

NEW RATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2019



After many years of purchasing wholesale power from Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Oconto Electric will be supplied by Minnesota Power beginning January 1, 2019.

At the October 2018 board meeting, the OEC Board of Directors approved a change in rates to take place under our new wholesale power contract. We have not had a rate adjustment since 2014. The new rates and changes will apply to your usage beginning on January 1, 2019.

The co-op did complete a rate study to evaluate the financial recovery required for the different rate classifications. The cost-based rate design ensures that no one class is subsidizing another and equal sharing occurs in the cost to provide services.

We encourage you to contact the co-op regarding any questions you may have.

FARM & RESIDENTIAL

Rate Code 1

Availability: Farm and residential consumers where demand is less than 50 kw.

Type of Service: Single phase or three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Facility Charge¹

Single Phase.....\$30.70 per month

Three Phase.....\$53.75 per month

Energy Charge*

Wholesale Power Cost (per kWh).....\$0.0898

OEC Operating Cost (per kWh).....\$0.0280

Minimum Charge: The minimum monthly charge is \$30.70 for single phase and \$53.75 for three phase, plus an additional transformer charge if applicable.²

DUAL FUEL & THERMAL STORAGE

Rate Code 8, 15, 25, 28

Availability: This rate applies to a cooperative-controlled load for electric heating or cooling. The controlled load may be shut off during peak demand (control) periods. A coexisting farm, residential, seasonal or small commercial service, and a dual fuel heating system (electric with propane, natural gas or fuel oil) or an electric thermal storage system are required. Consumption is measured by a separate meter.

Type of Service: Single phase or three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Energy Charge*

Additional Meter Charge.....\$3.00

Energy Charge (per kWh).....\$0.0490

Control Periods: Anytime between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.³

SEASONAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL

Rate Code 2

Availability: Services that are not the consumer's primary residence nor a commercial service.

Type of Service: Single phase or three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Facility Charge¹\$31.20 per month

Energy Charge* (per kWh).....\$0.1086

Power Cost Adjustment[#] (per kWh).....\$0.000

Minimum Charge: The minimum monthly charge is \$31.20 for single phase plus an additional transformer charge if applicable.²

* **Energy Charge:** Rates subject to change due to unforeseen variables.

Power Cost Adjustment: Varies with wholesale cost of power.

¹ **Facility Charge:** A monthly fee that covers a portion of the fixed costs for providing service regardless of energy used. These costs include transmission and distribution lines, substations, transformers, equipment, and general costs.

² **Transformer Charge:** The minimum monthly charge is equal to the facility charge when 15 kVA or less of transformer capacity is required. For members requiring additional transformer capacity, the minimum monthly charge may increase by 50 cents for each additional kVA.

³ **Holidays:** Off peak: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on Sunday, Monday will be considered the holiday and will be entirely off-peak.



TIME-OF-USE

Rate Codes 10, 11, 22, 23

Availability: Farm, residential, seasonal and small commercial consumers where demand is less than 50 kw.

Type of Service: Single or three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Facility Charge¹

Farm/Residential Single Phase.....	\$31.20 per month
Farm/Residential Three Phase.....	\$53.75 per month
Small Commercial Single Phase.....	\$31.70 per month
Small Commercial Three Phase.....	\$53.75 per month

Energy Charge*

On-Peak (per kWh).....	\$0.1707
Off-Peak (per kWh).....	\$0.0467

Power Cost Adjustment[#] (per kWh).....\$0.000

On-Peak Periods: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.³

Off-Peak Periods: All hours not included as on-peak.

Terms and Conditions:

- 1) This rate will apply until the member notifies OEC and requests a change to a different rate.
- 2) Upon terminating service under this rate, a member will be ineligible to renew this rate for a minimum period of one year.
- 3) Members served by this rate waive all rights to billing adjustments based on comparisons to other rates.
- 4) This rate cannot be combined with any other load management program.

Minimum Charge: The minimum monthly charge is the facility charge, plus an additional transformer charge, if applicable.²

LINE RETENTION

Rate Code 26

Availability: All idle services, in order to be retained and not removed by OEC, will be billed a monthly retention fee.

