



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

ENERGY DEMAND USE INFORMATION ADDED TO MONTHLY BILLING

For this month's column I'd like to inform our members about a new line item

that will begin to appear on monthly residential electric bills starting in March. The new line item will show a member's electric demand use. This is possible because of the recent installation of our new metering system.

We have always shown demand use for large businesses, as it has been part of their billing structure.

You are probably asking yourself, why are we adding demand use information to the electric bill? The most important thing to remember is that we are not charging for demand, the data is being provided for informational purposes only. Knowing your demand use helps you and the co-op understand what makes up your total bill. When doing a cost of service

study, having this information available to our consultants will help them keep our rates fair for everyone.

To better understand demand, it is important to know the difference between Demand and Energy. Demand is the rate at which electricity is used at a given time and is measured in kilowatts (kW). Energy is the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) or the amount of electricity a member used for a month.

Think of it in terms of your car's speedometer:

For example, a car that travels at a rate of speed of 80 mph for a ½ hour, the miles driven is only 40 miles. In terms of electricity: If a member's rate of demand consumption is 80 kW for a ½ hour, the kWh consumed is 40 kWh.

Large power accounts are billed for both the rate that energy is consumed (kW) and the energy consumed (kWh).

To put it into context, think about how your dishwasher and washing

machine both use electricity. The amount of electricity they use is the same regardless of when you use them. If you use them at the same time, you demand more electricity at that time. If you use them at separate times, your demand is lower.

For example, let's say if you run your washing machine for an hour, it uses 0.7 kW, which would be your demand on our system for power. Let's also say that if you use your dishwasher for an hour, it uses 1.8 kW, which would be your demand on our system for power. But if you run both the washing machine and dishwasher at the same time, the demand on our system for power would be 2.5 kW. Your demand becomes the total of the two because you need that much power at the same time.

From the above example, if you don't run the washing machine and dishwasher at the same time, the highest demand for those two hours would be 1.8 kW, because it is the most demand you used at one time. The highest demand you set in one month is the highest amount of electricity used at once during a 15-minute interval in your billing cycle.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: I know you all have a very busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to come to our 87th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 10, at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. The meeting lasts about an hour and is very informative of what has and is happening at your cooperative. It is also a great opportunity for you to visit with fellow cooperative members and learn more about your cooperative and the programs we offer. There will be plenty of fabulous door prizes donated by our corporate partners. For more information about the annual meeting, see page 18 in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you there.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:55 a.m. on December 19, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the November 26, 2024, meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- b. ATC first capital call was approved in the amount of \$97,758 to American Transmission Company.
- c. Bad debt write-offs in the amount of \$16,134.14 were approved. Capital credits were applied to the electric write-offs.
- d. Board Policy 301 – Whistleblower was reviewed. The policy will be sent to the lawyer to review.
- e. Lila Shower was nominated to serve as the CRC voting delegate.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. Water heater LMR removal continues. Work continues at the Sannes Substation. Preliminary steps to relocate the Rosholt Substation were shared with the Board.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for September was \$0.00702. Preliminary audit information has been submitted to the auditor. The new billing format will be tested by NISC and possibly go live in April 2025.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke submitted a written report. Collection for the Toys for Tots program wrapped up for 2024. 1,100 children in our area were served. The Member Advisory Group has 2 members who have reached their term limits. Positions will be filled by April 1, 2025.

President and CEO – Lila Shower, CEO, reported on her submitted report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

W-B SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1,000 STEAM GRANT

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District has received a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be used to create a workshop for middle school students about exploring electric and magnetic principles.

In order to create the workshop, Christina Priewe, physics and chemistry teacher for Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, said that needed equipment and supplies will be purchased with the funds. The main piece of equipment to be purchased is a new Van de Graaff generator, which costs around \$500. "We have one that's old; it doesn't work that well," Priewe said.

Most of the items that will be purchased with the funds will be able to be used in future school years. While the electric and magnetic principles workshop will be geared to teach middle school students, the teaching will be done by 13 high school students enrolled in Priewe's physics class.

"It will be a project built into their (high school science) curriculum," Priewe said. "They've been mostly really excited about it. A lot of them actually do some volunteer work down in the middle school and elementary school now as well. This is something I think they are very interested in."

For the workshop, around 40 7th and 8th grade students from the elementary school in Wittenberg will be bused to the high school to spend about a half a day at the science lab to be taught by high school students. Priewe said she is also working on doing the same for the 7th and 8th grade students at the elementary school in Birnamwood.

"This is my second year here, and I'm really excited about all of the support there is for our science department, growing that department, and the interest in science," Priewe said. "I'm really trying to hook some interest in the younger grades. And we really focused as well on kids giving some community

service back. A lot of my upper classmen really enjoy working with the younger kids, so it gives them a chance to master the concept and teach it. And it takes a lot more mastering to teach something than it does just to pass a test.

It's a way to have the younger kids up here to check out the lab facilities and see what they could do someday. And for the older kids to teach how you can make science more assessable and interesting."

Priewe is hopeful that the workshop will allow students to "see how all the technology and everything all integrates together."

