



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

## PLANNING PROCESS GETS UNDERWAY

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, 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.

### 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.

More holiday safety tips can be found on the following page.

Wishing you all a merry and safe holiday season.

*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 joyful holiday season.

**Our office will be closed Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31**



# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Clark Electric Cooperative is once again offering a scholarship opportunity to graduating students from qualifying high schools in our service area. One \$2,000 scholarship will be available for a student from each school or group of schools in our service area.

To be considered for the scholarship, the student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Clark Electric Cooperative and currently receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative.

The Clark Electric Cooperative scholarship program began in 1995, and since its inception we have provided more than \$252,000 in scholarships to area students. An independent scholarship committee judges the applicants based upon merit.

Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our area youth is another. Clark Electric is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals.

Applications are available from your high school counselor, online at [www.ccoop.com](http://www.ccoop.com), and at our office located at 1209 W Dall-Berg Rd., Greenwood.

**All applications must be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 7, 2022.**

## Schools Eligible for Scholarship Consideration

Abbotsford High School, Colby High School, Granton High School, Greenwood High School, Loyal High School, Neillsville High School, Owen-Withee High School, Spencer High School, Thorp High School, Stanley High School.

## One Scholarship Between These Grouped Schools:

**Group 1:** Stratford High School, Columbus High School, Osseo-Fairchild High School, Abbotsford Christian Academy

**Group 2:** Marshfield Senior High School, Medford High School, Gilman High School, Pittsville High School, Home School Student

**Group 3:** Lineman Scholarship – A scholarship may be awarded to a student attending an approved Line Distribution Program

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-7958 or 1-800-272-6188.

These scholarships are financed through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits. Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) is a non-profit charitable foundation serving cooperatives across Wisconsin.



**12 Days of Holiday Safety**

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!

**Day 1 What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

**Day 2 What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

**Day 3 Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

**Day 4 Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

**Day 5 Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

**Day 6 Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

**Day 7 Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

**Day 8 Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

**Day 9 Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

**Day 10 Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

**Day 11 Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

**Day 12 Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at [holidaysafety.org](http://holidaysafety.org).



## Clark Electric Cooperative's Vegetation Management Program

**H**ave you ever noticed bucket trucks or machines clearing brush by the power lines? They do the important job of helping keep the lights on long before a storm rolls in. In the battle against power outages, Vegetation Management is the Clark Electric Cooperative's most effective weapon.

We often receive questions about how the co-op handles the removal of brush. Below we've provided answers to the most asked questions, in an effort to explain CEC's Vegetation Management Program.

**What is a Vegetation Management Program?** Our Vegetation Management Program is the process we use to clear trees/vegetation using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers to keep our rights-of-way clear.

**What are rights-of-way?** A right-of-way is a corridor or pathway of land that CEC's electric lines follow. These rights-of-way provide CEC an operational safety zone between the wires and trees, buildings, or other objects. When they are kept clear they also provide safe access for line crews to maintain, repair, or improve the lines and poles. CEC uses a Vegetation Management Program to keep the rights-of-way clear of undesirable vegetation.

**Why do we clear rights-of-way?** We clear rights-of-way to maintain reliability and shorten the length of outages, and to provide for public safety and the safety of the workers who need to work on the utility lines.

**Who does the clearing?** Tree contractors that work on CEC's electric distribution system are qualified and insured to do this work.

**What is the Hazard Tree Program?** CEC has a Hazard Tree Program that identifies trees outside of the 30-foot right-of-

way (15 feet on either side of the line) and removes them if they are deemed a threat to fall on power lines.

### What is an Integrated Vegetation Management Program?

Two years after cutting and trimming, a contractor will survey for possible selective herbicide application. Not all areas that are cut are appropriate for herbicide application. CEC uses herbicides to control the brush that sprouts from hardwood species that were cut. Once a single stem has been cut, it may sprout into as many as 15 new stems that grow rapidly. The selective herbicide application targets these species.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles, and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.





# WINTER IS HERE



## Be alert for peak alerts

Winter is upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Clark Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcast on the local radio stations. You can also look up the status on our website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com). Go to the Operations Tab, Load Management Program and click on the load management status link.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use on cold winter days between 4 and 9 p.m.

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, 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 [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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### 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.



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