Rate\$18.75 per month

SMALL COMMERCIAL

Rate Code 5

Availability: Commercial consumers where demand is less than 50 kw.

Type of Service: Single phase or three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Facility Charge¹

Single Phase.....	\$31.20 per month
Three Phase.....	\$53.75 per month

Energy Charge* (per kWh).....\$0.1243

Power Cost Adjustment[#] (per kWh).....\$0.000

Minimum Charge: The minimum monthly charge is \$31.20 for single phase and \$53.75 for three phase, plus an additional transformer charge if applicable.²

SMALL COMMERCIAL GROUP THREE PHASE

Rate Code 7

Availability: Commercial consumers where demand is less than 50 kw.

Type of Service: Three phase, 60 cycles, at available voltages.

Facility Charge¹.....\$34.20 per month

Energy Charge* (per kWh).....\$0.1263

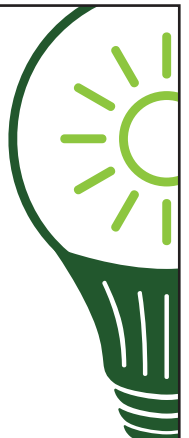
Power Cost Adjustment[#] (per kWh).....\$0.000

Minimum Charge: The minimum monthly charge is \$34.20, plus an additional transformer charge if applicable.²

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



SECURITY LIGHTING

Availability: All consumers for outdoor security and area lighting purposes.

Type of Service: Dusk-to-dawn operation by means of self-contained photoelectric cell. Lights may not be connected through a manual switching device.

Rate: Energy usage is not metered but is included in the monthly charge.

48 W LED.....\$8.90

250 W High Pressure Sodium.....\$15.00

48 W LED Cobra Head.....\$11.90

400 W Metal Halide Flood.....\$20.90

Transformer Charge: If a separate overhead transformer is required to serve a security light, an extra fee of \$2.50 per month will be charged.

CONTROLLED WATER HEATING

Availability: This credit is available to most consumers with electric water heaters. A cooperative-installed load control device allows the water heater to be cycled off during peak demand (control) periods. Rebates are offered for signing up for this load control program. Contact the co-op for more information.

Control Periods: Anytime between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.³

Credit: Any account signed up for water heater load management and using 400 kWh or more during a month will receive a \$5.00 bill credit for that month.

CONTROLLED AIR CONDITIONING

Availability: This credit is available to most consumers with central air conditioning. A cooperative-installed load control device allows the unit to be cycled off during peak demand (control) periods. Rebates are offered for signing up for this load control program. Contact the co-op for more information.

Control Periods: Anytime between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.³ Air conditioner will be cycled off and on during control period to minimize any fluctuation in home temperature.

Credit: Any account signed up for the air conditioning load management program and using 400 kWh or more during a month will receive an \$8.00 bill credit per month for June, July, August, and September consumption.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINNERS



Thank you to everyone who entered the 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways. All prizes were purchased from Oconto Electric Cooperative members.

Day 1: Jay Boucher, Oconto Falls – \$25 Kwik Trip

Day 2: Everett Carlson, Gillet – \$25 Club 32

Day 3: Paul Kostreva, Pound – \$25 OEC Bill Credit

Day 4: Laurel Block, Pound – \$25 Shell Gas Station

Day 5: Barb Sailer, Pound – \$25 Take A Peek Gift Shop

Day 6: Jeri Gauthier, Abrams – \$25 A&W

Day 7: Evelyn (Cyril) Marcheske, Suring – \$25 Sandy Corners

Day 8: Nancy Earley, Lena – \$25 Steel Moose

Day 9: Susan Willes, Gillett – \$25 Meatskis


Day 10: Mike Wishneski, Oconto – \$25 Jo Jo's Diner

Day 11: Clarence Davister, Little Suamico – \$25 Subway

Day 12: Patricia Bastian, Abrams – \$25 OEC Bill Credit



Winner Barb Sailer pictured with her grandson Silas Engebregtsen.