Some of the things that will be done in the workshop include using engineering to design working models, creating unique take-home pieces of art using the principles of electromagnetism, and using math to perform calculations to model the phenomena they observe.

"My goal really is to grow and promote our science here in the district to get kids interested in upper-level science," Priewe said. "And also, some networking and forming those bonds and mentorship between the older and younger students. Also, just to push creativity. Students who are creative know that there are lots of different ways to have output for that creativity."



Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Principal Megan Rothmeyer (left), high school physics and chemistry teacher Christina Priewe (center), and high school junior Reese Dickman (right) accept a \$1,000 STEAM grant from CWEC.

OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school bound students through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Operation Round Up program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Round Up. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors and online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for submitting completed applications is **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and full-time student equivalent during their first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school.

Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient will need to provide CWEC with a copy of their grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester.

Since the CWEC Operation Round Up scholarship program began in 2005 CWEC has provided more than \$336,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of its members is another.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.





APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY SCHOLARSHIP

To encourage students to consider a career at an electric utility, and to create an incentive for trained electric utility workers to seek employment with electric cooperatives or other utilities, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has established a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.



The scholarship is intended to assist a student pursuing a technical college education in an electric program that lends itself to employment in the electric utility industry.

Traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants need not be a member of CWEC, but preference will be given to CWEC members. The scholarship is administered by the CWEC Operation Round Up Trust Committee. The committee will evaluate all applications and essay responses. The selection criteria will be based on scholastic achievement, school and community involvement, work history, and essay submission.

Scholarship applications and guidelines can be found online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for submitting completed applications is **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Scholarship winners will be chosen shortly after the deadline.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.

GAGAS FARMS RECEIVES ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARDS

For Gagas Farms, Inc., updating its operations is nothing new. After all, the history of the farm dates back to the early 1930s.

Clifford Gagas, who owns Gagas Farms with his brother, Gene, said his grandfather originally started the farm in the early 1930s. The farm was eventually taken over by Clifford and Gene's dad, before they took over the operations of the farm.

"We're starting to step out of it and I have one son who's the next generation and will be taking it over, and see where it goes from there," Clifford Gagas said.

He said the farm specializes in growing vegetables and grain. Potatoes are the main crop of the farm, with half the crop going to canning companies, and the other half going to the fresh market. Sweet corn and green peas are also grown, which go to canning companies.

Food grade soybeans are also grown on the farm.

With Energy Conservation Rewards available through Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), and the opportunity to update its irrigation equipment, Gagas Farms took advantage of that opportunity.

"I upgraded an irrigation setup, which had a pond for a water source and pivots for applying the water," Gagas said. "It was a diesel engine before. I upgraded it to electric with VFD drive, and a 40-horsepower pond pump to supply the water."

Gagas said the upgrade will mean farm personnel won't have to spend as much time maintaining the equipment because the electric pump is more of a "permanent set-up" as compared to the diesel engine.

"The diesel engine, we would always put it away for the winter, bring it back out the next spring," Gagas said.

"This also should be much more energy efficient."

Being able to apply for and receive Energy Conservation Rewards from CWEC for the project was beneficial to completing the project, Gagas said.

"It gives a good incentive to want to do it (project). I appreciate it," Gagas said. "If it's (Energy Conservation Rewards) available, other farmers should take advantage of it. It's well worth it."



Clifford Gagas, who owns Gagas Farms, Inc. with his brother, Gene, with the check for the Energy Conservation Rewards that Gagas Farms received after completing an irrigation update project.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
MARCH 9**

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 8, 2025.**

CWEC 87th ANNUAL MEETING



Thursday, April 10

REGISTRATION BEGINS: 5:15 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING: 6 P.M.

**WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
400 W GRAND AVE
WITTENBERG, WI**

Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Thursday, April 10, 2025, for our 87th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. Registration begins at 5:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served until the start of the meeting at 6 p.m.

President & CEO Lila Shower will keynote the meeting's business session, which begins at 6 p.m. During the business session, members will have the opportunity to hear how their co-op is faring financially, learn details about various services offered by their member-owned power supplier, and receive updates on state and federal regulatory issues of importance to electric co-ops. An election of two board positions will be held.

As a member-owner of an electric cooperative, you can voice your opinions at the annual meeting, observing the annual meeting rules. This is an advantage that cooperatives have over the investor-owned utilities, whose customers have no say in the management of the company and cannot vote for their board of directors.

Members who attend the in-person Annual Meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit. Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April 2025 issue of the *WECN* will have the chance to win a \$50 energy credit. In addition to many door prizes, one lucky member will be drawn as the winner of a grand prize consisting of an electric grill. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present.

HELP FILL OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY SHELVES


CWEC will be kicking off its food pantry drive at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Bring three or more non-perishable food items that are not expired, and you will receive a FREE LED bulb. (Limit of three bulbs per family) Your generous donation helps fill the shelves of food pantries in our service area.

If you cannot make it to the annual meeting, we will be collecting food pantry donations at our office, located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, throughout the year, and you can still receive the free LED bulb.

For more information call 715-677-2211.



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Our Mission

**We are your trusted energy
partner and provider of
valued community support.**