



ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER OPENS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Oconto Electric Cooperative's RadioShack announces that we have made the decision to sell our retail business. Effective June 13, a new Cellcom store opened next door to our current location at the Highland Square Mall. We are pleased to be placing the business in the very capable hands of the new owners, who currently own three other Cellcom locations. We know you will continue to receive the best service available as the owners/operators have more than 28 years of combined hands-on experience. (728305)

June 10 was our last day as a Cellcom agent, but our RadioShack store will remain open through July 27 to sell

our remaining inventory and fixtures.

It has been a pleasure to serve this community for over two decades. "OEC has decided to put focus on our core business and emerging technologies that are directly related to our industry," said Robin Banaszynski, OEC manager of member services.

We thank you for your patronage over the past 23 years. As we close we would like you to know how much we appreciate your business and support.

RadioShack is located in the Highland Square Mall, 323 E Highland Drive, Oconto Falls, WI.

Consult us if you plan to increase electric load

Are you planning to purchase an electric vehicle and charge it at home or build an addition to your home? Perhaps add a fan or two to cool the livestock? Is your business buying new machinery that will use electricity?

If the answers to any of these questions are "yes," please include Oconto Electric Cooperative in the planning process.

Co-op facilities are designed to meet an individual member's initial load requirement at the time service is started. If that load is significantly increased, the capacity of the present system might not be sufficient to handle it.

When that happens, the system becomes overloaded and there's a power outage. An overloaded system can also damage the co-op's transformers or your electrical equipment, which might lead to expensive repairs.

Our equipment often can handle an overload for a while, but its life span will decrease significantly when the rated capacity is exceeded over an extended period of time. That means additional costs for the co-op and may result in the member paying for the damaged co-op equipment.

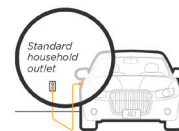
So if you're planning to increase your electric load, please call us. Our workers will gather the needed information and determine whether the capacity of the present

equipment is adequate. In situations where a significant amount of new load will be added, we might need to install larger service equipment or make other changes.

One simple call can save you from an unplanned outage and paying for costly damage to your equipment or the co-op's. Please make sure you notify us as far in advance as possible to ensure that the required service upgrade will be available when you need it.

Electric Vehicle Charging Levels

AC Level One



VOLTAGE:
120V 1-Phase AC

AMPS:
12-16 Amps

CHARGING LOADS:
1.4 to 1.9 kW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
3-5 Miles per Hour

AC Level Two



VOLTAGE:
208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

AMPS:
12-80 Amps (typ. 32 Amps)

CHARGING LOADS:
2.5 to 19.2 kW (typ. 6.6kW)

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
10-20 Miles per Hour
20+ for some EV models

DC Fast Charge



VOLTAGE:
208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

AMPS:
<100 Amps

CHARGING LOADS:
50-350 kW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:
60-80 Miles in 20 Minutes

Sources: Advanced Energy and EPA



OEC Employee Charity fundraising is underway

Oconto Electric Cooperative is committed to the communities we serve. We support local schools, community organizations and agencies through donations and programs that OEC offers.

Our employees are dedicated to co-op principle number seven: commitment to community. Since 2004 we have distributed \$153,000 to local charities and organizations. Employees organize several fundraising efforts throughout the year with funds being awarded in late fall.

Sportsmen with Heart, Inc. is a non-profit charity totally committed to enriching the lives of Wisconsin children. The organization gives children unique opportunities in nature they may not otherwise have—the chance to enjoy all of what Wisconsin has to offer!

Sportsmen with Heart, Inc. was started in 2015 by Jim Phillips. Jim was inspired by his daughter to start the camp. When his daughter was three years old she was diagnosed with a brain tumor, news that no parent ever wants to hear. His daughter was delayed at hitting milestones and still has problems with her short-term memory and vision as an adult.

“You want to give the kids a life to enjoy. The camp is where kids get to be kids,” said Jim.

Parents dealing with children in and out of hospitals face emotional and financial burdens. It can be extremely difficult—especially for single-parent families. Jim’s organization wants to help, giving children and their families a 100% free vacation. They want to give children the best life, and help the families of Wisconsin—all with love!

Sportsmen with Heart offers three different programs. The Adventure Bus organizes bus trips designed to give children and families a break, providing the opportunity for a fun day together. These day trips might be to a local zoo, a state park, the Rail Road Museum, or a sporting event.

Dream Camp Wisconsin gives children and families the chance to enjoy the outdoors. In 2021 they were donated the old Eagle Campground on 7.1 acres in Athelstane, WI. The location has 1,000 feet of waterfront along the Eagle Creek. The camp has plenty of activities to keep families busy, in-

cluding fishing. When the kids leave camp they are all given a new fishing pole and tackle box to take home.

Lastly, there is Surprise Santa. Their Santa travels throughout Northeastern Wisconsin, visiting many local establishments where children are known to be, and hands out all kinds of gifts. You never know where he’ll turn up, so it’s important to be on the lookout!

Funds raised for Sportsmen with Heart, Inc. will go towards the construction of a new dining room at camp.

New View Industries has been providing quality vocational services to the disabled of Oconto County since 1974. The goal of New View Industries is to enable these individuals to become productive members of society. They are able to do this through a variety of social and vocational services.

The Adult Day Services at New View Industries is a program designed to assist participants who are looking to increase or maintain skills, achieve their goals, and have a meaningful day. The program focuses on daily living skills, interpersonal relationships, communication skills, sensory integration, and much more.

