



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH!



By Jay A. Porter,
Chief Executive Officer

It's time to celebrate cooperatives! We're pretty unique in the business world, and because of this we have an expression that we like to use: "the cooperative difference."

There's a long history of friends and neighbors in little communities

working together to bring electricity to the countryside. Those individuals formed a cooperative and became its first members. Our co-op was formed in the same way. Many things have changed since then, but we maintain our original values, and we're still run by our members.

As a co-op, ACEC is also different because we don't have faraway shareholders. Any excess revenues are returned to you, our members, because we're not-for-profit. Our electric co-op was built by the community, belongs to the community, and continues to be led by the community—that's the cooperative difference, and that's why we're celebrating!

Turn to page 18 to learn about our seven cooperative principles.

New Look for App

SmartHub's mobile app will be getting a fresh, new look this month. SmartHub is even more user-friendly than ever. Now you will be able to see the usage graph for your account right on the home screen. If you haven't yet downloaded the app, it's especially great for payments on the go, or to see your usage from anywhere. You can download it from the Play Store on your Android device or App Store on your Apple device.



RESP Loan

On the following page you can find information about our new loan, the Rural Energy Savings Program, or RESP Loan. This loan is perfect for any of those home improvement projects that have been sitting on the back burner. It is meant for energy efficient upgrades to your home. Turn the page for more.

Energy Assistance Available

The Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources provides services to qualified residential households with energy assistance and weatherization needs. If you're having difficulty paying your energy bill, contact your county agency to see if you are eligible for assistance. For your convenience, here is a list of county agencies, or call 866-HEATWIS (432-8947).

Adams County	608-339-6767
Columbia County	608-742-4088
Dane County	608-267-8601
Dodge County	920-887-7990
Green Lake County	920-294-4070
Marquette County	608-297-3124
Portage County	715-344-5999
Sauk County	608-356-8887
Waupaca County	715-258-6820
Waushara County	920-787-1830
Wood County	715-421-8659

As the days get colder, it might be tempting to use a space heater. But using a space heater could cost more than you expect. Use our Usage Calculator at www.acecwi.com/energy-usage-formula/ to see how much it costs to run electronics and appliances.

SAFETY MESSAGE



Fire Safety

When is the last time you checked your smoke alarm? I can say that in our household, it's been awhile since we've tested a smoke alarm other than the one in the kitchen, which gets a workout from time to time when the kids help in the kitchen! October 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week, so this is the perfect time to remind us all that the Red Cross recommends testing your smoke alarm once a month. It is also important to have a fire escape plan and to practice that plan twice a year. I hope the misfortune of a house fire never befalls you, but it is important to be prepared if it does.

MY CO-OP



RESP LOAN

RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM

Do you have home improvement projects that you've put on the back burner? Then our new Rural Energy Savings Program, or RESP loan is for you!

You can apply for a low interest loan to implement cost-effective, energy efficiency measures on your home. We are partnering with MSA Professional Services to administer this loan program.

LOAN TERMS*

- Interest rates as low as 3% for up to 10 years
- Member is responsible for 5% of the loan amount
- \$7,500 minimum loan

QUALIFYING PROJECTS

- Lighting Improvements
- HVAC Systems
- Water Heaters
- Motors
- Energy Audits
- Energy Storage Devices
- And other activities and investments directly related to Energy Efficiency Implementation
- Compressed Air Systems
- Building Envelope Improvements
- Boilers, Dryers, Heaters and process related equipment
- On or Off Grid Renewable Energy Systems
- Energy Efficient Appliance Upgrades
- Irrigation or Water and Waste Disposal System Efficiency Improvements

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

Visit our website at www.acecwi.com/resp-loan/ for a network of trade allies, the application, and FAQ's.

*Terms will vary by energy efficiency

Equal Opportunity Provider, USDA funded program



OPERATION ROUND-UP®



Neshkoro Fire Dept
Telescoping LED Light

The second week of October is Fire Prevention Week. Adams-Columbia's Operation Round-Up program has given to numerous fire departments in our service territory. In the last five years alone, Operation Round-Up has donated nearly \$50,000 to 16 fire departments. This funding has been used for things like new LED lights, thermal cameras, fire truck repair, and protective fire gear.

HOW TO HELP

Have you thought about contributing to Operation Round-Up? Funding comes from members who round their bill up to the next dollar. On average, each member donated \$3.83 this year. If you would like to contribute to Operation Round-Up, please check the box on the back of your bill, call our office (800) 831-8629, or email us at acec@acecwi.com, or sign up through SmartHub.

Sign up for Operation Round-Up before
November 15 for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit!

HOW IT WORKS

All of these funds go into a special account that is used for charities, individuals, and families in our communities. Funds cannot be used for political purposes or to reimburse the cooperative for any expenses or unpaid energy usage. Operation Round-Up even has its own board that's separate from our board of directors, that oversees the program. It's comprised of one board member from each of Adams-Columbia's districts, and up to four at-large members. The board is responsible for reviewing applications and awarding funds. Applications can be found on our website. Both organizations and individuals can apply for Operation Round-Up funds. Upcoming application deadlines are October 15 and January 15.



Pardeeville Fire Dept
AEDs



Saxeville-Springwater Fire Dept
Generator



New Chester Fire & Rescue
Thermal Cameras



Wautoma Fire Dept
Cold Water Recovery Suits



Redgranite Area Fire Dept
Helmet Lights



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7 Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world are guided by a set of seven principles. You'll see below why these standards make co-ops different than other business.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives


Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Customer Service & Billing	800-831-8629
Power Outage Reporting	888-928-2232
Diggers Hotline	800-242-8511

**To make a payment anytime 24/7,
please call 1-844-219-1223.**

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO
Ashley Miller—Editor

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00
www.acecwi.com

The Friendship Service Center is located in the Village of Friendship, in Adams County. From Highway 13, travel east three blocks on East Lake Street. Lake Street is also marked as County Highway J.

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative maintains operations facilities in Pardeeville and Wautoma. These facilities are not open for general business; however, drive-up payment stations are available at both locations. ACEC employees will meet with cooperative members in Pardeeville and Wautoma by prearranged appointment only.