



FALLING INTO AUTUMN: THE WORK CONTINUES

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

As we turn the calendar to September, we wind down the fun of summer and look forward to our typically beautiful fall weather. We're getting back into the swing of school routines, the return of Friday night lights to our communities, preparing for harvest on the farm, and taking advantage of all the outdoor activities western Wisconsin has to offer. Fall is generally one of my favorite seasons and it also begins a busy season for your cooperative as we safely work to deliver you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy.

Work is wrapping up on several projects your cooperative has been working on. We've been upgrading lines in the northern part of our service territory as part of our system reliability efforts. Right-of-way maintenance has been mostly completed on the western side of our system. Trees are still the number one cause of outages on our system and maintaining our rights-of-way is critical to keeping your power reliable. Speaking of reliability, we had a couple of larger outages in July due to severe storms and high winds. While we always hope for zero outage hours, I'm proud of our crew and office staff for the effort they put in to get power restored as safely and quickly as possible in those challenging conditions. I also appreciate our members' patience and positive comments to our crews as we got your lights back

on. I'd like to specifically thank our members who offered our crews water and snacks while they were out working. Small gestures like that truly reinforce why living and working in our area is so special.

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Work is moving along on our solar project near our Elk Mound substation on Highway 29. This smaller, utility-scale solar project, on less than 20 acres, will let us use existing electrical infrastructure to add more local renewable generation to our system. The system will produce enough energy to cover the yearly use of around 450 average homes while taking advantage of the

economies of scale to keep the price affordable. This is our fourth local small-scale utility project, and we look forward to exploring more projects in the future.

As we move into fall, also remember to sign up for **The Power Connection: Conversations with your Cooperative** program, which will begin in October. This small group session is a great chance to learn more about your cooperative and the energy industry. You'll also get to share your feedback and opinions with the cooperative. Check out our website, dunnenergy.com, or call the office to learn more.

I hope you all enjoy the fall season!

Working for You

Hidden Account Numbers

If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a **\$50 credit** on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were Richard & Becky Knutson and Clint & Chante Grant.



2025 YOUTH CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

This year roughly 80 students from across the state descended on the UW-Stout campus to experience dorm life, listen to motivational speakers, bond with strangers, all while learning about what makes the cooperative business model special.

The Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is sponsored by electric cooperatives across the state and is a one-of-a-kind experience for local youth. Over the course of three days, students engage with presenters on topics ranging from self-confidence and leadership to safety and perseverance. Students are also encouraged to actively participate in small group activities.

The students are divided into six

districts where they interview and hire an electric cooperative CEO, create a TikTok showcasing one of the seven

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Cooperative Principles, and talk about the many opportunities available to them through their electric cooperative.

“As a chaperone to the event, it’s

always a treat to watch the students come out of their shell and make lifelong friends,” said Jolene Fisher, Dunn Energy Cooperative Director of Engagement. “On day one, there’s a lot of ‘my mom made me come here, ugh’, but by the time we’re packing kids up to go home, they’re sharing contact information and thanking the cooperatives for the awesome experience. It’s truly fun to watch.”

The 62nd Annual YLC is being planned now by the newly elected Youth Board. If your student is interested in attending (or if you’re interested in them attending), watch for information on our social media channels and in the magazine early next year!





TIRED OF HEATING AND COOLING NATURE?

TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS EASY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Do your curtains flutter in the breeze? Even with your windows closed? If you live in an old house like I do, sitting next to the window in February can be a little chilly. It doesn't have to be though. Taking on a simple project, like insulating your window and door jambs, can be rewarding and help you make your home more comfortable. All you need is a couple of inexpensive tools and some spray foam.

Supplies needed:

- Claw hammer or small prybar
- Spray foam (window and door low expansion foam)
- Utility knife

From the inside of your house, pop off the trim on your leaky window or door. If it's caulked to the wall, you'll have to take your blade and very carefully cut along the trim to free it from the wall. (1960003)

Once the trim is off, you should be able to see if there's insulation between the window or door jamb and the studs. If not, apply your spray foam. Once you reapply your trim, you're done!

If you're in a rental or feel like this is a little too daunting for you, which is completely ok, remember that the plastic film kits will work just as well when applied properly.



Do you want to keep going with the cheap and easy projects? Check behind the outlet and light switch covers on your outside walls. They can leak air as well. You can pick up some easy (and cheap) "socket sealers" to put behind the plate to help reduce unwanted airflow.

With the heating season approaching faster than we'd like it to, now is a great time to get some of those cheap and easy efficiency projects taken care of. Good luck!

—Jolene Fisher, Dunn Energy Cooperative





ENERGY ASSISTANCE

WEST CAP PROVIDES ENERGY ASSISTANCE

FOR BARRON, CHIPPEWA, DUNN, PEPIN,
PIERCE, AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES



As the heating season quickly approaches, we'd like to remind everyone of the services available to help with your energy bill, should the need arise.

Established in 1965, West CAP is one of over 16 Community Action agencies in Wisconsin and one of over 1,000 across the country working to end poverty. The West CAP team of nearly 70 staff strives to provide resources that promote the self-sufficiency of low-income families in the rural communities of west central Wisconsin by working to create a more just and sustainable society.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to households across our

service area to help lower the burden of monthly energy costs.

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of energy costs, and the payment is not intended to cover the entire annual energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance payment varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs.

Crisis assistance may be available if you have no heat, are nearly out of fuel, or your electricity has been or will soon be shut off. (3910002)

For more information on all of their programs, please call West CAP at (715) 598-4750. You can also visit their westcap.org for an application.

Other Services Available

Keep Wisconsin Warm: 800-891-9276 or www.kwwf.org

Heat for Heroes: 800-891-9276 or www.heat4heroes.org

Foundation for Rural Housing: 888-400-5974 or <https://www.wisconsinruralhousing.org/>

VFW Unmet Needs: 608-221-5276 or www.vfwwi.org

Stepping Stones of Dunn County: 715-235-2920 or www.steppingstonesdc.org

Salvation Army: 800-SAL-ARMY or www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/chippewavalley

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