



# STUDENTS DRIVEN TO INNOVATION

## Electrathon class crafts cars that go the extra mile



Electrathon is a program that allows students to design and develop electric vehicles and teaches them several important concepts about teamwork and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Standing from the left: Doug Jahnke, KC Miller, Dylan Comins, Wyatt Slatky, Samuel Marquardt, Sidney Sylvester, Nathan Younger, Jadya Belongia, and Jake Belongia.

Electrathon racing has been around in the United States for almost 30 years, but has only been in the Lena High School for about 10 years. In Electrathon racing, teams compete to build the most efficient electric-powered vehicle.

“The Lena High School Electrathon program is open to juniors and seniors,” said Doug Jahnke, technology education teacher at Lena High School.

The students are learning about aerodynamics, physics, engineering, math, design, problem-solving, welding, accounting, teamwork, and electricity in a non-classroom environment.

“These cars are 100% the kids’ ideas. I might have to refer them back to the handbook if I know they are doing something that goes against the regulations, but they have to figure it out,” said Jahnke.

### VEHICLES

The Electrathon vehicles are single-person, lightweight, high-efficiency vehicles that run off of two 12-volt batteries. Vehicles must meet specific design and safety rules, such as having a roll bar to protect the driver’s head/

helmet in the event of a roll-over and a five-point automotive seat belt system.

You might wonder how much it costs to make a vehicle. The rule book states that the vehicle is not to exceed \$3,500 in materials.

### COMPETITION

The Electrathon competitions for the 2021-22 academic year will take place during April and May of 2022. The Electrathon program has four classes of vehicles for entry, but Lena has participated in the standard 12-volt vehicle battery classes in the past. The other classes employ other battery technologies, such as lithium ion and lithium polymer, along with more restrictive braking regulations. Lena students are exploring their options for lithium ion batteries for this year.

At each competition, the vehicles will each compete in three different challenges. First is a braking test to see whose car can stop in the shortest distance. The vehicle is required to stop within 25 feet while traveling 15 mph.

Secondly, the vehicle competes in a maneuverability competition, in which

the vehicle is tested on its ability to steer and maneuver through a series of cones. Lastly, the endurance competition tests the drivers and vehicles to determine the distance that the vehicle is able to travel within a one-hour time frame.

### SPONSORSHIP

Electrathon is funded entirely by sponsorship and donations. Jahnke recognizes the benefit of the students building personal connections around the community by soliciting the businesses in person. Oconto Electric Cooperative is proud to be a sponsor of the program along with the following:

Chad Rabas Express Inc.,  
Revolution Industrial Services LLC,  
Custom Metal Specialists Inc., JTI Trucking,  
Peterson Ford, Paul Huberty Insurance Agency Inc.,  
Northport Marine LLC, R&K Auto Parts, Craig Huberty,  
Vanderloop Equipment, Graef Transport,  
Chrysler World, Lena Swamp Archery,  
Coleman Parts LLC, Kugels Cheese Corp.,  
Luisier Drilling Inc., JC Powersports LLC,  
Maple Valley Mutual Insurance Company Inc.,  
YakFab Metals Inc., Craig Lefebvre, Nadler’s Automotive,  
Irish Greens Golf Course.



# WAYS TO COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are some ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

## Appliances

- When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances like slow cookers, toaster ovens, and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven.
- Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. These are appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves, and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that you can save up to \$100-\$200 a year by unplugging unused appliances in your home.

## Oven/Stove

- Keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better.
- Use the oven only when cooking large dishes or batches.
- Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your food is ready—they will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Put a lid on it—cover pans (87501) while cooking to prevent heat loss.
- Match the burner and pot size to help reduce heat loss and maximize energy efficient cooking.
- Don't preheat the oven unless you are baking a recipe that requires it.
- Don't peek in the oven! Opening the door can lead to a 25-degree temperature drop.
- Bake with ceramic or glass pots and pans—this will allow you to lower the oven temperature by about 25 degrees.

