

PLANNING PROCESS GETS UNDERWAY



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

During the fourth quarter of each year, the cooperative's management and staff begin to prepare a series of planning documents that will provide the tools for financial planning for the cooperative in the upcoming year. The board of directors meets with cooperative staff to review various department activities and the upcoming business plan.

Besides providing short-term goals and objectives, the business plan must also be consistent with the cooperative's long-range planning studies, goals, and objectives. It is vital that short-term goals and objectives are established to reach long-term objectives such as equity management plans, cash flow requirements, Rural Utilities Service requirements, maintenance funding, construction activities, and the member needs and service requirements. The board of directors and management are aware of the need to maximize the value of expenditures and contain costs where appropriate and feasible.

Our mission today is as it was years ago: to provide reliable, competitively priced energy and related services to our members while maximizing value for our members consistent with the wise use of resources and technology. Simply stated, our mission is to provide the best possible service for the best possible price. We continuously strive to work with our members to improve the social and economic well-being of our local communities.

In closing, as the holidays are upon us I would like to offer a few holiday safety tips. Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features. Take a few moments to carefully inspect all of your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases, and other tip-over hazards

Extension Cords are Temporary

Extension cords are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution. Don't place them in walkways or underneath rugs.

Never Defeat Safety Devices

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two, and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together.

Lights that are outdoors should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. A GFCI can protect you from electrical shock from damaged or defective decorations, or accidental electrical contact with water.

Look Up and Live

When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines. This includes your service extension, the overhead wire bringing power from the utility pole to your house. You should treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on our system and maintain a safe distance.

We wish you all a merry and safe holiday season.



If you're using a ladder to hang up your outdoor lights, always look up and look out for overhead power lines, and keep yourself and any tools, like ladders, a minimum 10-foot distance away.



STAYING SAFE AFTER AN ACCIDENT:

Know what to do around utility equipment

With winter right around the corner, now is the time to revisit accident safety with the drivers in your home. Do you all know what you should do if your vehicle comes in contact with a pad-mount transformer (or “green box”) or other utility equipment or lines?

First, assess the situation. If your car is not smoking or on fire, stay in your vehicle. That is the safest place for you to be while you wait for help, and the utility to de-energize the power lines. Stepping out of your vehicle while touching it at the same time, or trying to walk or run to safety, can cause serious burn injuries or death.



License to Live To learn more about what to do if you should ever find yourself in an accident involving power equipment, watch the short video “License to Live,” a project sponsored by Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives and developed by electric co-op employees and WECA in conjunction with the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and Safe Electricity. You can view the video at www.cecoop.com, under News/Events.

If you are in a multiple-car accident, yell to others (from the safety of your car) to warn them not to leave their vehicle. Also warn those who might stop to help to not approach the scene.

Call 911 to report the accident location and clearly state to the dispatcher that electrical equipment or lines are involved.

If you see smoke or fire, try to stay calm. Make a clear jump, without holding on to the vehicle, and hop or shuffle (with your feet together) at least 30 feet from the vehicle. Just like any downed power lines, any damaged utility equipment such as pad-mounted transformers or cabinets that house electrical equipment can send electrical current through the pavement or ground.

Walking across the energized ground or touching an energized vehicle and the ground at the same time, a phenomenon known as step potential can occur. Step potential is the voltage difference between the two feet of a person near an energized, grounded object. A person on the ground is subjected to the

risk of injury during an electrical fault by simply attempting to move away from the grounding point, in this case the car in the accident.

DO NOT go near or touch electrical equipment.

DO NOT move a downed wire or broken piece of equipment with your hand or other object.

Keep in mind that there can still be damage to equipment, even if you don’t see anything. Even if metal boxes look intact or appear to have minimal damage, please report the incident to electrical provider. If the impact dislodges the equipment inside the “green box” it is possible the ground could become energized. This makes for a very dangerous situation.

This winter, if you are plowing and accidentally clip a transformer or any other electrical equipment, please make sure to report it to your utility. This helps keep everyone safe.

If you are in an accident involving electrical equipment, remember to stay calm, call 911, stay in your vehicle, and warn others to stay away. If your car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together and hop or shuffle at least 30 feet away.

Let’s make it a safe winter season here in Wisconsin!

