

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

November 2023



Price Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner

PIES WITH CO-OP TIES

A WINNING STRATEGY

HOW TO INSULATE YOUR ATTIC HATCH

KIDS AND CRITTERS



BREAKFAST IN THE NORTHLAND

CO-OP MONTH CELEBRATION



Above: Members filled the Price Electric Member Service Center to enjoy a pancake breakfast prepared and served by co-op staff and directors. Also shown in the upper left of this photo is PEC member Erik Langfoss showing members his Tesla.

PEC members gathered at the PEC office on the morning of Saturday, October 14, for the annual Breakfast in the Northland, a member appreciation event. Over 300 breakfasts were served to members while they visited with friends, PEC staff, and fellow members.

In conjunction with the breakfast, PEC also had Northcentral Recyclers onsite to collect various electronics, appliances, and other white goods to be recycled. They collected more than a semi-trailer load of items.

PEC also accepted non-perishable food items to donate to St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Phillips. The Price County Health Department was also onsite to administer flu vaccinations to interested members.

PEC and its directors are happy to host these member events and are already looking forward to next year's breakfast!



Above: Pictured here is only a portion of the items collected from the recycling event.

Right: Left to right are Nina Sulsdorf, PEC Director Joan Points, Marge Handschke, PEC Director Scott Haggard, and Shirley Hemp with the food drive donations.



WINTER PREPAREDNESS TEST FOR DUAL FUEL PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The 2023 Winter Preparedness Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Accounts is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 15**. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter full load control season to ensure members' familiarity with the control times and to ensure that backup heating systems are functioning properly. Dual fuel heat will start being controlled at 6:55 a.m., with a gradual restoral beginning at 10:00 a.m., with all loads being restored by 11:00 a.m.

The winter load control season runs from

December through February. On full load control days, dual fuel heat will begin controlling at 6:55 a.m., with a gradual restoral starting at 9:55 a.m., and all loads being restored by 11:00 a.m.

If you are a dual fuel heat or load management participant, you can sign up to be notified when there is a load control event. Notifications can be by phone call, text message, or email. If you would like to be added to the Everbridge notification system, call member services at 715-339-2155 or email memberservices@PriceElectric.coop.

CAPITAL CREDITS: A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP

PEC is a cooperative, and one of the things that makes us different from an investor-owned utility is that PEC is not in business to make a profit. We exist to serve our members and we belong to the community we serve. On the November billing statement, from October's usage, some members will see a credit. The members receiving the credit purchased electricity from PEC in 1995. Capital credit retirements being returned to members this year is \$296,639.

What are capital credits?

Capital credits are a unique financial benefit of being a member of PEC. As you pay your monthly electric bills, PEC uses funds to grow, operate, and maintain a safe and reliable electrical system. Any money received over and above the cost of doing business is called margins. Your portion of the margins is then returned to you in the form of capital credits. They represent your ownership stake in the cooperative. Being a member of PEC means these credits go back to you, our members, instead of to a group of shareholders.

HOW DO CAPITAL CREDITS WORK?



PEC tracks how much electricity you use and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.



At the end of the year, PEC assesses the finances to see if there is excess revenue.



PEC allocates the excess revenue as capital credits to the members, based on how much electricity you used.



When financial condition allows, the PEC board of directors will retire, or pay, the capital credits to you.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING MEMBERS



Who is eligible?

Your household may be eligible for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) based on several factors. If your household gross income (before taxes and other deductions) is less than the amount shown on the chart below, you may be eligible. You can apply at your local WHEAP agency, online, or by phone.

| Household Size | ONE Month | Annual Income |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | \$2,820.67 | \$33,848 |
| 2 | \$3,688.58 | \$44,263 |
| 3 | \$4,556.50 | \$54,678 |
| 4 | \$5,424.50 | \$65,094 |
| 5 | \$6,292.42 | \$75,509 |
| 6 | \$7,160.33 | \$85,924 |
| 7 | \$7,323.00 | \$87,876 |
| 8 | \$7,485.75 | \$89,829 |

What is the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program and how does it work?

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of energy costs, but it is not intended to cover the entire energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance benefit depends on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. In most cases, the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household's energy supplier.

What types of energy bills are eligible for assistance?

Homes heated with wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil can receive energy assistance. Your

household may also be eligible to receive a payment for your non-heating electric costs through funding provided by Wisconsin's Public Benefits Program.

If you currently do not have heat or may be disconnected...

Crisis assistance may be available if you have no heat, have received a disconnect notice, or are nearly out of fuel and are unable to purchase more. WHEAP agencies provide a 24-hour crisis phone number to help with emergencies after business hours. Non-emergency assistance may include information on how to reduce energy costs, counseling on budgeting and money management, and payments to an energy provider.

Source: energyandhousing.wi.gov

For more information and application information, please contact your local Health and Social Services office listed here.

Ashland County, 715-682-7004
Iron County, 715-561-3636
Lincoln County, 715-539-1344

Oneida County, 715-362-5695
Price County, 715-339-2158
Rusk County, 715-532-2299

Sawyer County, 715-634-4806
Taylor County, 715-748-3332
Vilas County, 715-479-3668



Fill out the form below to win one of nine Super One or Pick 'n Save gift cards. Price Electric is giving away nine \$25 gift cards to represent the nine districts in our service territory. Five winners will be selected from this magazine. Four winners will be selected from the PEC Facebook page. Return the form below or email memberservices@PriceElectric.coop by **Friday, November 10** for your chance to win!

Name

Phone No.

Acct. No.

CIRCLE ONE:

Pick 'n Save

Super One

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

PEC WELCOMES BECKY MICHELS

Becky Michels joined the PEC team on September 18 as PEC's new executive assistant/HR administrator. Becky grew up in Bloomer and attended WITC Rice Lake where she earned a degree in accounting and later attended Bellevue University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business management. Becky currently lives in Butternut with her husband and has two grown children, a son, and a daughter who both live in the Eau Claire area. Prior to Price Electric she worked for Northcentral Technical College as a regional office manager. Welcome, Becky!



Jeff Olson, President/CEO

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Amy Klimowski, Editor



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