

Holiday Safety Message

Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- Don't toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- Don't use staples, nails, or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires, or extension cords.
- Check each strand of lights for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

Briefing of the Board Meeting

August 27, 2024

Board Action Items:

- Approved July board vouchers
- Approved July GM expenses
- Approved Federated Rural Insurance voting delegate
- Approved CFC Region 5 voting
- Approved 2024 declaration of forfeiture
- Approved reinstating the rules committee

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

PREPARE FOR HOLIDAY TRAVELS

Millions take to the highways over the holidays, making it one of the busiest travel times of the year. If you're traveling for the holidays, keep these energy-saving tips in mind before you depart.



Set your thermostat to a lower temperature so your home heating system doesn't need to work as hard to heat an empty home.



Unplug small appliances and electronic devices so they don't draw power, and turn off power strips.



Utilize the sun for additional warmth. Open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day.



Ensure doors and windows are locked and properly sealed to stop warm air from escaping.

For more home energy-saving tips, check out our website: www.acecwi.com/energy-saving-tips.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

PREP TIME - 15 MINS
COOK TIME - 20 MINS

INGREDIENTS

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| • 2 c butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed | • 1-inch fresh ginger, peeled | • 1 tsp turmeric |
| • 2 c sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed | • 2 cloves garlic, crushed | • 1 tsp cinnamon |
| • 3 c chicken broth | • 2 Tbsp coconut oil | • 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg |
| • 1 small sweet onion, cubed | • 1 tsp salt | • 1 tsp dried tarragon |
| | • 1 1/2 tsp curry powder (omit if heat sensitive) | • 1 lb Italian sausage |

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Press the "Sauté" setting in Instant Pot. When "HOT" appears on the screen, add coconut oil, onions, ginger, garlic, and salt. Sauté onion until it's a bit soft.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients except the sausage. Stir to mix. Close the lid, set it to "Pressure Cook" and set a timer for 10 minutes.
3. Brown the Italian sausage, drain the grease and set aside. When the Instant Pot timer goes off, let the pressure naturally release. If you have an immersion blender, puree in the pot. If not transfer soup to a blender and puree.
4. Serve with a generous spoonful of the cooked Italian sausage on top.

Recipe from Joseph Cascio of Nekoosa, WI



THE WIRE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • November 2024



LINEWORKERS RESTORE POWER AFTER HELENE

Early last month, our crews received a call to help restore power to members of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Aiken, South Carolina. Crews left on October 2 and returned home on October 12. They were joined by 40 other lineworkers from Wisconsin on this trip.

Once crews arrived, they were housed in a "tent city", where they received meals, could take a hot shower, and were able to do laundry.



Pictured l-r: Ryan Yonke, Duane Moore, Adam Reiche, Kurt Behn, Chris Campion



"The appreciation from these members is unbelievable. Nobody complains about being out of power. They all ask about when they'll be back on but it's always after they thank us for coming down to help them," said Duane Moore, Friendship Operations Supervisor and one of our Wisconsin crew leaders on the trip.

In addition to sending crews to help restore power, a large humanitarian effort was made to donate generators, water, gas cans, adult diapers, and tarps to members of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. This donation was supported by all 24 electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, along with a few other donors. These funds came from unclaimed patronage capital.

Our crew's willingness to help and this generous donation highlight why we're so proud to be a cooperative.

SAVE THE DATE

All members are invited to join us at our annual meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at our Friendship office. More details about our business meeting will be published in upcoming issues of The Wire.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 28 & 29

Our office will be closed for Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER 24 & 25

Our office will be closed for Christmas.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Last month we celebrated co-op month with our members at our electronic recycling events. We stayed busy unloading electronics from vehicles, distributing our 2025 member calendar, and collecting donations for local food pantries.

Thanks to your generous donations, we made three large donations to Wyocena Helping Hands Food Pantry, Adams County Food Pantry, and Waushara County Food Pantry. Collectively, over 2,500 pounds of food and \$201 was donated. All food pantries were extremely grateful, thank you for your generosity.



\$2.7 MILLION PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIREMENT

If you had service with us in 2006, 2007, and 2008, keep an eye on your November bill statement for a patronage capital retirement (refund). As a member of a co-op, we return our profits to you, our members, instead of investors. That's a benefit of being a member of our electric co-op.



Pictured left are your board of directors and general manager presenting a \$2.7 million check to members, representing this year's patronage capital retirement.

To learn more, visit www.acecwi.com/patronage-cap.

TOYS FOR TOTS IS IN FULL SWING

Our Toys for Tots donation boxes are ready for donations of new, unused, and unwrapped toys! To find a donation site near you, visit www.acecwi.com/annual-toy-drive.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Toys for Tots and mail them to:

ACEC
Attn: Marketing
PO Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934

We appreciate your support for local families in need this holiday season.



RATE INCREASE REMINDER

WHAT RATES ARE CHANGING?

Effective January 1, 2025, the facility charge and kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges will increase and for members with a second meter, the second meter charge will increase as well.

	Current Rates	Rates Effective 1/1/25
Facility Charge	\$1.08/day	\$1.25/day
Energy (kWh)	11.2¢/kWh	13.5¢/kWh

GENERAL SERVICE TIME-OF-DAY RATE

For members on our time-of-day rate, the kWh charge for each peak period will be increasing. The time frames throughout the year will stay the same. More details about this rate can be found on our website at www.acecwi.com/billing/rate-info.

	Current Rates	Rates Effective 1/1/25
Off-Peak	4.41¢/kWh	5.3¢/kWh
Mid-Peak	7.94¢/kWh	9.2¢/kWh
On-Peak	29.75¢/kWh	39.6¢/kWh

COST COMPARISON:

Based on an average residential service using 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy per month, on average residential members may see an increase of approximately \$13.10, from \$159.40 to \$172.50.

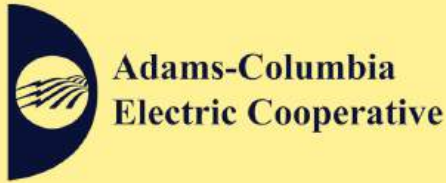
Based on an average seasonal service using 400 kWh of energy per month, on average seasonal members may see an increase of approximately \$8.30, from \$83.20 to \$91.50 per month.

WHY ARE MY ELECTRIC RATES INCREASING?

We're experiencing increases of up to 140% in the price of material, equipment, and supplies driving the need for an increase, including increased cost of purchased power. Our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center has helped to offset the energy increases and allowed us to delay an increase for as long as possible. The last rate increase for general service was in 2018.

RESOURCES TO HELP LOWER YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION:

- Monitoring energy usage in SmartHub: acecwi.smarthub.coop
- Calculate energy costs: www.acecwi.com/energy-usage-formula
- Energy-saving tips: www.acecwi.com/energy-saving-tips
- Energy assistance: www.acecwi.com/billing/energy-assistance
- Explore rebates from Focus on Energy: focusonenergy.com



CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing
(800) 831-8629

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

As the seasons change, explore how your energy usage changes by reviewing the usage graphs in SmartHub.

