



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH – LET’S CELEBRATE!

It is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Oconto Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve. Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses.

When big investor-owned utilities wouldn’t provide service to rural Americans 80 years ago, electric cooperatives came to the rescue. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the cooperative. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are led and governed by you and your neighbors. Our leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-

term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines.

We know our members also have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we seek input from our members at community events and our annual meeting. Ultimately, our entire area benefits from these programs because of our community, who empower the co-op (131904) through membership and through participation in programs like Community Change, our employee charity, high school scholarships, and other programs.

We hope you think of Oconto Electric as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for our area. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS RECYCLING EVENT



**October 4–29 members can bring
their household CFLs to our lobby
to be properly recycled.**

We will only take CFLs like those
pictured above.

No fluorescent tubes will be accepted.

**Lobby Hours
9 AM – 3 PM**

Stop in October 4–29 for popcorn and a gift

(only one gift per membership)





Shop online at our FOCUS ON ENERGY® pop-up shop!

Deals on energy-efficient products sent directly to your home, for free!

We want to help you save money and live more comfortably in your home. That's why we've partnered with Focus on Energy to offer exclusive discounts on energy-efficient ENERGY STAR products such as LED lightbulbs, efficient showerheads, water aerators, and more.

You can save up to \$75 annually by purchasing the Energy and Water Kit.

Did you know LED bulbs are up to 90% more efficient than standard bulbs and last at least 15x longer? Save by buying the LED Starter Kit.

Available offers limited to Wisconsin residents only.

Shop now to get your kit sent right to your home!

Choose from two of our kits or a la carte to fit your home's needs. Act now, this sale ends November 1st!

ENERGY-SAVING FAIR



We have partnered with FOCUS ON ENERGY® to offer exclusive discounts on energy efficient ENERGYSTAR® products such as LED lightbulbs, efficient showerheads, water aerators and more.

October 4th - November 1st



Water Saving Kit
\$10

- (4) 9w LEDs (60w equivalent)
- (2) 11w LEDs (75w equivalent)
- (2) 16w LEDs (100w equivalent)
- (1) 1.5gpm handheld showerhead
- (2) 0.5gpm bathroom aerators
- (1) 1.0gpm kitchen aerator
- (1) 15 foot roll of pipe wrap
- (1) hot water temperature card



LED Starter Kit
\$10

- (1) 5w (40w equivalent) LED desk lamp
- (4) 9w LEDs (60w equivalent)
- (3) 11w LEDs (75w equivalent)
- (3) 16w LEDs (100w equivalent)
- (1) 3-way LED



Candle 6-pack - \$5
4W usage = 40W output



Globe 6-pack - \$5
4W usage = 40W output



R20 6-pack - \$5
7W usage = 50W output



BR30 6-pack - \$5
8W usage = 65W output



BR40 6-pack - \$10
9.5W usage = 65W output

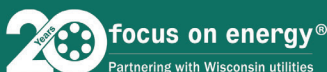


PAR38 3-pack - \$10
10W usage = 90W output



High Lumen 33w LED - \$11
33W usage = 300W output

There is more product available on your event website. However, if you are not able to visit the website; you may call in to order at **888-925-7009**. Mention you are calling for the Focus on Energy Oconto Electric Cooperative pop-up event.



techniartpopup.com/focusonenergy_oec

THINK SAFETY WHEN OPERATING A GENERATOR

Thinking Safety Can Save Your Life

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporary or permanently installed.

A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) now allows the use of member-owned GenerLink™ transfer switches. The GenerLink is a UL-listed, socket-mounted transfer switch that provides a safe and convenient way to connect portable generator power to your home in minutes. Installed behind your electric meter, the GenerLink delivers generator power directly to your breaker box, eliminating the hassle of running power cords through your home.

They come in two different sizes, 30 and 40 amp models. The size of your generator will dictate the size of the GenerLink model required (they fit most meter sockets). A GenerLink Transfer Switch can be purchased at Home Depot or online at www.generlink.com. When you have the transfer switch, contact OEC to complete the necessary paperwork and schedule an installation appointment. If you have questions, please give us a call at the office.

A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Before (141801) purchasing a generator you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to the generator. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn an appliance on. Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer.



Safely connect a portable generator to your home in minutes with a GenerLink Transfer Switch.

GENERATOR Safety

Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.



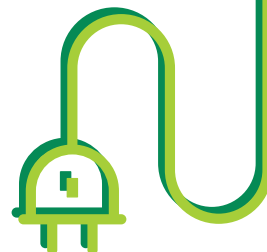
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov

MY CO-OP





Welcome

Please join us in welcoming our newest team members



Jake Baldwin
Apprentice Lineman

Started January 21
From Coleman, WI



Tanner Riley
Apprentice Lineman

Started May 17
From Philips, WI



Kyle Oudenhoven
Journeyman Lineman

Started on August 17
From Two Rivers, WI



Jacob Strait
Journeyman Lineman

Started on August 23
From Mason City, IA



Samantha Dey
Staking Technician

Started on September 2
From Oconto Falls, WI



The Center of Customer Engagement

SmartHub provides convenient account access and two-way communication to OEC online or via your mobile device. Manage payments, notify customer service for account and service issues, check your usage and receive special messaging from OEC all at the touch of a button.

- Bill reminders
- Safe and secure
- Contact customer service
- Bill payment
- Service usage details
- Free



From your device or computer, go to www.ocontoelectric.com. Click on the SmartHub icon.

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 Mike Sharman, Little Suamico, and Turner Gross, Coleman.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor

