



## CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging. I love my little community and all it has to offer for my family: a great school, restaurants, churches, a medical clinic, volunteer fire department, and so much more. If I don't have it in my community I know that I can find it in one of my great neighboring communities.

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

October is National Co-op Month, and more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate (1182801) the power of co-op membership.

OEC is a not-for-profit utility that is built by the communities we serve. Our mission is to be your community-minded, preferred provider of reliable energy and other services.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here too. You can find our employees volunteering at church, the local race track, the schools their children attend, coaching sports, or serving on local boards.

The co-op works hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs, scholarships, charitable



Part of our member services team, Robin Banaszynski (L), her husband Jared, Jodi Dettman and Katie Jagiello (not pictured) served dinner at the Oconto County Fair to the exhibitors.

giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home. Most recently, OEC served dinner at the Oconto County Fair to the exhibitors and their families.

All co-ops, including OEC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

### 1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

### 2. Democratic Member Control

Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.

### 3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At OEC, this happens through paying your energy bills.

### 4. Autonomy and Independence

Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

### 5. Education, Training and Information

Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees, directors and members have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

### 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

### 7. Concern for Community

All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve. — *Katie Jagiello*



## MEMBERS THANKFUL FOR ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

On September 6 we hosted our third Electronics 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 were allowed to bring a total of ten items, and three of them could be TVs or computer monitors.

This event continues to be a great success. As members drove up, we registered them to verify that they were indeed OEC members. They then pulled ahead to the unloading area where OEC employees unloaded their goods.

We registered 238 members and over 1,500 electronic items. What does that many electronics look like? Well, we had 20 pallets of televisions/computer monitors, seven dumpsters of electronics, and two gaylord boxes full of cords.

The event allows electronics to be properly recycled, keeping hazardous materials out of our landfills.

Members commented on how smooth and efficient the process was, and we received endless “thank yous” too. (1079300)

Thank you to Can Crusher Recycling, located in Oconto Falls, for taking all of our recycled electronics. If you missed the event and would like to recycle, please visit Can Crusher Recycling at 300 Pioneer Drive, Oconto Falls. There may be a fee for recycling. For any questions call 920-846-4245.



CEO Ryan Miller unloads electronics. This was his first time being at the event. “I was very surprised and impressed with the turnout. The appreciation and positive feedback I received from the members made it clear this was a successful event,” said Miller.





## UPCOMING EVENTS AT OEC YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

*Member Appreciation*

# PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

## Saturday, October 5

### 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Join us at OEC - 7479 REA Rd, Oconto Falls

Fun and Food  
FOR THE  
WHOLE FAMILY

Full details  
were in the  
Sept. magazine.



Image: Vecteezy

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH - LET'S CELEBRATE!

Stop in October 14-18 for popcorn and a gift

Lobby Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM

## "Bag Lunch To Go"

### Tuesday, November 5

From 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (or until we run out) pick up your brown bag lunch at OEC headquarters!

Pulled Pork Sandwich, BBQ Sauce, Chips, Homemade Cookie, Beverage. Cost \$10 for the meal or \$5 per sandwich.



Employee Charity  
Oconto Electric Cooperative

Proceeds go to OEC 2024  
Employee Charities:  
Victory Olympics  
The Nurses Nook  
Oconto Falls Legion





## From apprentice to journeyman

**T**anner Riley recently obtained his journeyman line worker certification by completing the state of Wisconsin's rigorous four-year Electric Line Worker Apprenticeship program at NWTC in Green Bay. To receive this certification, an apprentice is required to complete 7,360 hours of on-the-job training, along with 640 hours of classroom-based instruction, for a total of 8,000 hours. Tanner passed his final comprehensive exam this past spring.

We are very proud of Tanner's accomplishment. He has been employed with Oconto Electric Cooperative since May of 2021. We are also happy to hear that Tanner and his fiancée, Kirsten, are planning their wedding for August 2025. Tanner tells us he is looking forward to a long journeyman career at Oconto Electric Cooperative. Congratulations, Tanner!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

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

## 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 Robert & Linda Aprill, Oconto Falls, and Steven and Jordan Maes, Little Suamico.



Ryan Miller, CEO

Katie Jagiello, Communications and Marketing

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[www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com)

**Hours of Operation:** 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**Hours of Lobby:** 9:00 a.m.– 3 p.m. Friday

**Non-emergencies:** 920-846-2816

**Emergencies & outages:** Toll FREE 800-472-8410  
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week