

CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY PARTNER

DECEMBER 2019



ADAMS-COLUMBIA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HAPPY
Holidays

Happy Holidays from all of us at Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op!

ADAMS-COLUMBIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your source for Co-op news and information.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY

Co-op Connections® Card



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



After much evaluation, our cooperative has decided to no longer be a member of Touchstone Energy. With dues on the rise, we have done an in-depth analysis of the programs offered and have found it is in our members' best interest to end our membership. Unfortunately, this means the Co-op Connections Card program will come to an end on January 1. The trackable information for this program shows there has been an 87% decrease in use.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



We will begin accepting applications for Adams-Columbia's educational scholarship on January 1. We encourage anyone continuing their studies, from newly graduated high school students, to adults continuing their education, to apply for this scholarship. Last year Adams-Columbia awarded 75 individuals with \$1,000 towards their education. For an application and additional details, please visit www.acecwi.com.



SmartHub has rolled out it's new look for the App. Be sure to download it if you haven't already, for easy bill pay, notifications, outage reporting, and more – all at your fingertips.

**DID YOU KNOW WE OFFER THE
RESP ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN?
CALL US AT (608) 339-5426**

acecwi.com

ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on May 21, 2020 at the new Pardeeville High School Auditorium. Mark your calendars to join us on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. There will be three director seats up for election in 2020: District 5, District 7, and an At-Large position. Interested in running for a director seat? Email lmohns@acecwi.com or call (608) 339-5401.



MYTH BUSTERS: THE FACILITY CHARGE

What the heck is a facility charge? What does it cover if I'm already paying for the electricity that I use? These are some of the questions that come up so let's break it down and see what it's all about.

WHAT IS IT?

The facility charge ensures electricity actually makes its way to you. Wire, poles, transformers, and substations are essential to working electricity, and this stuff is not cheap. AND all these things must be constantly monitored, maintained, and repaired.

Did you know the average cost to install one mile of electrical services is over \$41,000! Simply put, the facility charge makes sure electricity can travel to you and works when you flip a switch.

WHY DO I STILL HAVE TO PAY IF I DON'T USE ANY ELECTRICITY?

Just because a home on our lines is not your primary residence, doesn't mean that you don't want electricity to be available when you're there, right? Those lines and other equipment still need to be in place and maintained 24/7 so that you have power when you do come to stay.

Maybe we can look at this with an analogy... It's kind of the same with TV and internet. If you have a great TV package with a thousand channels and blazing fast internet, you still have to pay for these services even if you don't use them while you're at work all day. You don't only pay for the times you watch television or use the internet; you pay for a whole month worth of service to make sure that it's there when you want it.

WHY IS ACEC'S FACILITY CHARGE DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER COMPANY'S FACILITY CHARGE?

Co-ops tend to serve rural communities. One of the wonderful perks to living in a rural area is not being packed in like sardines. However, having neighbors live further away, means having less people share the cost of system maintenance.

For example, our friends at a neighboring investor owned utility (IOU) have 474,783 electric customers with 21,900 miles of line in the state of Wisconsin. Here at ACEC, we have 37,323 electric services with 5,311 miles of line. If we do a little simple math, we can see that there are approximately 21 people per mile at the IOU, vs. 7 people per mile at ACEC. The facility charge at the IOU is \$15.00 vs ACEC's facility charge of \$32.85. Both the IOU and ACEC have the same amount of equipment per mile, we just have less people to share the cost.

HOW DOES ACEC'S FACILITY CHARGE RATE AGAINST OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES IN WISCONSIN?

The chart below shows rate information about electric utilities in Wisconsin*. It lists both investor owned utilities (IOUs), and co-ops. This chart is arranged by the facility charge cost from low to high. But you will see in the last column a ranking of each utility's average bill, with 1 being the lowest to 26 being the highest.

Out of the 26 utilities, ACEC comes in number 11 both when listed by facility charge costs, and when looking at the average monthly cost of a utility bill. When looking at the average monthly bill column, you will see that although the IOUs (highlighted in gray) rank lower on the facility charge scale, two of the five have an average monthly bill that is higher than ACEC.

Co-op or IOU	Facility Charge	kWh rate Winter	kWh rate Summer	Average Monthly Cost **	Bill Ranked Low - High
NWEC (IOU)	\$ 12.00	\$0.11870	\$0.11870	\$ 130.70	2
Alliant (IOU)	\$ 15.00	\$0.11663	\$0.11663	\$ 131.63	3
WE Energies (IOU)	\$ 16.00	\$0.13111	\$0.13111	\$ 147.11	14
Xcel (IOU)	\$ 17.00	\$0.11365	\$0.12518	\$ 134.49	5
Rock	\$ 19.00	\$0.10890	\$0.10890	\$ 127.90	1
MG&E (IOU)	\$ 19.00	\$0.12733	\$0.13850	\$ 150.05	18
Clark	\$ 29.00	\$0.10700	\$0.12200	\$ 138.75	7
Oakdale	\$ 30.00	\$0.10400	\$0.11400	\$ 136.50	6
East Central	\$ 30.25	\$0.12490	\$0.14380	\$ 159.88	22
Jackson	\$ 31.94	\$0.11300	\$0.12800	\$ 148.69	16
Adams Columbia	\$ 32.85	\$0.11200	\$0.11200	\$ 144.85	11
Scenic Rivers	\$ 33.00	\$0.10940	\$0.10940	\$ 142.40	9
Eau Claire	\$ 33.00	\$0.11200	\$0.12800	\$ 149.00	17
Central Wisconsin	\$ 33.81	\$0.13710	\$0.13710	\$ 170.91	25
Barron	\$ 34.50	\$0.09570	\$0.10570	\$ 133.53	4
Riverland	\$ 34.98	\$0.11730	\$0.11730	\$ 152.28	20
Dunn	\$ 35.00	\$0.10640	\$0.12140	\$ 145.15	12
St. Croix	\$ 35.00	\$0.09800	\$0.11200	\$ 146.13	13
Price	\$ 35.00	\$0.13650	\$0.15500	\$ 176.13	26
Polk-Burnett	\$ 36.00	\$0.10100	\$0.11600	\$ 142.00	8
Bayfield	\$ 36.00	\$0.12500	\$0.14000	\$ 164.75	24
Taylor	\$ 36.90	\$0.11710	\$0.13210	\$ 157.75	21
Chippewa Valley	\$ 37.00	\$0.10190	\$0.12540	\$ 144.78	10
Vernon	\$ 37.50	\$0.11100	\$0.12600	\$ 152.25	19
Pierce-Pepin	\$ 39.94	\$0.11700	\$0.13300	\$ 160.94	23
Jump River	\$ 40.90	\$0.10450	\$0.11650	\$ 148.40	15

*There were two Wisconsin co-ops that did not provide information on their rates. **Average monthly cost based on 1,000 kWh usage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 16

Jay's Discussion Days

Visit our GM, Jay Porter, between 8:00am- 11:00am in Wautoma - N1519 State Rd 22, and between 1:00pm - 4:00pm in Pardeeville - W6290 State Rd 33.



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