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CEO/Manager

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

October is National Cooperative Month. This is the month during which 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. As I was preparing for this month's article, I thought you might be interested in how the cooperative business model started.

According to an article in the September 2013 issue of *Rural Electric*, the cooperative movement we know today traces its roots to a set of business guidelines drawn up by Charles Howarth, one of 28 weavers and artisans who founded the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, on December 21, 1844. The tradesmen had banded together to open a store selling food items they could not otherwise afford, starting out with a meager selection of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal, and a few candles but soon expanding to include tea and tobacco. Eventually, the enterprise was so successful the group was able to open a cooperative factory and textile mill.



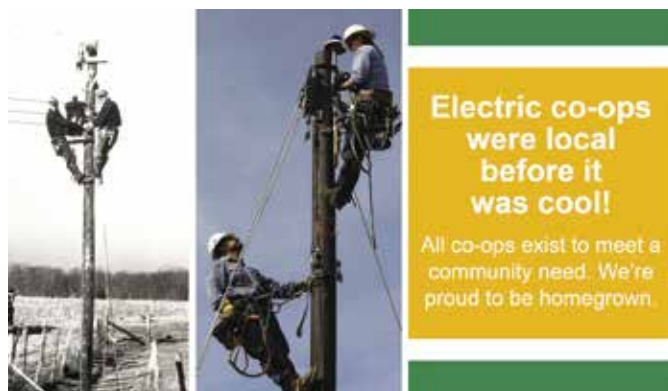
When introduced in the United States by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion. After being formally written down by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1937 (and last updated in 1995), they evolved into the seven cooperative principles used today. Although stated in many ways, the seven cooperative principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.
- 3. Members Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative.



Clark Electric
Cooperative

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- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
- 7. Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

These seven principles are underpinned by six ideals — the values of Self-Help, Self-Responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, and Solidarity.

Above and Beyond: Electric co-op membership offers value far beyond affordable, reliable electricity

Here at Clark Electric Cooperative, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our 9,400 members every day. But we don't stop there. Because we're a cooperative, we strive to do much more, to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office. It could be finding a copy of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* in your mailbox every month, which keeps you informed about Clark Electric Cooperative, the electric industry as a whole, and what's happening at the state and federal levels. It's also providing the best possible service at the best possible price, returning capital credits on an annual basis, and always remembering that members own this organization.

Real value also means getting the lights back on as quickly as possible and communicating with you as to how outages



are progressing. The outage information map on our website allows you to see outages and track our restoration progress. We also offer a service where we text you if you are part of a predicted outage. The application works with smart phones, tablets, and computers. All you need is access to the internet.

Real value can also be seen with cooperatives helping cooperatives. Electric cooperatives nationwide have executed a mutual-aid agreement that brings line crews in from other co-ops to help us restore power in the event of major storms. You may recall seeing our

cooperative principles in action when cooperatives from Wisconsin sent line crews to the Gulf Coast and Florida in response to hurricanes.

Real value is commitment to community. In addition to providing opportunities for our youth through scholarships and leadership training, in 2004, Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc. established the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation to support programs and events that enrich the lives of people in Clark County and the surrounding communities. The mission is to strengthen local communities

by aiding not-for-profit and community organizations fund projects that will enhance the quality of life for residents of this area. To date, the Foundation has awarded \$542,760.

October marks National Cooperative Month, when we celebrate co-ops and talk about why our not-for-profit, consumer-owned business model is special. Offering our members real value—and working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve—is just one way we set ourselves apart. To learn more, please visit www.cecoop.com or cooperative.

BEWARE OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS WHEN DECORATING FOR HALLOWEEN

Christmas is no longer the only holiday for which we bring out lights and yard decorations to show our festive spirit. Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines, light up those electric-powered decorations, and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater that may stop by. But beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.

“Many times we store our annual decorations away in the garage, basement, or storage shed and cords can become frayed or damaged in storage from extreme weather or by a mouse that may have found its way into the storage space,” says Molly Hall, Energy Education Council executive director. Safe Electricity offers these tips for a safe and fun Halloween:



- Check each electrical decoration for cracking, fraying, or bare wires; they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't have them, either contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs.
- Keep electrical cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Get more safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.



An easy way to manage your energy bill

SmartHub is the members' portal to give you options when it comes to managing your energy bill at Clark Electric Cooperative. Have you ever wondered when your highest electric usage takes place? Have you wondered why your energy bill is what it is? SmartHub helps you determine those answers. If you have not signed up, you're missing out on a lot of smart benefits including:

- Pay your energy bill online
- Set up your energy bill for automatic payments
- View your billing history
- View and manage your electric usage
- Identify ways to lower your energy bill
- And, even report an outage

After logging into your account, you'll find the Usage Explorer under the My Usage tab (see below). If you turn on the View Temperature option, you'll see what the weather was like, by your zip code, for any billing period. It's one of the best ways to see the effect the summer weather has had on your electric usage. This is especially helpful considering nearly 50 percent of a typical home's energy bill is due to heating and cooling costs.

