



## Update on Clark Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Project Nearing

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

As I have reported in previous newsletters, the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is in the process of considering construction of a solar generation project. The project, based upon member interest, would be a 50 kilowatt (kW) community solar garden to be located next to the cooperative's new headquarters facility. By taking advantage of economies of scale, we hope to offer a highly competitive solar product to our membership.

The general concept 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 panes near your home, too many trees that would block the sun at your residence, cost of a small PV (solar) array, installing panels on your rooftop, insurance, and interconnection of the PV system to the grid all go away. In addition, all operation 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.

A participation unit sells for \$940. If you would like to get more information on Clark Electric Cooperative's community solar project, please give us a call, or complete the form at left and return it to our office (with your electric bill is fine).

### Deadline Nearing

We currently have approximately 40 participation agreements sold. The board of directors has determined we need to have a minimum of 100 agreements in place for the project, as originally foreseen, to move forward. Further, we would like to have the project subscribed by the middle of May 2015. So, if you are interested in participating in the solar garden, we need to know within the next 45-60 days. I will be addressing this project at our annual meeting to be held April 9, 2015. ■

#### I would like to learn more about Clark Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Project

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Clark Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437



# Springtime is Finally Here!

With the winter season in the rear-view mirror, the smell of spring in the air, and thoughts of green grass come the planting season.

As the farmers prepare to take to the fields and the gardeners, landscapers, and arborists sharpen their shovels, we are reminded that spring is a good time to plant trees. Whether you are planting a single tree in the front yard or several thousand trees to start a plantation, it's important to consider the species of trees and the location in which you plan to plant them. Remember, you have to pay attention not only to overhead power lines but also underground lines as well.

Many people plant trees too close to power lines for various reasons. They think the trees will never get tall enough or full enough to grow into the power lines. The

## Time to Start Planting!

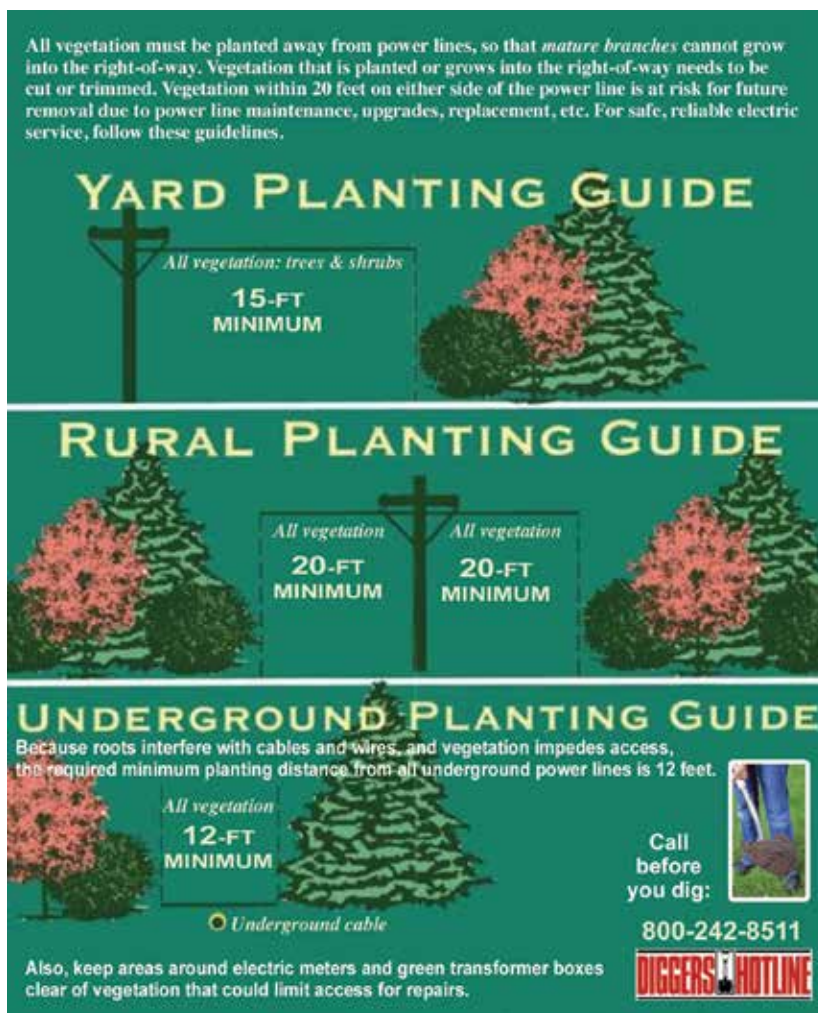
fact is that most trees will grow tall enough to touch power lines faster than you think. So take time to research your tree selection or consult with your local tree nursery for advice on which trees are appropriate for your landscaping area.

As the trees grow they can come into contact with the power lines and create power outages or momentary interruptions. The number one reason for power outages is trees. In addition, the cooperative spends between \$300,000 to \$600,000 every year on vegetation management. However, the greatest concern is the safety risk that can be created when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact with electrical wires while playing in or climbing a tree can be fatal.

