

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* August 2023 NEWS



**Price Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**BRINGING ELECTRICITY
TO THE NAVAJO NATION**

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

NO HEAT RECIPES





PEC DIRECTORS ACHIEVE BOARD CERTIFICATION

Each year electric cooperative directors are expected to learn more about electric industry topics as well as board governance. They work to improve their knowledge and skills to be the most informed board for the membership. Two of PEC's directors recently earned recognition for their achievements in advancing their cooperative education. Congratulations to Karen and Mitch on these milestones. They are pictured with Jeff Olson, PEC's president and CEO.



BORTZ COMPLETES MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Price Electric Cooperative's Member Services & IT Manager Greg Bortz recently completed the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP). The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) coordinates this six-week training and facilitates a series of workshops and classes, both in person and online. MIP gives participants, including Bortz, a deeper understanding of all aspects of the cooperative such as strategic thinking, communication, leadership, and electric grid/power supply, to name a few.

Cooperative staff from across the country met at UW-Madison's Fluno Center for three, ten-day sessions, which are designed for participants to be challenged, educated, and collaborate. Bortz was one of 30 management executives who graduated from this session of MIP.

Bortz has been employed at PEC for 11 years and has worked in many roles in the member services department. In his current role as Member Services & IT Manager, he directs all activities relating to metering, technology, member events, and load management.



Pictured above is Greg Bortz with NRECA Director of Executive and Staff Education, Gary Pfann. Pictured below are the MIP graduates from this session.



RATE CHANGE REMINDER

PEC's rate change was effective July 1, 2023. This change is reflected on the bills received in August from July's usage. The increase is \$5 per month to the service availability fee. As stated in previous issues of the *WECN*, the increase is due to:

- Inflationary increase on equipment and material.
- Over 5% increase from PEC's generation and transmission provider, as they incur additional operating costs themselves.
- Storm and outage costs have increased over 98%.
- Fuel costs have increased 77.47%; over 80% of that increase was incurred in the last two years.
- Increased inventory levels to account for extended lead times due to unprecedented supply-chain issues.

If you have any questions about this increase, please contact the PEC office at 715-339-2155.



RATE SCHEDULE Effective July 1, 2023

Farm, Home, and Small Commercial Without Demand

Single-Phase Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$45.00
Three-Phase Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$58.00
Energy Charge per kWh (June, July, August)	\$0.1550
Energy Charge per kWh (All Other Months)	\$0.1365

Seasonal Home, Schools, Halls, and Churches

Single-Phase Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$45.00
Energy Charge per kWh (June, July, August)	\$0.1550
Energy Charge per kWh (All Other Months)	\$0.1365

Dual Fuel Heat Only

Single-Phase Dual Fuel Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$5.00
Dual Fuel Energy Charge per kWh (June, July, August)	\$0.1070
Dual Fuel Energy Charge per kWh (All Other Months)	\$0.0825

Dual Fuel Heat and Air Conditioning

Single-Phase Dual Fuel Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$5.00
AC Control Credit (June-August)	\$6.00/month
Dual Fuel Energy Charge per kWh (June, July, August)	\$0.1550
Dual Fuel Energy Charge per kWh (All Other Months)	\$0.0825

Commercial With Demand

Three-Phase Demand Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$77.00
Demand Charge per KW (June, July, August)	\$21.00
Demand Charge per KW (All Other Months)	\$18.50
Reactive Demand	\$0.25/KVAR
Energy Charge per kWh	\$0.0685

Commercial Peak Alert

Three-Phase Peak Alert Monthly Service Availability Charge	\$120.00
Demand Charge per KW	\$15/kW
Reactive Demand Charge	\$0.25/KVAR
Summer Peak Period Demand Charge per kW	\$81.09
Winter Peak Period Demand Charge per kW	\$30.94
Energy Charge per kWh	\$0.0560

Lighting

Outdoor Light Monthly Charge	\$15.00
Outdoor Street Lighting Monthly Charge	\$18.00



RESTORING POWER SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

For most PEC members, outages only last a few hours, but when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable. So, when the power goes out, how do crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported?

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground

service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

PEC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers, and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage.

When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. It only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood.

Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines, and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

It only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling 1-800-884-0881.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies, or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

HOW POWER IS SAFELY RESTORED

Please know that when the power goes out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE



STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES



STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS



Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading the *WEC News*? Find the answer to the question below for your chance to receive a \$25 bill credit. Drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to memberservices@PriceElectric.coop. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries the last day of the month.

Last month's Puzzler winner was Dan Bubolz.



How many PEC directors received recognition for advancing their cooperative education?

Answer

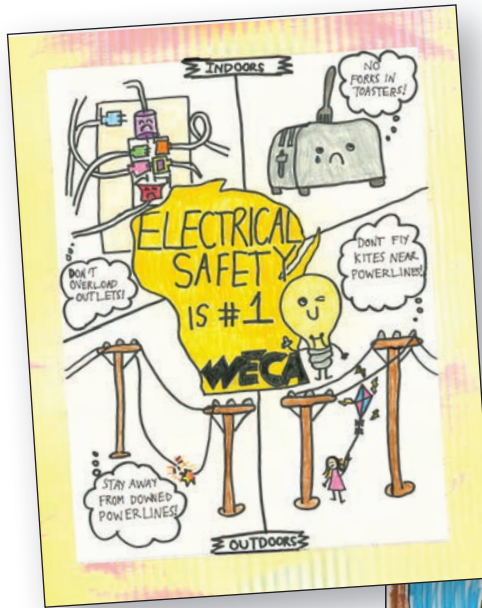
Name

Account Number

Phone

Email

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 110,
Phillips, WI, 54555



PEC member Stella won first place at the statewide level with her electrical safety poster, shown above. Eve was PEC's second-place winner; her poster is at right.



CONGRATS, POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Each year the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) facilitates an electrical safety poster contest for third-grade students. Cooperatives across the state can submit their top posters to WECA to be judged. There, the top three posters receive prizes—a Chromebook being the top prize. This year Stella, of PEC, won first place at the statewide level.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Jeff Olson, President/CEO

W6803 Springs Drive, P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881
www.PriceElectric.coop
Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Amy Klimowski, Editor



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