It's easy to sign up for SmartHub. Just go to www.cecoop.com and click on the link. All you need is your electric account number, your last name, and an email address. Or, you can download the CEC version of the SmartHub app to your smartphone or tablet from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

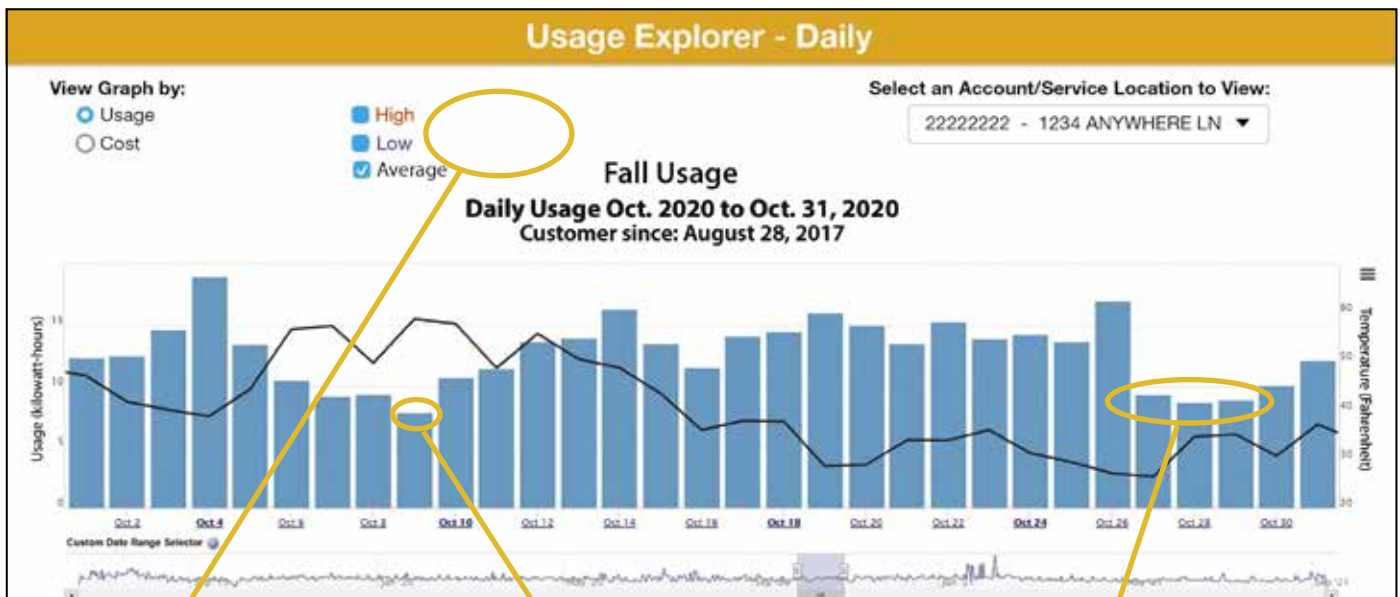
Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.



Source: www.energy.gov

MY CO-OP



Tip: Analyze your usage by selecting the View Temperature feature. It shows the daily highs (red) and lows (blue) along with your daily energy usage. This allows you to see the correlation between high or low temps and higher usage.

It's only natural for usage to go up when it's really hot or really cold outside. The greater the difference between the outside temperature and your thermostat setting, the longer and harder your AC or heating system will work to make up the difference—and the more it will cost. For example, if it's 38 degrees outside and your thermostat is set to 72 degrees, that's a 34-degree difference. If you lower the setting to 68 degrees, the difference is decreased by another 4 degrees. Tip: For every degree you raise your thermostat in the summer or lower it in the winter, you can save about 4 to 6 percent on your cooling and heating costs.

The number of hours that temperatures are cooler outside, and the number of consecutive days they stay that way, affect energy consumption—your furnace will work a little harder to warm up your home after a few days of below-average temperatures. Plus, your family may be using more electricity as they spend more time inside watching TV and playing video games as the darkness sets in earlier.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING MEMBERS

The winter heating season has now begun. It's important for you to make every attempt to keep current on your electric bill. We understand that things do happen that put financial burdens on people. Certain government organizations can offer heating assistance or point you in the direction of a group that can help.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP and its related services help more than 230,000 Wisconsin households annually.

Eligibility You may be eligible for weatherization services if:

- You received benefits from WHEAP or your gross income for the last three months is equal to or less than 60 percent of Wisconsin's median income (SMI) for your family size.
- Your dwelling/apartment has not been weatherized before.

- Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, an elderly or disabled member or a child under six.

For more information and application details, please contact your local office:

- Clark County** 715-743-5233
Department of Social Services
- Chippewa County** 715-726-7862
Department of Human Services/
Economic Support
- Marathon County** 715-842-3111
Energy Services, Inc.
- Taylor County** 715-748-6123
Human Services Department
- Wood County**
Department of Social Services
Wisconsin Rapids office ... 715-421-8600
Marshfield office 715-387-6374
- Jackson County** 715-284-4301
Department of Health & Human Services

To learn more or to locate your local agency, call toll free 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947) or visit homeenergyplus.wi.gov. Other Resources for Energy

WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2021–2022 Heating Season
(10/01/2021 through 9/30/2022)

60 percent of state median income guidelines

Household Size	One Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$ 2,591.92	\$31,103
2	\$ 3,389.42	\$40,673
3	\$ 4,186.92	\$50,243
4	\$ 4,984.42	\$59,813
5	\$ 5,781.92	\$69,383
6	\$ 6,579.42	\$78,953
7	\$ 6,729.00	\$80,748

and Weatherization Programs—CEC **Website:** www.cecoop.com, click the Bill Payment Tab and then the energy assistant link; **Focus on Energy Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®:** 1-800-762-7077 or visit www.focusonenergy.com; **Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund – Bill Pay Assistance:** 1-800-981-WARM (9276) or visit www.kwwf.org. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration)

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: ca811.com

<p>1. NOTIFY</p> <p>Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.</p> 	<p>2. WAIT</p> <p>Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.</p> 	<p>3. CONFIRM</p> <p>Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.</p> 	<p>4. RESPECT</p> <p>Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.</p> 	<p>5. DIG CAREFULLY</p> <p>If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.</p> 
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