with the cost to develop the park.
- **\$1,000 – Individual medical hardship** donation.
- **\$300 – Iola Historical Society** to help with its five projects with high priority merit and demand stand out for 2023.
- **\$300 – Jensen Community Center** to help support the community activities held at the center.
- **\$250 – Birnamwood Polka Days** to help pay for their community event. At the end of the year the organization will give back to their community by completing a project within the community.
- **\$250 – Tigerton School District** to support their MS/HS “PAWSitive” program, which includes purchasing gift cards, merchandise, school spirit wear, etc. which are given to students who exhibit PAWS traits. This is organized by their PBIS Committee.
- **\$250 – Wittenberg-Birnamwood Booster Club** for the W-B Booster Bash fundraising event. All proceeds and donations go back to the various activities and needs they sponsor in their district.

SECOND QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- **\$1,000 – Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Department** to help raise money to purchase tools and equipment to meet their needs.
- **\$500 – Mama's House of Hope** to be used for its backpack program.
- **\$500 – Iola-Scandinavia School District** to help with the costs of the school's involvement with Jorgens Park Preserve and the I-S School Forest programs.
- **\$500 – Tigerton Main Street/American Legion Auxiliary Unit 239** to help with its fundraiser to put up a memorial sign at their Veterans Memorial Park for a local boy who became a WWII Hero.
- **\$250 – Iola Lions/Lioness Post Prom** to help pay for the entertainment, food, and prizes for the event.
- **\$250 – Wittenberg Area Historical Society** to help with their fundraiser event “Then and There, There and Now.”



“Free energy from the sun and lower electric bills... Where do I sign up?”

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is, not every home (and homeowner's situation) is always right for solar.

There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a rooftop solar system, like determining if your home will receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts, and other important details.

Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you're considering rooftop solar, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative can help.

Here are seven questions to consider before installing rooftop solar panels.

- 1. What are my goals?** If your primary goal is to save money on electric bills, you may be able to achieve this through our energy audit program, which can identify areas of the home for maximum energy savings.
- 2. Is my roof suitable for solar?** Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. If your roof is old and in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system. Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted.
- 3. How long will I own the home?** If you're considering rooftop solar, you're likely planning to stay in the home for several years. But if you plan to sell the home at some point down the road, consider that not all potential buyers will want to maintain a rooftop solar system. For any contract you sign, carefully review the terms and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.

There are several factors you'll want to discuss upfront with contractors.

4. Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?

It may seem obvious but be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractor's licensing, permitting, and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor's status with the Better Business Bureau, etc.—do your homework on the front end before signing a contract.

- 5. Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?** If you decide to hire a contractor to install rooftop solar, carefully read the fine print of the contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic? Does the project timeframe sound reasonable? Negotiate the contract terms to fit your goals and needs.

- 6. Who will maintain the solar panels?** If you own the system, you will be responsible for maintaining the solar panels. Periodically, solar panels need to be cleaned as dirt and debris can impact panel productivity. Parts may also need to be replaced, so it's important to know what your responsibilities are.

- 7. How will I work with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative?** Finally, but equally important, you should contact CWEC if you decide to install solar. The system must be connected to the electric grid, so you'll need to sign an interconnection agreement. We can walk you through the steps, including how our solar rates and fees work. Contact our office at 715-677-2211 to speak with John LaValley, our energy specialist, for all your solar energy system questions.

For many homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills—but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system.

As with any major home project, do plenty of research upfront, and contact CWEC if you have questions or decide to move forward with installation.

We're your local energy partner and can serve as a helpful resource throughout the process.



WISCONSIN TERRITORIES FARM MARKET OFFERS A VARIETY OF ITEMS

When Darryl Schulist and his wife, Christina, and Nick Schulist and his wife, Payton, purchased Wisconsin Territories Farm Market in Rosholt a couple of years ago, they knew they would have to make changes to the business. But being customers of the business prior to purchasing it, they wanted to make sure the business survived into the future, which is ultimately what pushed them to purchase the business.

"We've been coming here for years, and we didn't want to see it go down," Nick Schulist said.

During the first year, they ran the business with the help of the previous owner. Last winter they made major



changes to the business. The entire inside of the building was remodeled, including the addition of insulation and a fresh produce cooler. The greenhouses were redone, with an automatic watering system added. Raised garden beds were also added.

"We've stuck a lot of hard work and effort into this place," Nick Schulist said.

Both Nick and Darryl Schulist said they are very happy with the changes and how customers have responded to the changes.

"They love it," Nick Schulist said. "The returning clientele is unbelievable. We've noticed a huge difference from last year to this year. This year being more returning than even last year as far as foot traffic, so it's been pretty good."

Wisconsin Territories is open seasonally from April through the beginning of December. Customers can order food, as they have been able to in the past, but now from an expanded menu.

There are also a variety of items

available to purchase, with those items coming from local vendors.

"We want to keep it as much local as possible," Nick Schulist said. "We want to support every locally owned business that we can."

The business has always been known for having fresh produce, such as sweet corn, pickles, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, peppers, and more. That hasn't changed. Around half of the produce available is grown by Darryl and Nick Schulist.

Fresh fruit is also available, depending on the season, including strawberries and blueberries.

Flowers are available, with fall mums set to be available in the fall. Also available in the fall will be pumpkins, gourds, and possibly Indian corn.

Plenty of other items are offered at Wisconsin Territories, some introduced since the business was purchased. These include fresh canned goods, butter, cheese, honey, and maple syrup. The maple syrup

is made from sap that Darryl and Nick Schulist collect on their property. Locally raised meat is also available, including beef, pork, and bison.

"Last year we tried canning stuff, and we couldn't keep it on the shelves. And we still can't," Darryl Schulist said.

Customers can also find bakery items, including cookies, pies, breads, and muffins.

"They do it seasonal too," Darryl Schulist said. "There'll be fresh strawberry pies when the strawberries are in. They have blueberry items when the blueberries are in."

This year they sold trees in the spring, which sold out. They also added wrought-iron items and lawn ornaments to the list of items available to customers. This holiday season they plan to sell Christmas wreaths and trees.

Darryl and Nick Schulist said the plan for the business is to keep improving it each year.





Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Our Mission

We are your trusted energy
partner and provider of
valued community support.