



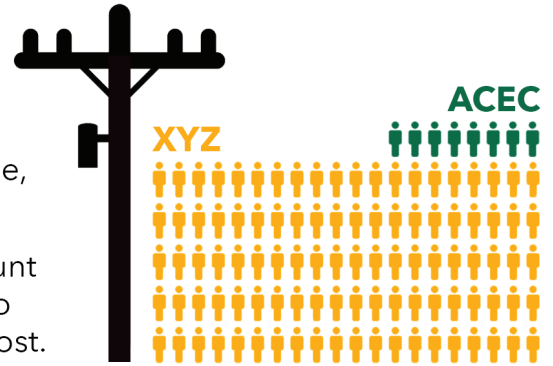
WHY DO WE HAVE A FACILITY CHARGE?

We get this question often and want to explain what the purpose of a facility charge is and why our facility charge is different than other utilities. All members of the co-op pay a facility charge. The facility charge is a separate charge from your energy usage.

WHY IS ACEC'S FACILITY CHARGE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER UTILITIES?

Simply put, we serve less people per mile of line. For example, XYZ Electric may serve 100 customers per mile of line. On average, we serve 8 members per mile.

This means that even though ACEC and XYZ have the same amount of material invested into one mile of line, ACEC has 8 members to pay for one mile of line and XYZ has 100 customers to split that cost.



WHAT DOES FACILITY CHARGE GO TOWARDS?

The facility charge supports the costs for the materials and services that it takes to deliver power to your home or business. These items and services are needed to provide electric service to you, whether you use the power or not.

Here are some examples of what the facility charge supports:

- Poles
- Wires
- Bucket trucks & equipment
- Transformers & other materials
- System improvements
- Right-of-way maintenance
- Employees
- Office buildings
- Taxes
- Meters
- Computer softwares
- Phone & online services

WHAT CAN I COMPARE THE FACILITY CHARGE TO?

The idea of a facility charge is very similar to costs associated with your vehicle. There are fees associated with your vehicle and maintenance that needs to be done on your vehicle, even when you aren't driving it.

Here are some examples of costs associated with your vehicle that keep it ready for the road:

- Car insurance
- Auto loan
- Taxes & registration
- License
- Maintenance



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 15 & MARCH 15

Stop by our Wautoma office from 8 - 11 a.m., or our Pardeeville office from 1 - 4 p.m. to chat with our general manager, John.

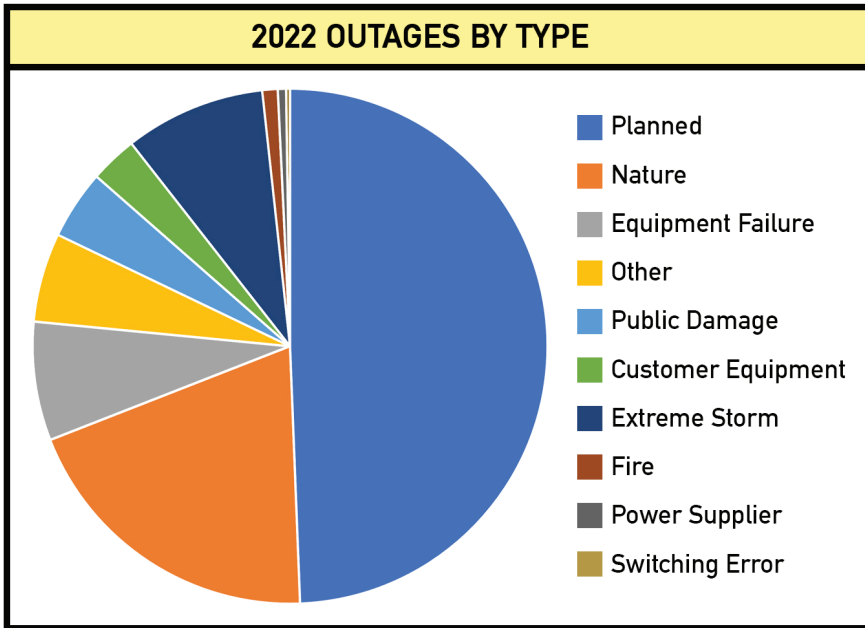
FEBRUARY 24

Deadline to submit Educational Scholarship applications and documents.

RELIABILITY REPORT

Although we've endured a few storms this past year, we've continued to provide power to our members 99.997% of the time.

Last June, 5,900 members were without power as our crews worked diligently to remove downed trees and repair power lines from strong winds and tornados that swept through our service area. We also recruited help from five other co-ops and a tree contractor during this storm. More recently in December, we experienced high winds and heavy, wet snow causing roughly 4,700 outages. But storms aren't the only reason power outages occur. The pie chart below shows the types of outages that we experience on our system.



Planned outages account for nearly 50% of power outages that occurred last year. Our crews conduct planned outages, meaning notification is provided to the member, to perform scheduled maintenance on our equipment.

At roughly 20%, the nature category was next up with most outages. This includes outages caused by animals getting into our equipment, trees that may have taken down a power line, or damage from weather that doesn't include our extreme storms.

The average amount of time a member was without power was 3 hours and 57 minutes. Our 2022 outage data slightly increased when compared to 2021, which was mostly driven by outages caused by nature and extreme storms our service area experienced.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is John West, General Manager of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, Office of Civil rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FOCUS ON SAVING MONEY

Did you know that our partnership with Focus On Energy is a perk of your membership? Because you're a member of the co-op, you get exclusive access to incentives and rebates, energy-saving deals, and much more.



