



**January 2024**

## **TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN REACHES ALMOST 1,200 AREA CHILDREN**

The generosity of area residents, organizations, and businesses, helped make sure almost 1,200 area children received toys for Christmas through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign.

That marked an increase of almost 150 children when compared to the 2022 CWEC Toys for Tots campaign.

Toy donations were collected at more than 30 area businesses in Birnamwood, Bowler, Clintonville, Iola, Manawa, Marion, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Waupaca, and Wittenberg. Monetary donations were also collected, which were used to purchase toys. With those donations, roughly 3,200 toys, 350 books, and 1,000 stocking stuffers were distributed to area children. Those totals were an increase from 2022.



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## **LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR WATER HEATERS DISCONTINUED**

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has discontinued its load management



program for water heaters. By discontinuing the program, the need for co-op employees to enter the homes of its members has been eliminated.

A letter was sent to CVEC members who were enrolled in the load management program for water heaters to notify them that the program has been discontinued. The letter included information about CVEC hiring a third-party to set-up appointments with members to have the load management receivers removed from their water heaters.



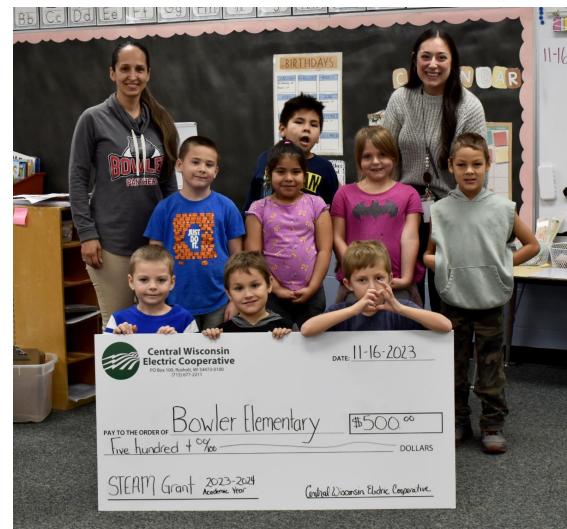
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## **\$500 STEAM GRANT AWARDED TO BOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Bowler School District has been awarded a \$500 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to purchase STEAM bins to help promote science, technology, engineering, art, and math for its first-grade students.

Tarah Malotky, first grade teacher at Bowler Elementary School, said the STEAM bins, which will be able to be used for years into the future, contain items that help students develop their problem-solving skills and their creativity.

"The first thing they're most excited about are magnet tiles," Malotky said. "They are little blocks that magnet together, but I also have a workbook so there's different challenges for them to do. That's what I'm most excited about because I really want to see how creative they can be and if they can problem solve to build all those."



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## **HOW EXTREME WEATHER IMPACTS RELIABILITY**

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CVEC), we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure





planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and CWeC will inform you about the situation.

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## BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE ELECTRIC GRID

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.



What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

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BEST BETS FOR

# Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

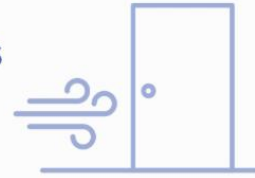
## UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

## ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



## USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



## MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

## LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



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

[Unsubscribe brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com)

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