✓ apply to college
✓ pick major
find money for school

Scholarship applications now available

Get ready 2019 graduates, Oconto Electric Cooperative will be awarding twelve \$2,500 scholarships to area students.

Additional Scholarship

Oconto Electric Cooperative is also offering one \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating senior who is attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in the Electrical Power Distribution program.

Applying for a Scholarship

Scholarship applications are available from local high school guidance counselors, online at www.ocontoelectric.com, or call OEC at 800-472-8410 to have an application mailed.

A parent or guardian of the applicant must be a residential member of Oconto Electric Cooperative. (Residential is defined as purchasing power from OEC for your primary residence.)

Application Requirements

Along with the application, students are required to submit the following:

- Copy of high school transcripts (with current grade point average).

- Copy of SAT/ACT test scores.
- Summary page of your school, group, club, community, and employment activities including awards and accomplishments. Please include any OEC events at which you may have participated or volunteered.
- One-page essay on future school, life, and career goals.
- One third-party recommendation (reference letter).

Scholarship Deadline

Completed scholarship applications should be at OEC's office no later than Friday, February 15, 2019.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a volunteer committee of OEC members who are not employees or directors of the co-op. Recipients will be asked to attend the cooperative's annual meeting on March 30, 2019, to receive recognition from the membership.

Questions?

Information can be found at www.ocontoelectric.com. If you have questions, you can also call OEC at 800-472-8410 or email planglay@ocontoelectric.com.

Apply on or before February 15, 2019.

WHERE DOES SCHOLARSHIP MONEY COME FROM?

At the end of each year, when the financial books are closed and OEC determines that year's profit margins, those margins are allocated back to the members in the form of capital credits. That money stays at the co-op and is used for approximately 20 years, at the end of which time it is retired back to the members.

As capital credits are retired, members who still purchase

power from Oconto Electric after 20 years will receive either a bill credit or refund check when a retirement is made. For anyone who no longer purchases power from OEC, the co-op will mail their checks to the last known address.

After a number of attempts to get the funds to the people it belongs to, any money that is not claimed goes into the scholarship fund.

High School Students – What Are You Waiting For?



Get Ready!

It's time for Co-ops Yes! Youth Leadership Conference

The annual two-day Co-ops Yes! Youth Leadership Conference is being held in Eau Claire from March 4–5, 2019. Oconto Electric Cooperative invites four high school students (sophomores, juniors, seniors) to collaborate, laugh, develop leadership skills, and learn about cooperatives with other students from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Do you know?

- Minnesota and Wisconsin lead the NATION in cooperative businesses?
- What the difference is between a credit union and a bank?
- When you join a co-op, you are not only a member but also an OWNER?
- Cooperatives are found in virtually every community and in every business sector?

From your local electric cooperative to international companies, discover what makes the cooperative business model successful and different. Learn from the experts! Is a co-op career in your future? You will have the opportunity to work with cooperative leaders and business professionals to learn about what interests YOU!

Program Highlights

- Get motivated! Whether you struggle with peers or simply want to become a better leader, learn life lessons that will hit home and move you to action.
- Have fun! Work as a team and share some laughs with fellow students from across Minnesota and Wisconsin. There will definitely be a T-shirt and maybe even some dancing (or singing) involved.
- Those interested will have the chance to run for the Co-ops Yes! youth board. (313403)
- Renowned youth motivational speaker Craig Hillier will entertain you with his stories, make you work as a team, and inspire you with his message.

Interested in attending?

The co-op will pay the registration fee, hotel accommodations, meals, and will provide transportation. An OEC employee chaperone will also be at the conference.

If you would like to be one of the four high school students attending this compelling, all-expenses-paid leadership conference, please contact Katie at 800-472-8410 or kjagiello@ocontolectric.com. **Deadline date is Friday, February 8.**





GOOD SAMARITANS



On a cold November day, an OEC lineman noticed smoke coming over the hill where they were working and decided to investigate. Turns out a truck was on fire near the Coleman highway exit. Five OEC linemen kept the fire under control until the fire department arrived.