Here are a few examples of ways to save money and energy with Focus On Energy's Online Marketplace:

Air Purifiers starting at \$61.99	Power Strips starting at \$12.00	Showerheads starting at \$4.00	LED Light Bulb Packs starting at \$16.00
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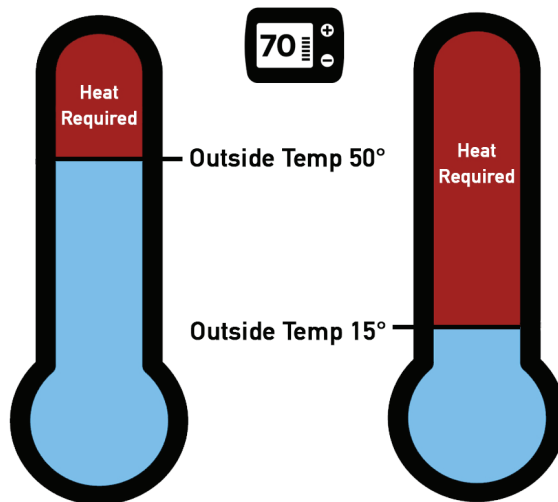
Visit focusonenergymarketplace.com or scan the QR code to view all items available for purchase and to place an order.

HOW YOUR THERMOSTAT & HOME HEATING WORK TOGETHER

Have you ever wondered, "why does my bill go up if my thermostat is set at the same temperature each month?" As the outside temperature drops in the winter months, home heating systems are working harder than usual to keep up.

Although your thermostat may be set to 70 degrees, the outside temperature determines how often your furnace runs to keep up with your thermostat. The more red showing in the thermometer in the image below, the more your heating system works.

For example, in the winter months when the outside temperature is 15 degrees, your furnace is running more often throughout the day to try to keep your house at 70 degrees. In the spring months when it's 50 degrees outside, your furnace doesn't run as often because your thermostat requires less heat for your home.



Be sure to check out our energy usage calculator on our website at www.acecwi.com/energy-usage-formula to learn how much energy other appliances are using.



**Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative**

CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing
(800) 831-8629

IVR Payment
1(844) 219-1223

Power Outages
(888) 928-2232

Diggers Hotline
(800) 242-8511 or 811

Email
acec@acecwi.com

Website
www.acecwi.com

Follow us on social media
@ACECWI

Business Hours
Monday - Friday,
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friendship Lobby Hours
Monday - Friday,
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friendship Office
P.O. Box 70
401 East Lake Street
Friendship, WI 53934

Pardeeville Office (Drop Box Only)
W6290 State Road 33
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Wautoma Office (Drop Box Only)
N1519 State Road 22
Wautoma, WI 54982

Keep an eye out for how to vote for board directors through SmartHub in next month's newsletter.



SAFETY MESSAGE

We know icy roads all too well in Wisconsin. Your car may slide off the road and hit utility equipment if you hit a patch of ice just right, causing a broken pole or downed power lines. Do you know what to do in this situation?

Take a few minutes to watch the License to Live video which shows step-by-step what to do in this situation and how to stay safe. It may save your life someday.



SCAN THIS
QR CODE

Briefing of the Board Meeting

November 22, 2022

Board Action Items:

- Approved board expense vouchers
- Approved the resolution authorizing the amendment of the 401k pension plan, adoption agreement A, and the retirement security plan
- Approved Evan Henthorne & Ellen Kirschbaum as additions to the Operation Round-Up Board of Directors
- Approved the union contract

View the full meeting summary on our website: www.acecwi.com/news-information/meeting-mins



Employee Spotlight

Jim Karls
Engineering Coordinator

Jim has been part of the ACEC family for a year and works out of our Pardeeville office.

"I've enjoyed the variety of work I get to do in the position I'm in. I get to work with many different areas of the cooperative and enjoy the people I work with. The rural views traveling between offices and on my way to work are a bonus."

Keep up the great work, Jim!

BLACK BEAN & SWEET POTATO ENCHILADAS

PREP TIME - 30 MINS | TOTAL TIME - 60 MINS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and chopped (about 2 to 2 1/2 c)
- 1/4 c of water
- 1 14.5 oz can of black beans - drained & rinsed
- 1/2 c corn kernels
- 1/4 c fresh cilantro
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp salt
- 12-14 corn tortillas
- 1 28 oz can of red enchilada sauce
- 2 c shredded mozzarella cheese

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. In a large skillet, sauté onion and garlic until translucent. Add diced sweet potatoes and 1/4 cup of water and cover. Cook until sweet potato is tender (about 10-15 minutes).
2. Once tender, remove the cover and cook until water has evaporated then turn off the heat.
3. In a large mixing bowl, add drained black beans, corn kernels, onion, garlic, and sweet potato mixture and spices. Mix well.
4. Heat corn tortillas, brushing both sides lightly with oil.
5. Spray with nonstick spray, then pour 1/4 cup enchilada sauce into a 9 x 13 pan.
6. Spoon about 1/4 cup of sweet potato mixture into each warm tortilla and sprinkle in cheese. Roll up and place the seam side down in the baking dish.
7. Pour over the remaining enchilada sauce and sprinkle with cheese and cilantro for garnish.
8. Cover with foil and bake for about 25-30 minutes until hot and bubbly.

Recipe from Monica Simons of Plainfield, WI