



Holiday lighting tips



LEDs — Holiday lights using light-emitting diodes (LEDs) use one-tenth the energy of traditional mini-lights, and are cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.



Inspect Strings — Beware of broken bulbs. A missing or broken bulb can lead to shocks, fires or nasty cuts.



GFCI Outlet — For outdoor lighting purposes, make sure you only plug your lights into GFCI electrical outlets. All GFCI outlets will prevent shocking and all weather resistant outlets are tamper resistant.



Hazards — Whether your tree is live or artificial, unplug the tree lights before leaving the house or going to bed. If you have a live Christmas tree, be sure to keep it watered. In the event of a fire, a dry tree will burn much faster than a well-watered one.



Timer — Consider adding a programmable timer to your strings of lights to ensure lights are not accidentally left on. This also helps regulate energy use and reduce cost.



Installing — Always look up before decorating outdoors. Never raise ladders or extend objects into or near power lines. Always use plastic hooks. Staples, tacks and nails can pierce Christmas light strands and create a potential electrical shock.



Never — Avoid overloading electrical outlets, extension cords, or power strips with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.



Guidelines — Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings of lights can be safely connected together.



State Representative Elijah Behnke stopped in to talk with CEO Byron C. Nolde about issues that affect your co-op.

Electronics Recycling Event a Success!



Friday, October 14, we held our electronic recycling event. Members were given the opportunity to get rid of old and broken electronic equipment such as computers, printers, telephones, vacuums, and televisions. Members commented on how smooth and efficient the process was and we received endless "thank yous" too.

STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT

Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.

Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.

Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.

Carry a first aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.

Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at:

Happy Thanksgiving

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 24 & 25
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY.



We are excited to announce our electric vehicle pilot program

This special pilot rate is for electric vehicle (EV) owners. This rate applies to cooperative controlled load for electric vehicle charging. The controlled load will be shut off during peak demand (control) periods. A coexisting farm, residential, or small commercial service is required. Consumption is measured by ZEFNET utility grade metering.

To qualify for the EV rate, you must own a passenger automobile that is 100% electric or plug-in hybrid this is legally permitted to be utilized on a public road. Motorcycles, ATVs, golf carts, etc. will not qualify.

The EV pilot program is limited to the first 25 members and will remain in effect, unchanged by the cooperative, until December 21, 2025. Must commit to pilot for minimum of 12 months.

For more information contact the office.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. (1052301) If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov





Introducing StoryWalk®

Welcome to StoryWalk®, located at the beautiful East Side Beach in Oconto Falls and maintained by the Oconto Falls Community Library. The project was made possible by a grant received through Community Change. StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. The project brings literacy outside the library and hopefully leads to more people checking out their local library.

StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and has developed (21603) with the help of Rachel Senechal, formerly of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

You can pay it forward next year

Sign up for Community Change

Here at Oconto Electric Cooperative, we strive to bring forward the best in our local communities. Our Community Change grant envisions a better, brighter future for our local quality of life.

The program is funded by our member-owners who simply round their monthly electric bill up to the next even dollar amount. The average donation per year is \$6.00. Please take time to consider how such a small amount of money can make such a great impact on someone who needs your help.

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 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 to all the OEC members that contribute.



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 David and Carol Drella, Krakow and Dennis Herald, Oconto.

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

