



February 2024

ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARDS INCREASED

Winter has been a little mild this year, but we still have a little time to enjoy the things we like most about the colder season before spring brings renewed life once again. Speaking of renewal, perhaps you have a project in mind for your home this year. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), your cooperative, offers energy conservation rebates through its Energy Conservation Rewards program. As of January 1, 2024, many of these offerings have increased for energy efficiency purchases including home heating and cooling fixtures, insulation, and Energy Star rated appliances.



For 2024, CWEC will no longer offer electric water heaters for sale to its membership. There have also been changes to the rebates offered for electric water heaters because of this. The cooperative is currently offering the following incentives for water heaters. To qualify for an incentive, the water heater must have a 50-gallon capacity.

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**New phone number
for our Pay by Phone
Service.**

**The new number is:
1-855-963-3774**

TOP FIVE ENERGY USERS IN YOUR HOME

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration



Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

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CWEC WELCOMES JODI BRUMER

Jodi Brumer started as an administrative assistant with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) on Jan. 2.

Prior to joining CWEC, Brumer worked for Marshfield

Medical Center for 10 years in a similar position. In all, she worked in the healthcare field for more than 20 years.

With many changes occurring in the healthcare field, Brumer said she was looking for a change, and is happy to be joining CVEC.

She said she is interested to see what things are similar between the healthcare and energy industries, as well as what things are completely different.



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CLEARING THE PATH TO RELIABILITY

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CVEC) strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

- 1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).
- 2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.
- 3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.

Trimming improves safety for all.
Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

Reliability

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see CVEC crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

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BE SAFE AROUND ICE AND IN THE COLD

This winter's weather has

been a wild ride.

Fluctuating temperatures across the state have caused both snowmobile trail and ice conditions to change regularly. Be prepared for the elements by checking conditions before you head out.

If your plans include access to or use of an ice-covered waterbody, contact your local fishing clubs, bait shops or outfitters for ice conditions. Remember that no ice is safe ice.



If your plans include snowmobiling, check trail conditions with local snowmobile clubs or on Travel Wisconsin's Snow Report:

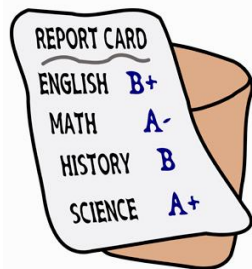
<https://www.travelwisconsin.com/snowreport/snowmobile>

And if the snowmobile trail you had your heart set on is closed, don't trespass or ride off-trail.

ICE SAFETY

Think twice before going near cold water or ice, especially with the fluctuating temperatures we're seeing around Wisconsin.

READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE



**WE
NEED
YOUR
GRADES**

We are still in need of grades from some students who were awarded an Operation Round Up scholarship in 2023. If you haven't done so already, please submit a copy of your first semester grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester so you can receive your scholarship money.

Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average and have been a full time student, 12+ earned credits, during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money.

You can mail or email your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) has funds available to assist in the financing of new or expanding businesses that create or retain jobs. Partnering with USDA, CWECC offers low rate loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to qualifying applicants. CWECC's loan fund is designed to complement local lender financing programs including conventional, SBA, CDBG and WHEDA. For more information please call CWECC at 715-677-2211.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider.

CWEC
Attn: Scholarship Program
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

Email: brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com

SAVE THE DATE:

CWEC Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 18

**Registration: 5:15 p.m.; Meeting: 6 p.m.
Iola-Scandinavia High School**

Letters to Santa - Stocking Winners



1st Place
Russell Galbraith



2nd Place
Luken Schreiber



3rd Place
Oden Jankowski

Bill Payment
Options

Energy
Conservation
Rewards

Small Business
Loans

Operation Round
Up Information

Thinking about
adding solar
energy?

Community
Events Calendar



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**
10401 Lystul Road
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211

[Contact Us](#)

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative | 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, WI 54473

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