



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

PRINCIPLES + VALUES = COOPERATIVES

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."—Dwight D. Eisenhower

October is National Cooperative Month. This is the month that Americans celebrate cooperatives to raise awareness about the many benefits that cooperatives bring to our communities. Cooperatives exist in many forms and deliver a host of products and services such as financial services, grocery/food, dairy, grain, and of course energy. We will be celebrating with a "Kick-off to Cooperative Month" with a member appreciation event September 19, 2015, at the cooperative's new headquarters just west of Greenwood off of highway G.

All cooperative businesses around the world operate in accordance with the following seven cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Less known is the fact that cooperatives have also adopted a set of values that helps to put these principles into practice.

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-ops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

Let's take a closer look at these values and see how they impact us here at Clark Electric Cooperative.

Clark Electric Cooperative was founded on April 1, 1937. The founders of Clark Electric Cooperative, friends and neighbors just like you, created it to serve the members who use the electricity and other services we provide, and we

continue to do that today. This embodies the values of *self-help*, taking action, and doing what needs to be done. We also know we must embrace the value of *self-responsibility* and be accountable to you, our member.

Each member has one vote, no matter how much electricity you use. This ensures that *democracy* is practiced the

Did you know that the ACE Foundation has awarded over \$300,000 to local, not-for-profit and community projects since 2005?

way it is intended, with *equality* for all members. This is a key difference between co-ops and investor-owned companies where the number of votes you have depends on the number of shares you own.

For co-op members, *equity* has two meanings. We strive to treat all of our members fairly. It also means that, as a member, you have *equity* (ownership) in the co-op.

While each co-op is autonomous, we do act in *solidarity* with other co-ops and our community. We know that we can do more for you by partnering with other co-ops and like-minded organizations.

Your parents were right when they said, "Honesty is the best policy." As an owner, you have the right to expect us to act with openness and in a transparent manner. We welcome your active participation in our co-op.

Cooperatives have long (and correctly) been identified as the original socially



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responsible business, meaning we care about the impact we have on the community while ensuring we are economically viable.

We try to demonstrate our concern for the community through caring for others every single day, whether it is through our foundation, the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation, or economic development activities, or providing safety demonstrations for local schools and fire departments.

By using our values in support of our principles since our founding in 1937, we have been able to serve you for the past 78 years and will do so long into the future. Using our seven cooperative principles as our business platform, reinforced with our six core values, truly does make the cooperative difference!





Celebrate Cooperative Month with your local cooperatives

A FREE Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Activities for kids of all ages



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY & Kick-Off to Cooperative Month

Saturday, September 19

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Clark Electric headquarters,
just west of Greenwood on CTH G



Clark Electric Cooperative

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"Take Back" Initiative

7-11 a.m.

Bring your unused, controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications in their original containers to be dropped off—free, with no questions asked.



Questions? Contact the Greenwood Police Department at 715-267-6215.



Giant Inflatables Pumpkins Crafts for Kids



Greenwood Fire & EMS

will provide free blood pressure testing.



Memorial Medical Center

will be here to provide community health information.
— free of charge.

Food Drive for Local Food Pantries

Help us demonstrate the 7th Cooperative Principle, Commitment to Community, by bringing a non-perishable, non-expired food item to be donated to your local food pantry.

Building and Community Solar Tours



Electronic Recycling Drive

7-11 a.m.



No charge: Computer towers, desk-top copiers, cables, external drives, keyboards, laptops, mice, modems, desk-top printers, scanners, splitters, VCRs, phones, pagers, FAX machines

\$10 Each: Microwaves, televisions or monitors—LCD/LED and CRT/Tube types—27" or smaller

\$30 each: televisions or monitors—CRT/Tube type—larger than 27", all console televisions

\$55 each: full-size copiers/printers, and projection TVs.

