



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

FROM HERE TO THERE

With Thanksgiving Day just around the corner, I am looking forward to the smell of a Thanksgiving meal with pumpkin pie and the sound of a football game coming from the living room. My son will be home from college, so we will be able to catch up on his activities and find out if he has picked up any

bad habits in Madison. My daughter will be out of high school for a few days, so she will get to discuss (argue) with my son about all of the changes she has made to his room. Although my children are growing up, I am proud of them and glad that we can spend a few days together. Whatever your holiday plans are, I hope that each of you has a blessed and safe Thanksgiving Day.

At their September board meeting, the cooperative's board of directors approved changes to our electric rates. The most dramatic change was an increase in the monthly facility charge from \$29 to \$33 for our standard residential rate. The facility charge is used for fixed monthly expenses that do not vary with the use of electricity. As we enter into an era where energy sales are on the decline, we must increase the facility charge to allow us to continue providing the maintenance programs that are so valuable to our commitment to safe and reliable service. Although several rates will be increasing, we have other rates that will be decreasing slightly. The cost-of-service study that was conducted to analyze rate performance

indicated that several rates were performing adequately and that the rate could be reduced.

We will be working on modifications to our billing format to make the bill more readable. The cost of generating and transmitting energy will be shown under a new label entitled Power Supply, and the monthly fixed charge will be changed from Facility charge to Service Availability charge. We feel

In keeping with our cooperative principles, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$151,987.

these are more representative of what these charges signify. Look for these format changes in January.

In keeping with our cooperative principals, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$151,978.

If your capital credits were part of the retirement, you will have noticed a credit on your electric bill or have received a check in the mail. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you, and be safe as you travel this holiday season.

BUSINESS LOANS AVAILABLE

If you're looking to expand your business or farm operation, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative may be able to help. Through money we received from USDA Rural Development we have established a revolving loan fund. Low rate loans of \$5,000 to \$50,000 are available to qualifying applicants. The revolving loan fund is designed to complement local lender financing programs including conventional, SBA, CDBG, and WHEDA. You do not have to be a member of the co-op to qualify for the loan, if you meet the requirements. For more information please contact Mark Forseth at the co-op.

IS YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT?

With winter fast approaching, many of our members are questioning if their homes are energy efficient. If you're sure it isn't or if you're not sure, we recommend you consider having an energy audit done. Your cooperative has partnered with state-approved auditors that use a variety of techniques and equipment to determine the energy efficiency of your home. Thorough audits include the use of blower doors (pictured), which measure the extent of air leaks in your home, and infrared cameras, which reveal hard-to-detect areas of air infiltration and missing insulation.



There is an upfront charge for the audit. However, to encourage completion of recommended energy upgrades, we offer rebates that can pay for most, if not all, of the cost of the audit.

To assist you in completing the energy upgrades the auditor recommends, we're pleased to offer weatherization rebates of up to \$250.

These rebates are in addition to the audit rebates mentioned earlier. Additional funds may also be available through our Capital Credits for Conservation program. Please call the co-op for more information or to arrange to have an audit done.



RATE STUDY:

Rate Design

Over the past several months we have discussed a rate study undertaken by the cooperative. The rate study is a necessary responsibility of management and the board of directors of the cooperative to ensure that the cooperative continues to operate in a financially sound manner.

Past articles walked you through the rate study process starting with examining the revenue requirements of your cooperative. Then we looked at the costs associated with providing service to our members. The third leg of the study was a review of ways your cooperative has managed and does manage costs. We then held member forums throughout our service area to garner input from our members. The input we received from those forums and from our Member Advisory Group assisted us greatly in the final, and arguably the most difficult, leg of the rate study journey—rate design.

The objectives of a typical rate design, including CWEC's, are that they're fair and equitable, they're financially adequate, they avoid abrupt changes, they're accepted by our members, they promote efficient use, they're comparable with neighboring cooperatives, they're easy to understand, there's continuity between rates, and they reflect causation.

You may be thinking, what does continuity between rates and reflecting causation mean? Your cooperative has several different classes of services, each with its own specific rate. For example, residential services have different rates from commercial accounts, which are both different from agriculture accounts. There are even different classes of services within the residential and commercial categories. The goal of a sound rate design is to align the rate being applied to each class of service with the cost of providing the service. We'll discuss this more a little later in this article, but for now we'd like to discuss facility charge.

The facility charge component of your bill recovers some of the fixed costs that come from providing service to you

regardless of how much electricity is used. Assessed as a daily charge, this charge currently ranges from \$29–\$32 per month for residential and minimum use accounts, to \$40–\$55 per month for agriculture and commercial accounts.

Our cost-of-service study recommends a facility charge of \$51.27 for residential accounts and higher for agriculture and commercial accounts. While we certainly are not going to increase the charge to that level, your board of directors recognizes that an adjustment is necessary. After extensive review of the rate study and considering the input received at the member forums and from the Member Advisory Group, the board approved increasing facility charges for residential classes by approximately \$4 per month and for agriculture and commercial by \$6 to \$10,

depending on service class. These increases will take effect December 1, 2016, and be reflected on January 2017 bills.

Now, back to rates. The rate study revealed that the projected future revenue from our current rates won't be sufficient to cover the projected future cost of

service. The rate study also showed some classes of service are underpaying and some are overpaying, with residential classes showing the largest amount of underpayment.