As we move through the spring season and into summer, please take some time to consider a few things:

- Clark Electric Cooperative requires 15 feet of clearance on both sides of the line for a single-phase line and 20 feet on both sides of the line for multi-phase line right-of-way.
- Be sure to plant your trees far enough away from power lines so that when the trees are fully grown, there will still be 20 feet of clearance to the power line without the need for trimming.
- Remember, if you choose to plant trees in the right-of-way or too close to the right-of-way, your trees may need to be trimmed or cut some day, and that day may come sooner than you think.
- Do not plant flowers around transformers or electrical boxes of any type.
- Remember to contact Diggers Hotline at 811 or 800-242-8511 at least three working days ahead of planting. It's the law.

All vegetation must be planted away from power lines, so that *mature branches* cannot grow into the right-of-way. Vegetation that is planted or grows into the right-of-way needs to be cut or trimmed. Vegetation within 20 feet on either side of the power line is at risk for future removal due to power line maintenance, upgrades, replacement, etc. For safe, reliable electric service, follow these guidelines.



**YARD PLANTING GUIDE**  
All vegetation: trees & shrubs  
**15-FT MINIMUM**

**RURAL PLANTING GUIDE**  
All vegetation **20-FT MINIMUM** All vegetation **20-FT MINIMUM**

**UNDERGROUND PLANTING GUIDE**  
Because roots interfere with cables and wires, and vegetation impedes access, the required minimum planting distance from all underground power lines is 12 feet.  
All vegetation **12-FT MINIMUM**  
Underground cable

Call before you dig:  
800-242-8511  
**DIGGERS HOTLINE**

Also, keep areas around electric meters and green transformer boxes clear of vegetation that could limit access for repairs.

By keeping these simple guidelines in mind, you can help keep the cost of electricity down and keep everyone safe. For more information, visit our website, [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), and go to the operations tab and then vegetation management. Also, you can find more information at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). ■



## Represent Your Electric Cooperative

at the Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Annual Meeting  
**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

Representing your cooperative and your fellow members at various meetings is an opportunity that we ask our members to participate in every year. The Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, in La Crosse.

**11 Delegates  
and 4  
Alternates  
needed**

By attending and being a delegate for your cooperative, you help keep Clark Electric Cooperative strong and prosperous. If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Monday, April 6, 2015.

Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative office at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188. ■

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting April 9

Plan to join us for Clark Electric Cooperative's 78<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is an important event for the cooperative and you, the members. You will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, and elect two directors for three-year terms.

So, plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative.

## WE ARE HAVING A MOVING SALE

*We must reduce our inventory now!*

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sell – the less  
for us to move to  
our new facility!



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Contact us for all  
of your alternative  
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cooling needs.

## Paystations

**Abby Bank**—401 E Spruce St., Abbotsford, WI 54405, 715-223-2345  
**Forward Financial**—1122 N Division St., Colby, WI 54421, 715-223-3998  
**Advantage Community Bank**—101 W. Center Ave., Dorchester, WI 54425, 715-654-5100  
**Citizens State Bank**—110 Maple St., Granton, WI 54436, 715-238-7169  
**Forward Financial Bank**—212 S Main St., Greenwood, WI 54437, 715-267-7221  
**Pioneer Bank**—106 S Main St., Greenwood, WI 54437, 715-267-6250  
**Citizens State Bank**—400 N Main St., Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8526  
**Fourmens Farm & Home**—606 E. Elm Drive, Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8200  
**BMO Harris**—204 S Main St., Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8586

**Citizens State Bank**—2 Boon Blvd., Neillsville, WI 54456, 715-743-7494  
**BMO Harris**—106 W Division St., Neillsville, WI 54456, 715-743-3197  
**Heritage Bank**—201 W Clark, Spencer, WI 54479, 715-659-2430  
**Citizens State Bank**—302 S Pacific, Spencer, WI 54479, 715-659-5159  
**Forward Financial**—353 S Broadway St. Stanley, WI 54768, 715-644-2566  
**Northwestern Bank**—111 N. Washington St., Thorp, WI 54771, 715-669-5707  
**Forward Financial**—410 Division St., Withee, WI 54498, 715-229-2188  
**Pioneer Bank**—N14570 Cty. Rd. O, Withee, WI 54498, 715-229-2796  
**Forward Financial**—105 S. Washington St., Thorp, WI 54771, 715-669-5341  
**Scott & Lori's Family Foods**—707 W. 3rd St., Owen, WI 54460, 715-229-2148



Clark Electric Cooperative's online bill payment system. SmartHub, is a free app for computers and mobile device to provide you with secure account management right at your fingertips.

powered by 

- Check your usage
- Pay your bill
- Receive account and outage notifications
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Contact our office


For Mobile Devices just go to the App Store and search for SmartHub, then download the SmartHub-National Information Solutions Cooperative – Click on Clark Electric Cooperative.

Check it out on our website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)



## Happy Easter!

Our office will be closed April 3 for Good Friday.

## Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager**

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 P.O. Box 190  
 Greenwood, WI 54437

e-mail us at [info@cecoop.com](mailto:info@cecoop.com) or [tnelson01@cecoop.com](mailto:tnelson01@cecoop.com)  
[www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)