\$7 fee if hard drive destruction is requested; prices subject to change.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS TEACHES COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

Clark Electric Cooperative sponsored nine students to this year's 52nd Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) that was held at UW–River Falls July 15–17. They joined nearly 130 students from Wisconsin to learn more about the cooperative business model and improve their leadership skills.

Students sponsored by Clark Electric were Kaylee Learman and Hannah Hinker, Greenwood; Jill Richmond, Hunter Martin, and Stephanie Kohl, Granton; Molly and Marissa Schultz, Abbotsford; and Kathryn Lampi, Owen and Kate Schmelzer, Withee. The YLC is designed to provide today's youth with stronger leadership and team-building skills, as well as a broader understanding of electric cooperatives.

Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences, participants tackled real-life



Back row, from left: Kathryn Lampi, Hunter Martin, Kaylee Learman, Hannah Hinker, Stephonie Kohl. Front, from left: Marissa Schultz, Molly Schultz, Jill Richmond, Kate Schmelzer.

issues and explored their leadership potential. Sessions related to the importance of setting goals; how determination, hard work, and persistence pay off; and stepping up as a leader whether you're in

a leadership position or not. Students also established relationships with other teens from across Wisconsin.

These are a few of the comments from the students who represented CEC:

- *"The conference was a great experience and I learned many new things. I learned how cooperatives work and about safety around electricity. I also learned different ways to be a leader."*
- *"The conference was a very fun and educational experience."*
- *"I learned a lot about cooperatives and to how get out of my comfort zone and participate in group activities. This will help me to achieve my goals in the future."*
- *"The animated illusionist was amazing and really funny."*

Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and the UW–River Falls have co-sponsored this event for 52 years to demonstrate the basics of cooperatives and show students how they can apply the philosophies of cooperation to their lives. Each spring Clark Electric contacts schools in our service area asking for students to represent the cooperative at YLC. This is a great opportunity for students entering 10th or 11th grade.

GEOTHERMAL

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www.cecoop.com September 2015

CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SOLAR PROJECT IS OPERATIONAL

Now you can invest in solar energy

As I have reported in past articles, the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved the build-out of a 53.3 kW solar garden to be constructed adjacent to the cooperative's new headquarters facility just west of Greenwood. I am pleased to report that the project was completed July 19, 2015, and is producing local, renewable energy. The array is estimated to generate 70,392 kWh annually.

This community solar project provides members the opportunity to purchase local renewable energy through a cooperative program. This in turn allows members to take more control of their power choices. Through aggregation, we are able to offer a highly competitive solar product to our membership. Purchase yours today!

The community garden is designed for those members interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy. Members have the opportunity to purchase a subscription unit and receive credit equal to their share of the array's output on their electric bill.

By utilizing a solar garden approach, issues such as inadequate space for solar panels near your home, too many trees that would block the sun at your residence, cost of a small PV array,



installing panels on your rooftop, insurance, interconnection of the PV system to the grid, and unsightly panels at your residence all go away. In addition, all operations and maintenance issues would be handled by Clark Electric Cooperative. Any residential/seasonal member, regardless of whether you own or rent your home and where you live, who pays a monthly electric bill to Clark Electric Cooperative could be a potential candidate for participating in the community solar project.

How do I participate?

It's easy. Just give us a call and request a Subscription Agreement and a listing of Frequently Asked Questions. Sign and indicate how many participation units you would like to buy. Return the signed agreement, along with a payment of \$940 per subscription unit. Once the unit(s) are paid for, there are no fees assessed to you during the life of the agreement (25 years). You will start getting credits to offset your electric bill beginning with the month after the array is operational (target is August usage, September bill). We still have a limited number of subscription units left but when they are gone, they're gone. You can also go to our website www.cecoop.com for information on the Solar Garden Project.



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2. 24-month commitment – \$10/month package discount for 12 months

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From Greenwood: West on G to 2nd left after the bridge – turn on River Road, then Dall-Berg Road.

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715-267-6544 OR 866-279-6544.



Our office will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.

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



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