



June 2023

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

"We're here to serve you."
We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us – your local electric cooperative – they mean everything.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, CWEC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.



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GET SMART ABOUT HOME LIGHTING

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

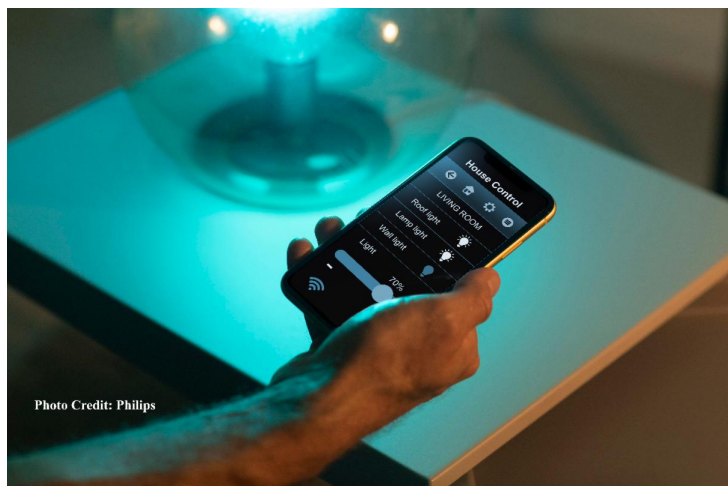


Photo Credit: Philips

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

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2023 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2024 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, 2023; however, submitted photos can be taken during anytime of the year.



[INFORMATION ON HOW TO ENTER](#)

DRIVING BEHIND FARM EQUIPMENT: DO YOUR PART

Spring planting, and summer and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers

have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019.

Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.



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KEEP POWER POLES FREE AND CLEAR

This is a reminder to all our members that nothing should be placed on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative power poles. This includes, but is not limited to: posters, flyers, decorations, birdhouses, lights, etc.

The poles need to be clear of items because sometimes CWEC linemen need to climb the poles, and items on the poles can make that task more difficult and dangerous.



BUSS DAIRY FARM RECEIVES ENERGY CONSERVATION REBATES

With the lighting deteriorating in one of the buildings that houses cows on his farm, William Buss knew he had to do something to improve the lighting. One of the options was to replace the fluorescent light fixtures with LED light fixtures.

The decision was easy once he found out that his farm would qualify for energy conservation rebates from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) if he made the switch to LED lights.



"It made the project make sense," Buss said. "Without the energy conservation rebates, we probably would have just stuck money into new light bulbs."

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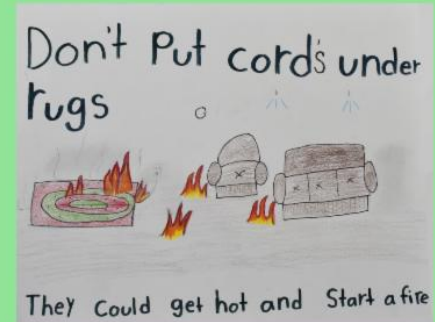
ELECTRICITY SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



First Place
Molly Rzentkowski



Second Place
Maguire Schuster



Third Place
Aubrey Nellesen

Congratulations to the following third grade students for placing in the top three in the Electricity Safety Poster Contest at the local level.

1st Place – Molly Rzentkowski (will receive a \$25 check from CWEC & a \$25 Gift Card from Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association)

2nd Place – Maguire Schuster (will receive a \$15 check from CWEC)

3rd Place – Aubrey Nellesen (will receive a \$10 check from CWEC)

Their entries have moved on to the state competition.

We received 22 entries this year. Entries are on display in the CWEC lobby.

FOURTH-GRADERS LEARN HOW TO BE SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY

To help promote Electrical Safety Month in May, linemen from Central Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative (CWECC) put on electrical safety demonstrations for fourth grade students at six elementary schools in the CWECC service area. Elementary schools included those located in Birnamwood, Bowler, Iola, Rosholt, Tigerton, and Wittenberg.

The demonstrations showed

students firsthand the dangers that could occur if they aren't safe with electricity. Students got to see some of the safety equipment linemen need to wear when they do work around power lines, as well as what above ground and underground power lines look like. Linemen also showed the students what would happen if a tree branch, kite string, and fishing line come in contact with a power line.

To help convey how dangerous electricity is, students were shown what would happen if a human hand touched a power line. A hot dog was used to demonstrate this.

Finally, students were informed about what to do if they were involved in a vehicle accident that resulted in a downed power line. And if need be, how to properly exit a vehicle in that situation.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CWEC ELECTRICITY DEMONSTRATIONS

Bill Payment
Options

Energy
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Operation Round
Up Information

Thinking about
adding solar
energy?

Community
Events Calendar



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