As stated earlier, the goal of a rate design is to have equity between and within rate classes. Your board of directors has had long discussions to determine what, if any, rate adjustment for each service class is necessary. It's important to note that your board of directors takes its responsibility to set fair rates very seriously. After all, they are members of the cooperative and pay the same rates. At the board meeting in September, your board of directors approved a new schedule of rates to take effect December 1, 2016. With this new rate plan some service classes will experience a rate increase; likewise, some will see a decrease. We will outline the details and show the effect the new rates will have on each service class in the December and January issues of this magazine.

Your board of directors takes its responsibility to set fair rates very seriously. After all, they are members of the cooperative and pay the same rates.

CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS REVEALED!

The 2016 Member Photo Contest capturing “Life in Rural Wisconsin” is now complete, and the 22 winning photos have been revealed! The selected photos will be featured in the 2017 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Calendar, first available on Saturday, October 29, at our Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast.

- Judy Johnson – cover
- Michelle Adserias – January
- Judy Johnson – February
- Scott Maichle – March
- Phyllis Delikowski – April
- Phyllis Kolodziej – May
- Shirl Tischauser – June
- Kaitlyn McAuly – July
- Kimberly Schreiber-Duffek – August
- Michelle Adserias – September
- Randy Rosenberger – October
- Mary Ellie – November
- Patricia Krzmarcik – December
- Betty Johnson – January 2018



Honorable Mention

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Deb McCue | Dan Bembenek |
| Patricia Krzmarcik | Beth Algiers-Manley |
| Mary Ellie | Joann Christian |

With over 70 entries this year, the voting committee members had their work cut out for them. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative graciously thanks all of the members who participated by sharing their beautiful works of art! Information for the 2017 contest will be available in February 2017. To view all of the winning photos go to www.cwecoop.com.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business will resume on Monday, November 28. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6, 2016

Remember to move your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5, 2016.



MY CO-OP

MAINSTREET MESSENGER MEDICAL ALERT

“Personal Independence with Peace of Mind”

Living alone can be an uneasy situation, especially for elderly individuals or those with medical difficulties. MainStreet Messenger Medical Alert provided by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative allows individuals the satisfaction of independent living and the peace of mind that comes with knowing there is always someone to help.

We have been providing MainStreet Messenger Medical Alert to individuals since 1997, with installations in the home, senior care facility, or apartment. MainStreet Messenger is a 24-hour, 365 day/year monitoring service. With the touch of a button, the individual is connected with the response center. An automated computer system will display all of the subscriber information, such as address, family contacts, and medical history. The unit has a powerful speaker on it that will open up two-way voice



communication. If medical help is needed, the family contacts and the proper authorities are notified, if necessary.

CWEC staff provides in-home installation. They will contact you and set up an appointment to install the unit and demonstrate. To hook up the unit you will need a landline phone jack with service. The buttons are waterproof, so they can be worn in the shower, bath, etc.

The cost is \$29.95 per month plus sales tax, and we do not charge an installation fee.

We work with a variety of county departments, including the Department of Aging and Social Service, as well as health-care facilities, rehabilitation centers, senior care centers, hospitals, and clinics.

We are centrally located in Wisconsin and pride ourselves in being able to provide a quality service to you. Our service is available to anyone who needs it; you do not need to be a member of the co-op. It is available to anyone in parts of Waupaca, Portage, Marathon, or Shawano counties.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this, or would like us to provide a demonstration to your group or facility, contact us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative 1-800-377-2932.



PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT REBATES AVAILABLE

You can save money on your heating bills by simply resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat.

Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating according to a pre-set schedule. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op is pleased to make available to its members a rebate of 50 percent of the cost of a programmable thermostat (maximum rebate is \$200). Before purchasing a programmable thermostat make sure one will work with your heating system.

To receive your rebate, just submit a copy of the receipt of purchase to the co-op.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

Toys for Tots Drive

Now through December 9

Drop site at the CWEC headquarters; items will be distributed to needy children in our service area.

For additional collection sites go to our website www.cwecoop.com, click on the Toys for Tots tab under Services. Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Rosholt. For more information call 715-677-2211.



18th Tigerton Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 19

9 a.m.–3 p.m. Start your Christmas shopping before Black Friday! Lots of vendors, something for everyone. Homemade baked goodies and candies by the Amish. Food and refreshments served at the hall. Tigerton Community Center, 211 Birch St., Tigerton. For more information call 715-508-0246.



Share-a-Tea "A Victorian Christmas Tea"

Saturday, November 5

3–5 p.m. \$25 donation to benefit students in need in the I-S School District, students \$15. Iola-Scandinavia High School Commons. Tickets available at the I-S Elementary or High School office or call Toya at 715-445-3556 or Ila at 715-445-3478.

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11



Crossroads Community Theatre Presents "Christmas Belles," a Southern-Fried Yuletide Comedy by Jones, Hope & Wooten

Friday/Saturday, November 11, 12, 18, 19

7 p.m. Tickets available for \$10 in advance by calling 715-253-3525 or at the Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News office. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg.

Walls of Wittenberg Wreath Making

November 26, 27, December 4, 10, 11

You decorate or we decorate. Continue a family tradition or begin a new one. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Decorate your own wreath or purchase a lush wreath artfully created by WOW volunteers. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go the website www.wallsofwittenberg.com.



Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25
Office Closed



CWEC wishes you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!



To submit your community events email brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

Mike Wade, President & CEO

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932
www.cwecoop.com

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook  



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Anthony Buss, Jr. – Chairman, District 1 • Tom Smith, Vice Chairman, District 1 • Sue Rombalski, Secretary–Treasurer, District 3
Ron Onesti, District 1 (At Large) • Lee Lehrer, District 2 • Leonard Oppor, District 2 • Elaine Eckendorf, District 3