

THE WIRE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • July 2023



IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

Summer and sunshine get a lot of people thinking about solar energy. A couple reasons members install a solar system are to 1) support green energy or 2) strive to reduce their electric bill.

It seems like we are seeing deals for solar everywhere we look. It's important to contact us first before installing a solar system so you're informed and educated on the process. Research is key when contemplating installing a solar system. Here are a few things to consider:

Beware

of solar scams. They're more common than you might think. Just remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it likely is.

Research

solar companies and contractors to ensure they're credible and properly licensed. To find solar companies near you, visit [focusonenergy.com/trade-allies](https://www.focusonenergy.com/trade-allies), enter your zip code, and select "Solar PV" from the drop down.

Get bids

from multiple companies. When getting bids, ask for a list of references that you can follow-up with.

Evaluate

your energy usage and implement energy-saving tips in your home or business. We've got a list of energy-savings tips on our website at www.acecwi.com/energy-saving-tips.

Understand

how solar energy works and how it will impact you financially. As with any other big purchase, like buying a car or house, it's important to review how this will impact you financially.

Familiarize

yourself with our net metering rate. This rate is designed specifically for renewable energy services on our lines.

Contact us

to learn about the application process and any other requirements that are needed in order to move forward with a solar installation project. We have an explainer video on our website that summarizes the process.



Additional Information & Resources



Give us a call at (800) 831-8629 if you're planning to install solar. We've got great resources on our website. Be sure to check it out before starting your solar installation journey by scanning the QR code or visiting www.acecwi.com/connecting-der-systems.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 12 & AUGUST 9

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

AUGUST 1

Deadline for our STEM Grant. Encourage local educators you know to apply for our grant to prepare curriculums for next school year!



Enroll in Operation Round-Up to win a \$25 bill credit!

Members enrolled in Operation Round-Up round their electric bill up to the next dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$89.63, your bill would be rounded up to \$90 and the \$0.37 would be donated to our Operation Round-Up program.

Enroll from July 1 - 31 to be entered to win. Those already enrolled in this program will be included in the drawing. One winner will be drawn and will be announced on our Facebook page (@ACECWI) on August 1.

Thank you to our Operation Round-Up board of directors for volunteering their time to review and award these grants. We'd like to recognize the following directors for their contributions:

- Nancy Akkerman
- Evan Henthorne
- Kristen Skolarz
- Vicki Deltgen
- Ellen Kirschbaum
- Allen Stea
- Deb Gerzmehle
- Gale Neef
- Bill Taylor

The Operation Round-Up program truly benefits organizations and individuals in the communities we serve. In 2022, the Operation Round-Up board of directors awarded over \$67,000 throughout our

How to Enroll

1. Log in to your **SmartHub** account to enroll yourself in the program.
2. Give us a call at **(800) 831-8629** and one of our customer service representatives can enroll your account.
3. Email us with your service address to **acec@acecwi.com**.
4. Visit our **Friendship office** at 401 E. Lake St. to enroll in person.
5. Mark the box on your **bill stub** if you mail in your payments.

Get involved with your electric co-op to make an impact on your community! To learn more about Operation Round-Up, visit our website at www.acecwi.com/operation-round-up.

WHY WE'RE ON YOUR PROPERTY

From time to time, our staff or contractors may visit the electric service at your property. When members sign up for service, they agree to our employees and contractors being on their property to perform necessary work. By inspecting our equipment and performing maintenance, we're able to deliver safe, reliable energy to our members.

Some of these jobs are included with your monthly facility charge. Every member pays the facility charge to ensure power is available when you want to plug something into an outlet or turn on a light switch.



If you see these company logos on your property, know they are associated with us and are assisting our crews to ensure we can provide the best electric service possible.

HELP US STUFF THE BUS



Our seventh cooperative principle is concern for community, which means we support a variety of programs in our local communities. Join us in collecting **new, unused school supply items** by dropping off donations at our Friendship office, located at 401 E. Lake St., until Friday, July 28.

Over \$950 worth of school supplies were donated to local programs last year and we hope to exceed that amount this year, but we need your help! A list of school supplies needed is available on our website at www.acecwi.com/stuff-the-bus.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to ACEC, and write Stuff The Bus on the memo line. These donations will be used to purchase school supplies. Monetary donations may be dropped off at our Friendship office or mailed to:

ACEC
Attn: Marketing
P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934

Donations will be given to the following programs:

- Adams-Friendship School District
- Pardeeville Lions Club School Supply Drive
- Waushara County's Back-To-School Bash

\$3 MILLION REFUNDED TO MEMBERS

Patronage capital is one of the perks of being a member of a co-op. Instead of keeping excess margins as a profit for the co-op, we allocate and refund them to our member-owners.



There are two main parts to patronage capital; allocations and retirements, or refunds. Allocations are typically processed in the spring to indicate how much ownership each member has in the co-op. Retirements, or refunds, are typically processed as a bill credit in the fall.

Our financial state has allowed us to have excess margins from 2022. The board of directors approved refunding these excess margins through a special patronage retirement to members who had service with us in 2022.

Keep an eye on your July bill for a refund. If the refund is over \$600, a check may be mailed.



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

Curious about your payment history? View your previous billing and payment history in SmartHub.



SAFETY MESSAGE

Here are some tips to prepare you if a severe storm strikes your area:

1. Summer storms can be unpredictable. Seek shelter if you find yourself caught in a severe storm.
2. Pay attention to local news alerts and weather. If a warning is issued, assume the storm is nearby and will likely impact your area.
3. Severe storms have the potential to take down power lines. If you see power lines on the ground, stay back and call the local utility. Warn others to stay away from downed lines as well as they could be energized.

Briefing of the Board Meeting

April 25, 2023

Board Action Items:

- Approved policies
- Approved resolution of appreciation for James Kelly
- Approved March's board vouchers
- Approved rules and regulations
- Approved renewable generation - net metering
- Approved special general retirement of 2022 patronage capital

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



Employee Spotlight

Brenda

Customer Service Representative

Brenda is a member of our customer service team and has been providing exceptional service to members for almost a year.

"It's great to work for a company that is focused on serving the members and giving back to them and our communities. Every day is a new day at the co-op assisting past, present and future members. Everyone is friendly and the wealth of knowledge to be learned from my co-workers is endless."

We're lucky to have you on board, Brenda!



GRILLED CORN SALAD

PREP TIME - 15 MINS | TOTAL TIME - 40 MINS

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cobs of corn, shucked
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 Tbsp fresh basil or parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbsp diced red onion
- 1/4 c feta cheese

DRESSING:

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp white balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the grill to medium heat.
2. Brush corn with olive oil and grill over medium heat for 10-12 minutes, turning occasionally. Remove from heat and cool completely.
3. Once cooled, use a paring knife to cut the kernels off of the corn, running from top to bottom.
4. Place the corn in a medium bowl and add all remaining ingredients. Let rest at least 15 minutes before serving.
5. Garnish with additional feta cheese and fresh herbs if desired.

Recipe from Holly Nilsson of spendwithpennies.com