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

WINTER INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR POWER LINE ACCIDENTS

Staying Safe in a Car Accident with a Power Pole

Winter wonderlands are beautiful, but they can be a driving nightmare. Snow, slush, ice, and wind make it stressful and difficult to drive. These driving conditions also make it more likely that your car will skid off the road. Losing control of your car may seem like the worst-case scenario, but if you do not know what you are doing, the moments following an accident could potentially be more dangerous than the accident itself.

In an accident, a car may slide off the road and into a power pole. The pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.



While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live but are just as lethal.

Stay in the car after an accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help,

and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.

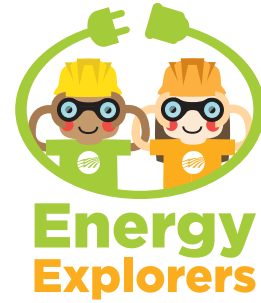
The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop away with feet together. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.

Power lines may be difficult to see if they are covered in snow or ice, so be cautious if you must be out driving after a winter storm.

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS FOR KIDS!

Did you know there are small things you can do to help your family conserve energy at home? Fill in the blanks below to learn how you can help. Use the word bank below if you need a hint!



- 1 Turn the _____ off while you're brushing your teeth. You can save several gallons a month just by taking this simple step.
- 2 Any time you leave a room, remember to turn off the _____. Ask your parents if they use LED lights, which save the most energy!
- 3 With the help of your parents, _____ glass, plastic, paper and aluminum items.
- 4 When the heat or air conditioning is running, always keep _____ to the outside closed.
- 5 Take short _____ instead of baths to conserve water use.

Word Bank

Showers
Doors
Water
Recycle
Lights





BUSINESS SHOWCASE

ALMOST FAMILY

“Our focus is to keep people in their homes as long as possible,” said Erin McNamara, the in home program director for Almost Family. They are the second largest home health provider in the nation. Whether you need short- or long-term care, they can provide assistance.

How can they help?

At Almost Family, it’s all about helping people. Dedicated caregivers offer personal assistance with everything from grooming and light housekeeping to transportation and errand running. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help patients and families attain the quality of life they deserve.

They have skilled nurses on staff that can help with medication management, wound care, managing chronic conditions, monitoring treatment progress, and much more.

Hospice care is a service Almost Family provides too. Hospice care can be provided in any place a patient calls home, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Their goal is to help patients live comfortably,

with dignity, when a cure is no longer possible.

Who pays for home and community-based services?

Home and community-based services are covered through Medicaid, long-term care, and some medical insurances. Almost Family accepts most insurance. Please contact a location near you and they can verify benefits and what your carrier will cover. Out-of-pocket services range in cost depending on the care you or your loved one requires.

Almost Family is located at 5068 Hwy 141, Suite 1106, Oconto, WI 54153. They serve Oconto, Shawano, Menominee, Marinette, and Brown counties. For any questions call 920-848-1055 or go to their website at www.lhcgroup.com.

If you have 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 December account numbers belonged to Kenneth Czystz, Greendale, and Andy Thyssen, Lena.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



Welcome to our new OEC Recipe Corner. We will be featuring recipes from our employees and members. We hope you enjoy!

Potato Soup

Submitted by Amy Winkler, OEC Employee

6–12 bacon strips, diced
3 cups cubed peeled potatoes
1 can (14 ½ oz) chicken broth
1 carrot, grated
½ c chopped onion
1 Tbsp dried parsley flakes
½ tsp celery salt, salt and pepper
3 Tbsp flour
3 cups milk
8 oz American cheese slices (diced)

In a large saucepan, cook bacon until crisp, drain. Add the potatoes, broth, carrot, onion, parsley, salts and pepper. Cover and boil until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes.

Whisk flour and milk together until combined. Add to soup and bring to boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat and add cheese. Cook until cheese is melted. Stir to get cheese mixed into soup.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@oconto-electric.com or mail it to OEC, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

