



POWER ON: OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



MY CO-OP

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of Oconto Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” (372702) Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March

that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We closed our lobby and also adjusted our in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. In addition, we had to postpone our annual meeting, then later in the year held our

first ever drive-in style annual meeting. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1937, Oconto Electric Cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.



IT'S CO-OP MONTH Let's Celebrate

Due to the ongoing corona virus pandemic, we have changed up our co-op month celebrations.

Electronic Recycling Event and Giveaways!

You could win 1 of 10
\$50 Gift Cards purchased from local community members

Meatskis, Kwik Trip, Springside Cheese, Shell Gas Station, Take A Peek Gifts,
My Sisters Shop, OEC Bill Credit

Grand Prize
43" LG UHD TV



Winners will be drawn October 19–30. Grand prize will be drawn on October 30.

Complete this drawing ticket and mail or email it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, and you could win one of the ten gift cards or the 42" TV. Only one entry per membership. Entries must be received by October 19, 2020. Winners will be mailed their gift cards. Winner of the TV must be able to pick it up at our office by appointment. *Must be an OEC member to be eligible to win. Excludes OEC employees and directors.*

Return this form to: Oconto Electric Cooperative, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 or email: kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE#

ACCOUNT#



Hey kids we need your help designing our Christmas card

All children ages 2 to 10 are eligible to enter our Christmas card contest. The winner's artwork will be printed on our cards, used in our December magazine, and the winner will receive a gift.

Artwork must be submitted by October 31, 2020.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of child must be an active member of the cooperative.

My name is: _____

My age is: _____

My parent(s)/guardian(s): _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

Drop or mail to: Oconto Electric Cooperative
7479 REA Rd • PO Box 168 • Oconto Falls, WI 54154

FIRST EVER ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT

This event is exclusively for members of Oconto Electric Cooperative. We are still following COVID-19 guidelines and practicing social distancing. We ask that you do not get out of your car. Our employees will retrieve items from your vehicle and put them in the dumpster. We have the right to refuse items that are unacceptable.

WHEN:

October 27 – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

October 28 – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

HOW IT WORKS:

Members may bring up to five items per membership including one TV or monitor. Visit our office and follow the signs, our employees will unload the electronics from your vehicle for you.

EXAMPLES OF ELECTRONICS WE WILL ACCEPT ARE:

Cable Boxes	External Drives (All types)	Projectors
Cables & Cords	Fans	Radios
Cameras & Camcorders	Fax Machines	Satellite Dishes & Receivers
Cell Phones/PDAs & Chargers	Hair Dryers	Scanners
Clocks	Internet equipment of any kind	Servers
Coffee Makers	Laptops	Stereos & Speakers
Computer Towers	Landline Phones	Toasters
Desktop Copiers & Printers	Monitors	UPS & Jump Starters
Docking Stations	MP3 & iPod Players	Vacuum Cleaners
DVD/VHS/Blue-Ray Players	Network Equipment	Video Game Consoles

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

Microwave Ovens
Small Refrigerators/Freezers

Large Refrigerators/Freezers
Dehumidifiers

Window A/C Units
Stoves/Dishwashers



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

COMFORT PRO INSULATORS INC.



Comfort Pro Insulators, located at 804 West Frontier Road in Little Suamico, is one of our 27 members that have solar. Their solar system is estimated to generate 23,000 kWh annually. The average residential home uses 11,000 kWh per year.

Cooler weather is here! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing you can save about 40% on your energy bill.

Jim Diederich, owner of Comfort Pro Insulators, started working in the insulation business at age 18 in 1988. In 1997 his business Comfort Pro Insulators was created.

Jim has eight trucks and 15 employees. Comfort Pro Insulators is the largest privately owned business in the area, unlike competitors who are owned by large out-of-state corporations. Comfort Pro Insulators is the only business that offers a lifetime warranty on workmanship and products.

"Comfort Pro Insulators is known for their high standards in the insulation industry whether it's workmanship or the quality of products they use," said Jim. "Every job is done as if it were my own home."

Don't waste. Insulate!
Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort.

They specialize in new and re-insulating existing homes. They provide free estimates, and their jobs are fully insured. They provide sprayed urethane foam, blow in blanket system, attic insulation, crawl spaces,

fiberglass batts, attic insulation removal and sidewall insulation. They can also provide blower door testing, infrared imaging, mold recommendations, and moisture problem areas.

For more information visit the website at www.comfortproinsulators.com or call (920) 865-6000.

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. September account numbers belonged to Kathryn Lambrecht, Gillett, and John Hessenthaler, Racine.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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www.ocontoelectric.com

Katie Jagiello, Editor

Meet our seasonal employee



Jake Baldwin recently graduated from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College from the electrical distribution program. During that time, the student is learning and applying electrical theory, as well as

proper use of equipment and how to perform the tasks required of a line worker. Jake is currently working alongside our line crew as a seasonal employee.

Jake was the recipient of OEC's \$2,500 scholarship in 2019 that is awarded to a student who will attend NWTTC in the electrical distribution program. (541501)

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.

Do Your Part.
#BeCyberSmart.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
Visit staysafeonline.org for cybersecurity tips.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov

