



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.
THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

MY CO-OP

COOPERATIVES SEE THE FUTURE

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, OEC is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Byron Nolde, CEO of Oconto Elec-

tric Cooperative, explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Electric co-ops, like OEC, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas other utilities did not find economically feasible to serve. Today, it means working with members who have installed solar, giving youth the opportunity to learn about cooperatives while building leadership skills, and keeping up with technology to better serve our members. (1027701)

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the com-

munity, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented, and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

**STOP IN OEC TO
HELP US CELEBRATE
NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**

**OCTOBER 22-26 WE WILL HAVE A
GIFT FOR MEMBERS ALONG WITH
TREATS AND REFRESHMENTS**



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



We all share responsibility for our organization's online safety and security, and YOU are our first line of defense.

Think Before You Click

- Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
- Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.



Defend Your Computer

- The best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats is keeping your equipment up to date.
- Work with your IT staff (or provider) to keep your software, including your web browser, and operating systems current.



Lockdown Your Log-in

- Create long and unique passwords. Use familiar phrases or song lyrics you'll remember.
- When possible, use 2-factor authentication as a second layer of defense.
- Change passwords regularly, and do not share them.



Protect Sensitive Information

- Use encryption to protect sensitive data.
- Limit the spread of any attack by only accessing files and folders you need.
- Do not put confidential information in emails, or instant and text messages.



Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks

- Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

1. the email is unexpected;
2. there is a sense of urgency conveyed;
3. there is an offer that seems too good to be true; and/or
4. there are typos and misspellings.



Practice Good Cyber Hygiene On the Go

- Treat all public Wi-Fi networks as a security risk, and don't make financial or other sensitive transactions over public networks.



Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene?
Visit www.staysafeonline.org.

ENGINE BLOCK HEATER TIMERS FOR SALE

Proceeds Benefit Lena FFA Chapter

Focus on Energy presents Wisconsin FFA Chapters with a fundraising opportunity this fall to sell engine block heater timers to local agricultural producers.

Engine block heaters are commonly used in cold climates to warm engines prior to start-up. The benefits of using an engine block heater include: easier engine start-up, reduced engine wear, improved air quality by reducing carbon monoxide emissions by an average of 60 percent, and fast payback in as little as one to three months. For convenience, many people leave block heaters plugged in all night (10+ hours), or worse, all the time.

How will timers save farmers money?

Reducing the hours an engine block heater is on at night will cut energy usage and save money. To automate the on/off heating cycle, a programmable timer can be used to turn on the block heater at the appropriate time, and leave it on only as long as needed.

HEATER OPERATION	WATTS	HOURS OF OPERATION	kWh PER DAY	\$/WINTER*
Normal	1000	10	10	\$90
With Timer	1000	2	2	\$18

*Assume \$0.10/kWh for 90 days

Can I buy one?

Timer buyers must be “agricultural producers” with farm-related vehicles used in the winter that are served by a Focus on Energy participating electric utility. Agricultural producer: A business engaged in growing and producing grain, livestock, milk, poultry, fruits, vegetables, Green houses, bees and honey; fish; shellfish; or other common agricultural products that are living organism in Wisconsin.

How do I get an engine block heater timer?

Lena FFA will be selling the timers for \$20 each until October 31. To participate in this program please contact FFA Advisor Roberta Windus at windusr@lenak12.org or call 920-829-5244.

FEATURES OF ENGINE BLOCK HEATER TIMERS

- **EASY TO PROGRAM** – with a few clicks of a button, program your timer to supply electricity to your engine block heater two to three hours before you typically need it.
- **EASY TO USE** – just plug in your engine clock heater after each use and the timer (428404) will make sure your engine is ready to go when you are.
- **BATTERY BACK-UP** – Don't worry about having to reprogram the timer if there is a power outage; the battery back-up will store the programmed settings.



MY CO-OP

SAFETY FOR SENIORS AT HOME



MainStreet Messenger allows seniors to be safe while being independent and living at home.

- You're never really alone with this personal emergency response program
 - Help is only moments away with push of a button
 - Installation within days

PEACE OF MIND FOR ONLY A DOLLAR A DAY!



(920) 846-2816

Serving parts of Oconto, Marinette & Shawano Counties
www.ocontoelectric.com



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE PUMPKIN PATCH

Welcome to our new business showcase column. We will be featuring businesses that are our members. We hope you enjoy!

Thousands of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes are waiting for you at Delzer's Pumpkin Farm in Oconto Falls. The pumpkin farm started at the Delzer family dairy farm in 1997.

Come enjoy the fresh country air as you hunt for the perfect pumpkin. Sometimes that means short and round, tall and skinny, or misshapen. Delzer's has them all. They also have assorted gourds, squash, corn stalks, hay bales, and more for sale.

The farm offers an array of activities perfect for a family outing. You can board the haunted hayride, navigate through the Halloween corn maze, enjoy the animals in the petting zoo, have your face painted, walk through the haunted granary, learn about the dairy industry, browse the craft shop, or enjoy some food from the concession stand.

The farm is open September 29 through October 31, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Pumpkins can be purchased at anytime. Group tours are available during the week, but you must call ahead to schedule.

So whether you want to find your perfect pumpkin, have a slice of fresh pumpkin pie, or bring the family out for a day of fun, Delzer's Pumpkin Farm is waiting for you at 9581 Delzer Circle, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

For more information go to www.delzerspumpkinfarm.com, or call 920-848-2510 or 920-848-8394. They can also be found on Facebook.

If you have an suggestions for businesses that are on OEC's power lines, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or call Katie at 920-846-2816.



HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The September account numbers belonged to Calvary Lutheran Church, Abrams, and Steven Frievalt, Pound.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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