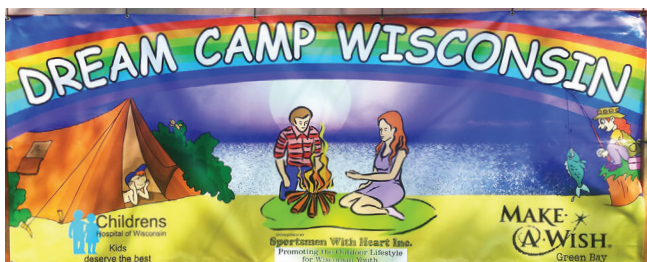
New View is a provider for the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Vocational Rehabilitation program, otherwise known as DVR. They provide community employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities. This great program allows individuals to get the support needed to secure employment in the community.

New View also has an employment and vocational training services program that allows adults with disabilities or other barriers to community employment to work on site. Depending on the participant’s skill level, the program may be short-term or long-term. The work opportunities include packaging, assembling, woodworking, retail, janitorial, and group-supported employment in the community.

These are just a few of the great alternatives they offer to their clients. Funds raised for New View will go towards making an area on the work floor that will be a quiet break area. This area would be used by those who need to rest or have quiet time to assure a successful day. Funding would also help purchase adjustable tables and comfortable ergonomic work chairs.



Rachel assembling a part that goes into a larger assembly at the plant.





Happy Retirement



The man of many talents

Engineer retires after 33 years with OEC

Kent Lyng began his duties as engineer for OEC on July 17, 1989. He came to us from Fargo, North Dakota, with several years of experience and knowledge in the engineering field. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from North Dakota State University in Fargo and is also a master electrician.

Kent's responsibilities included long-range planning for the co-op and conducting cost-of-services studies to keep rates low, in turn keeping costs down for members.

Kent was responsible for the operations at OEC's Stiles hydroelectric plant. He made sure it was up to date with maintenance and that all licensing and regulations were met.

In 2011 Kent was honored with the Herald P. Heckendorf Community Service Award which is sponsored by the N.E.W. Credit Union. Kent was active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program for nine years before having two children of his own with his wife, Rose.

For the last 14 years, Kent has been the advisor for the Oconto Falls 4-H Robotics Team.

Asked about Kent's service to the cooperative, member services representative Amy Winkler shares: "I can't say enough good things about Kent as a supervisor and a person. He has the kindest heart and is willing to help no matter what. I wish him the best in his next chapter in life and will miss him dearly. God bless him!"

Thank you for 33 years of dedicated service and all the memories. Your loyalty to OEC and incomparable work ethic have always been noticed by those around you. Your friendly smile and willingness to serve your coworkers and cooperative members will not be forgotten—you were always willing to go the extra mile. We wish you and Rose all the best in your retirement years!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



RETURNING MONEY BACK TO YOU

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

This year OEC will be paying out capital credits earned in 2002. If you have capital credits of less than \$25 you will receive a credit on your July electric bill. If your capital credits for that year total \$25 or more, you will receive a check in late July.

What are capital credits?

You, the members, are the owners of your electric cooperative and capital credits reflect your ownership in the cooperative. As you pay for your energy, OEC utilizes the revenue to grow, operate, and maintain a safe and reliable energy system. Any money that is earned over and above the costs of doing business is called margins. Your portion of allocated margins is then returned to you in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most cooperatives. They are similar to the dividends that investor-owned utilities pay to their shareholders except that OEC “dividends” go back to the members/owners.

How does a member get capital credits?

When a member of Oconto Electric begins purchasing electricity, they get two accounts—a billing account and a capital credit account. The capital credit account is specific to you and your spouse, if married. Regardless of how many times you move or how many billing accounts you may have, you have one capital credit account that stays with you. Each year OEC margins are allocated back to the members. Your share is deposited in your capital credit account for that year.

How are year-end margins allocated?

At the end of each year OEC divides the dollar value of that year’s margins by the amount of total revenue collected during the year. This is the “allocation factor.” The allocation factor is then multiplied by the amount of revenue each member contributed during that year. This is your share of the margins—or your capital credit allocation—for that year.

When do I get my capital credits?

Even though the cooperative allocates capital credits to members each year, the money is not paid out right away. The money is used for a number of years for the following purposes:

- to increase equity, giving the co-op more borrowing power
- to avoid borrowing money as much as possible
- to have reserves in case of an emergency

The board of directors reviews OEC’s financial condition annually and then decides whether to retire capital credits. The board’s goal is to keep capital credit retirements on a 20-year rotation, always retiring the oldest year.

How do I get my capital credits?

If the amount of your retirement in a given year is more than \$25, a check will be sent to the last valid address we have on file. If the amount is less than \$25 and you still purchase electricity from OEC, it will appear as a credit on your electric bill. If the amount is less than \$25 and you no longer purchase power from OEC, the amount goes into “no check status” which means the money will be held by OEC until there is enough retired to total more than \$25. At that time a check will be sent to the last valid address.

What happens to the money when the member can’t be located?

Capital credits become “unclaimed” when OEC is unable to locate the member after three years. Unclaimed funds, as allowed by state law, are placed in an account with the Federated Youth Foundation. The money in that account can only be used for education or charitable purposes. Annually OEC funds scholarships for member students pursuing higher education.

If you would like to know more about capital credits, contact OEC at 1-800-472-8410.

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 June account numbers belonged to Steve Rakow, Suring, and Eugene Peterson, Krakow.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154

800-472-8410 • 920-846-2816

www.ocontoelectric.com

Katie Jagiello, Editor

