

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

December 2022

## NEWS

Price Electric  
Cooperative

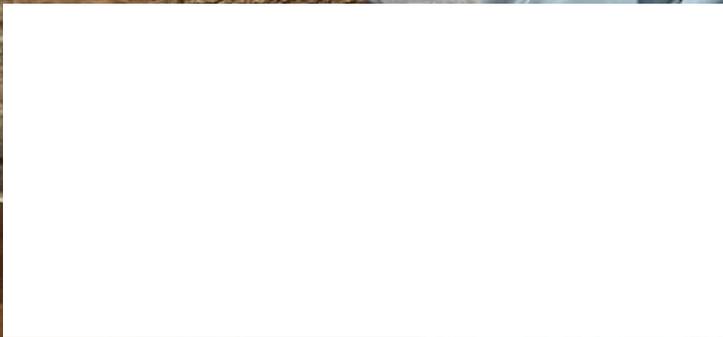
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

### A CHRISTMAS CO-OP MYSTERY

HURRY UP AND WAIT

ROTARY LIGHTS IN THE PARK

HOLIDAY CHEERS!  
DRINKS FOR THE SEASON





Jeff Olson, President/CEO

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

**W**e have come to the close of another year, and 2022 proved to be as challenging and dynamic as we expected, if not

more so. We kicked off the new year just a couple weeks after one of the most significant outages the cooperative has experienced in its history, and 2022 followed with both the usual and some unique opportunities to serve our membership in new ways. I am pleased to shine a light on some of the initiatives we've put forward in this past year.

2020 and 2021 brought us unprecedented growth in new services, and while that sector slowed a bit this year, we are still on track to complete nearly twice our historical average number of new services. We are grateful for each and every new member and welcome you to our cooperative family. Electric cooperatives are unique in many ways, and we encourage all our members to learn what their membership offers. One of the changes implemented this past year was an update of PEC's website, where you can find a wealth of information from rebate forms to capital credits to new member information to billing and much more.

Other changes in our offices included the implementation of a new phone system, designed to help you reach the person you need to speak to more quickly, as well as the launch of a Facebook page, with the purpose of providing you energy efficiency tips, employee milestone events, and PEC's community involvement. Please keep in mind that neither of these are staffed outside of normal working hours and the best way to reach the cooperative to report an outage after hours is on our 1-800-884-0881 number. This will ensure that the outage is communicated through the correct channels for dispatch to occur efficiently. We appreciate your prompt reporting of outages as it helps the cooperative respond in the most practical manner possible.

As everyone is well aware, supply-chain issues, fuel prices, surcharges, and lack of available resources have been concerns for every business and every member personally. We have all been affected in one way or another by the lasting consequences of global disruption. In spite of this, the cooperative family has remained committed to one

another, with strategic planning, mutual aid, and a nearly constant juggling of priorities and scheduling. The grit demonstrated by PEC's founders has persevered through these challenges as our members, board, and employees work together to ensure the future success of Price Electric as a member-focused partnership. We are grateful for your ongoing support of the cooperative, which allows us to continue providing scholarships, assistance for community projects, and other programs that benefit you, your friends, and your neighbors.

In this past year, we have been fortunate to be presented with opportunities to not only grow, but also learn and invest

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in the development of our employees and board of directors. In supporting those who do the work every day, we ensure that we are offering you best work practices and updated information. We are fortunate to employ talented people who work with purpose and who want to thrive

in their profession. We plan to expand upon our offerings for employees to develop professionally in the upcoming year and are thankful to have robust partnerships with other organizations that provide meaningful and relevant training.

We have certainly been on a rollercoaster these past few years, but it's important for us to remain rooted to the reason for our existence—you, the members. As we diligently work as your energy solutions cooperative, we remember that we have been here for over 82 years because of, and for, you. It is with the deepest gratitude on behalf of all of us at PEC that I say Merry Christmas and thank you. May the holiday season bring you peace, joy, and countless opportunities to let your light shine.

# PRICE ELECTRIC RETURNS OVER \$600,000 TO MEMBERS



This year the PEC Board of Directors authorized the retirement of more than \$600,000 in capital credits to PEC members.

## General & Estate Retirements:

Each year, the Board of Directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative and determines the amount of capital credits that can be retired (paid) to members and former members. The current retirement cycle is about 28–30 years. The general retirement this year is approximately \$428,000. Capital credits being retired were allocated in 1994.

If you had active electric service in 1994, and are a current PEC member, your allocations were paid back as a credit on your last electric bill. Former members received a check.