NEW!
DISCOVER INTERNET WITHOUT LIMITS
UP TO 30Mbps
Download Speed

\$39.99
PER MONTH
\$59.99/mo. after 3 months

Clark Electric
Appliance & Satellite Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

1-866-279-6544

Viasat

After 150 GB of data usage, we may prioritize your data behind other customers during network congestion. Minimum 24-month self-care term. Equipment lease fee is \$7.95/mo. and taxes apply. Speeds are “up to,” are not guaranteed and will vary. Service is not available in all areas. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Viasat is a registered service mark of Viasat, Inc.

Home for the holidays?



Here are some tips for saving energy and money

It's November and that means the holiday season is just around the corner. It's the time of year for family gatherings, indoor and outdoor decorations, and tasty food. With fewer people traveling due to the pandemic, it may mean more people will be celebrating the holidays from their homes. At Clark Electric Cooperative, we're often asked for tips on how to save money on energy costs during this time of year. Here are some practical ideas for helping you use less energy and save money this holiday season:

- **Switch your home lighting and decorative lighting to LEDs.** They are roughly 80% more efficient than traditional lighting.
- **Use a timer** to control and limit the amount of time that your lights and decorative displays are on.
- **Use the smallest appliance to get the job done.** Use the microwave or toaster oven for smaller tasks and save the oven for larger cooking tasks.
- **No peeking!** When possible, check on food through the oven window.

Opening the oven door for even a few seconds reduces the temperature inside as much as 25 degrees.

- **Invest in a programmable thermostat** and program it to lower the temperature of your house during certain times of day. If you do have a houseful, remember the cooking and extra bodies will increase the temperature, so you can turn the thermostat down a bit.
- **Use ceiling fans in occupied rooms.** Switch them to spin in the clockwise direction during the heating season, which pushes the warm air down.
- **Unplug electronics** if you are leaving the house for an extended period. This includes the television, computers, printers, radios, and coffee makers—take time to disconnect these phantom energy users.
- **Knowledge is the key.** Monitor your daily energy use on the SmartHub app. This will help you see your energy usage patterns and identify high use times.

These are just a few things to keep in mind. We have more information on our website—www.cecoop.com—and you are welcome to call and chat with us anytime!—*Article courtesy of Eric Muller, ECEC Energy Advisor*

HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPARISON

Holiday lighting options have come a long way over the last few decades. The chart below shows three types of lighting options, including wattage and operating cost comparisons.

TYPE OF LAMP	WATTAGE PER LAMP	WATTAGE PER 50 LAMPS	SEASONAL OPERATING COST*
C9 INCANDESCENT	7	350	\$13.33
MINI INCANDESCENT	.425	21.25	\$0.81
LED	.069	3.45	\$0.13

*Using 40 days of operation, 8 hours per day, \$.119 per kWh (DOE average)
In addition, the LED will last as much as 40 times longer than the incandescent lamps.



Source: energy.gov



Clark Electric Cooperative GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Need ideas about what to get that special someone for the holidays?

We all have someone on our shopping list who seems to have everything. How about giving them the gift of energy with a gift certificate from Clark Electric Cooperative? If they receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative, contact our Billing Department at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to obtain a gift certificate.



**EAT
SHOP
SPEND
ENJOY
LOCAL**

#SHOPLOCAL



Happy Holidays

The holiday season brings to mind all sorts of memories about days gone by, such as decorating the Christmas tree, the aroma of home-baked Christmas cookies, or spending time with families and friends. Whatever your memories are, we hope you savor them this holiday season as you make new memories for the years ahead. We wish you and your family a safe and a very joyful holiday season.

Our office will be closed Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25; and Friday, January 1



THE HEATING SEASON IS HERE!

GEOTHERMAL

When COMFORT Matters

Looking for an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating and cooling system? A geothermal heat pump is the greenest system available. Geothermal systems don't emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gasses that can be harmful to the environment or, more importantly, your family. Save money and rest easy knowing your family will be comfortable and safe.



Check out our heating maintenance programs **SPECIAL PRICING FOR A LIMITED TIME**




tthergeo.com

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Call for all of your alternative heating needs today!

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, Greenwood, WI 54437 • 715-267-6544 • 866-279-6544

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs, and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437
email us at info@cecoop.com or tnelson01@cecoop.com
www.cecoop.com



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 