- If you have a self-cleaning oven, plan to clean it right after you finish baking something so it doesn't have to heat up a second time.

- Gobble up the oven space. Put in several dishes to cook at once. Foods with different cooking temperatures can often cook simultaneously at one temperature—variations of 25 degrees Fahrenheit in either direction still produce good results and save energy.

- Don't cover oven racks with foil—this reduces heat flow and increases cooking time.

## Microwave

- Plan ahead—defrosting food in a microwave may be convenient, but defrosting it at room temperature is free.
- Clean your microwave regularly. Food and liquid spatters can absorb energy.
- Try preprogrammed cooking times. These times are designed to make the most efficient use of the microwave by minimizing energy loss and heating the food as effectively as possible.

## Refrigerator/Freezer

- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.
- When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.
- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35°-38°F for fresh food compartment and 0° F for separate freezers for long-term storage.

These steps are easy to follow and come at no extra cost. Making a habit out of them will save you both energy in the kitchen and money on your electric bill.



## A message from the Chairman:

On behalf of myself and the rest of the board, I would like to introduce Dennis Langenberg as director of District 1. The board requested to fill the remaining term vacated by the recent untimely passing of Director Vernon Gisenas. Dennis was selected from a pool of interested District 1 members.

Dennis, a retired CPA, is married and has three adult children. Dennis has been an OEC member in the Town of Brazeau since 1995. Dennis enjoys staying actively involved in a variety of community projects, and is currently an EMT with the Brazeau Rescue Squad. The board looks forward to working with Dennis and welcomes him to his first board meeting on October 29.



Dennis Langenberg

*Todd Duame*

Todd Duame, Chairman



### Veterans Day, November 11

For your leadership, teamwork, resiliency, and dedication to our safety and freedom, we thank all veterans and active-duty military for their service.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





# GIVING THANKS AT THANKSGIVING COMES IN MANY FORMS

## It could be in the way of a small donation

As families prepare to gather around the table and reflect on what they are thankful for this year, Community Change is hopeful that you will include them by signing up to have your monthly electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the extra money going into the Community Change fund.



Since 1999 Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) members have had the opportunity to participate in a wonderful program called Community

Change. We support local schools, community organizations and agencies through donations and programs that OEC offers.

Community Change has a board of directors (a group of seven volunteers who are co-op members not employed by OEC) that meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December to review applications for Community Change funds. Grants are awarded based on how much money is available and whether or not the purpose of the request is consistent with Community Change guidelines. The Community Change board has awarded over \$32,700 to house fire victims and over \$221,470 in donations since 2000.

### In 2021 grants were awarded to:

- 1 House Fire Victim
- Hillside Assembly of God, Pound
- New Beginnings
- Oconto Falls Community Library
- Suring Area Historical Society
- Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
- Oconto County Health & Human Services
- Rainbow House
- John Wolford – National Skills USA Competition
- Gillett School District – Tech. Ed. Dept.
- We Believe



### How to apply

If you know of a charitable or service organization, civic group, or individual with unusual financial needs, you can encourage them to apply for a Community Change grant. Applications can be found at [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) or in the OEC lobby. Applications for the December board meeting must be submitted by November 30.

The Community Change board would like to extend their sincere appreciation (179701) to all the OEC members who contribute.



**Change Matters** is a special grant that Community Change distributes due to the generosity of the former Bay Lakes Cooperative. This grant is meant to provide far-reaching enhancement for a neighborhood or community. \$1,200 was awarded to the Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. The funding was used towards the purchase of two kayak launches that are installed at beaches in Oconto Falls. The launches will be removed as cold weather approaches. The chamber encourages community members to utilize the launches and take some time to appreciate the area's beautiful scenery and focus on physical and mental health.

## 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 October account numbers belonged to Pyke Ambrose, Lena, and Mike Kowalski, Greendale.

**Byron C. Nolde, CEO**

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**Katie Jagiello, Editor**