This retirement is in addition to over \$200,000 of capital credits retired as estates so far in 2022.

## Unclaimed:

Some checks that were mailed to former PEC members are returned to PEC without a forwarding address—these

capital credits are known as unclaimed.

The unclaimed capital credit listing is posted on the PEC website and will be published in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Legal heirs of former members should contact PEC to claim any unretired capital credits.

## Forfeiture:

PEC makes every attempt to contact and return capital credits to former members, through multiple mailings and postings. However, capital credits that are unclaimed for a period of not less than three years, nor more than five years after retirement, are subject to forfeiture. After attempting to contact former members for three years, the Board of Directors has the authority to forfeit the funds to the Federated Youth Foundation. Funds are used for charitable and educational purposes.

For additional information regarding capital credits, please visit [www.PriceElectric.coop](http://www.PriceElectric.coop) or call 715-339-2155.

## Winter 2022–23 Full Load Control Schedule

Load Type	Description	Control Start	Restoral
Interruptible Heat	12+ hour backup	6:55 a.m.	Gradual: 9:55 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.
Interruptible Heat	4+ hour backup	6:55 a.m.	Gradual: 9:55 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
Peak Alert Devices		Alert on: 3:55 p.m.	Alert off: 8:05 p.m.
Manual Standby Generators	Alert on: 4:20 p.m. Alert off: 8:10 p.m.	4:50 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Dairy Water Heaters		4:55 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

**\*\* The full load control time for interruptible heat has been changed from previous years. The control will now be in the morning instead of the evening.**

There can be up to 7 full load control events per season (December, January, February), with at least 1 full load control event per month. If you are unsure of which load type you have, please contact the PEC office at 715-339-2155 for more information.

## Winter 2022–23 Economic Control Schedule

Load Type	Description	Control Start	Restoral
Water Heater	Small residential	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.
Water Heater	Large residential	4:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
Dairy Water Heater		5:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
Interruptible Heat	12+ hour backup	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.

\*Economic control can occur any time between start and restoral times, depending on market prices.

If you are participating in the load management program, and would like to receive notifications of controls, please contact the PEC office. Notifications can be via text, phone, or email.



## FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT THE WINTER CHILL AND SAVE ENERGY



Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

- 1. Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees.
- 2. Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
- 3. Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material to help block the cold outdoor air.
- 4. Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles, and unplug them.
- 5. Think outside the box.** If you're still chilly, think of ways to warm up beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

## BE SAFE DURING THE HO-HO-HOLIDAYS 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY

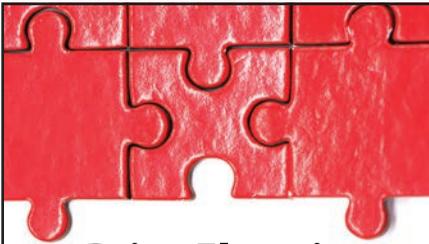


*Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:*

- 1** Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2** Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3** Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4** Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5** Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6** String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7** Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8** Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9** Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10** Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



Safe LEARN MORE AT:  
Electricity.org



## 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](mailto:memberservices@PriceElectric.coop). A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on December 31.

Winner of the October puzzler was Joanne Hansen.



**What amount did PEC retire in capital credits this year?**

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

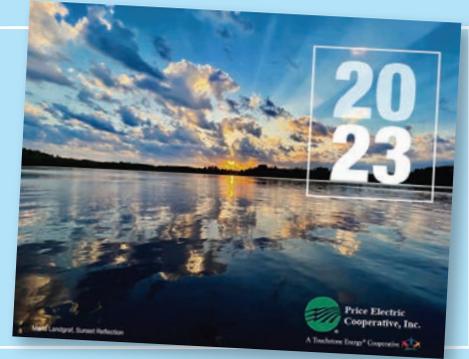
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

## REMINDER:

2023 calendars are in! Stop by the PEC office to pick up yours!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes, or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

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



## Smart Sense

### Update

As of October 31, 2022, \$37,865.24 has been distributed through the Smart Sense Rebate Program. Submit 2022 rebates by Thursday, December 29, 2022. Qualified items purchased after this date will receive the 2023 rebate amount, if available.



## Happy Holidays!

The PEC office will be closed December 23 and December 26 in observance of Christmas, and January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

## Jeff Olson, President/CEO

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715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881  
[www.PriceElectric.coop](http://www.PriceElectric.coop)  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

## Greg Bortz, Editor



**Price Electric  
Cooperative**

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