

Watt's New November 2024



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op Trivia

October Trivia:

In October, we celebrate National Co-op Month. How many cooperative businesses are there in Vernon Electric's service area (Vernon and the edges of surrounding counties): A) less than 20; B) More than 20?

Answer: More than 20, including cooperative businesses that supply energy, communications, finance, food, and agricultural services.

November Trivia:

To be safe in our surroundings, we are often good at looking around to see what's on the ground and in front of us, but when moving tall objects or equipment, what other direction should we look besides down and ahead?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Co-op Day of Service

In connection with National Co-op month, Vernon Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative employees participated in their 2nd annual Cooperative Day of Service.

On October 2, nearly fifty employees descended on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve to help their staff with trail maintenance, river cleanup and preparation for the annual Dam Challenge Triathlon.

"This is a special day for us as we embrace the opportunity to improve our environment at a place that is so important to us, our communities, and our members." Vernon Electric Cooperative CEO & General Manager Craig Buros said.

Chainsaws cutting brush, unraveling race flags, post-pounding, pulling garbage out of the river, and putting up fences were just some of what volunteers completed. Buros said the reserve provided a unique volunteer experience.

The day demonstrates "Concern for Community" which is one of Vernon Electric's guiding principles for the cooperative. This demonstration of Vernon Electric's principle didn't go unnoticed, receiving praise from the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.



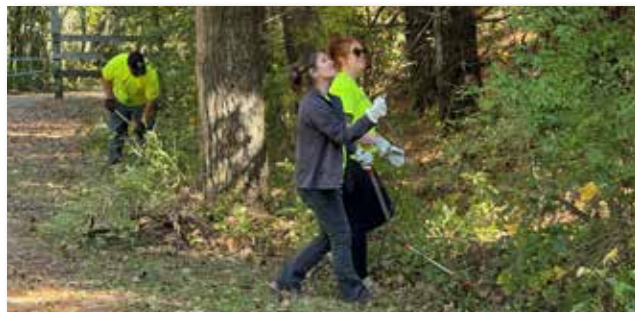
Vernon Electric and Dairyland Power Co-op employees take a break from their labor for a group photo by one of the covered bridges at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

"This kind of work, while it may get done, it's definitely not going to get done in a day," Jason Leis, Executive Director of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, said. "This takes a crew of three or four people quite a bit of time to do, whereas they're coming through with a large number of people, and it gets done quickly."

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve is over 8,500 acres between La Farge and Ontario, WI. The property is owned in partnership by the State of Wisconsin and the Ho-Chunk Nation. A board of state-sanctioned, local residents and members of the Ho-Chunk Nation guide the property's management.



Vernon Electric Staking Engineer Matt Dahlen is helping with some trail maintenance.



Lisa Janzen and Keri Rueckheim, who work in the member services department at Vernon Electric, help the Kickapoo Valley Reserve get rid of invasive species.

Interested in Community Solar?

Throughout the years, solar energy has become increasingly popular as more people install solar at their homes or utilities invest in large-scale solar farms. Our members often tell us they would like to participate in solar, but the up-front cost is more than they would like to invest. If history has shown us anything, it's that our members are very interested in community solar. In 2014 our 1,001-panel community solar farm in Westby sold out in just two weeks.

The new Bluff Prairie Community Solar array is a 1.5 MW array located near Red Mound. It contains 3,276 panels and produces about 3 million kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. To maximize the amount of energy produced, bifacial solar panels were installed on single-axis trackers. The trackers follow the sun from east to west throughout the day.

Overall, 60 percent of the Bluff Prairie Solar array is dedicated to community solar. The other 40 percent is committed to a buy-all, sell-all agreement with our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Output from approximately 2,000 panels is available for members to subscribe as part of our community solar program. Members can purchase an annual subscription for \$50 and will receive the output as a credit on their bill each month. During the summer months (June, July, August) subscribers will receive a rate of 7 cents per kWh for the output of their subscriptions. All other months, they will receive a rate of 5.2 cents per kWh.

Each panel subscription is projected to produce 960 kWh per year with an estimated annual credit of \$56.00. The number of subscriptions a member can purchase will be determined by how many kilowatts they consumed the previous year. For example, if a member consumed 10,000 kWh last year, they will be eligible to purchase 10 subscriptions.

We decided on the subscription model to allow more members to participate in community solar. This model allows members who no longer wish to participate in the program to opt-out and not be responsible for selling their subscription to someone else. Participants will have the option to renew or opt-out on a calendar year basis.

If you are interested in participating in community solar, please fill out and return the form to our office.

SIGN UP TO SHOW INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY SOLAR

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

No. of panels _____

Submit by December 1, 2024,
or submit online at vernonelectric.org.

\$50 per panel subscription

Return to Vernon Electric Cooperative,
110 Saugstad Rd, Westby, WI 54667

VERNON COUNTY FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to each of these Vernon Electric Co-op members who won a \$25 bill credit from the drawing box at our booth.

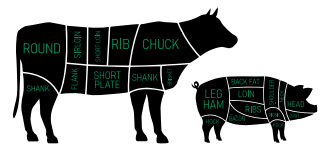
- Mary Bringe
- Karen Diehl



MEAT GIVEAWAY WINNERS

Congratulations to everyone who helped raise \$884 for the Vernon County Fair buildings with their participation. These four people won a \$100 gift certificate to a local meat processor.

- Tristen Jenson
- Jozie McClelland
- Mary Eggen
- Gloria Sherer



Heating, Ventilation and Heat Pump Rebates Available

Eligibility:

- ETS heaters and boilers must be enrolled in Off-Peak Storage Heat Program
- Electric plenum heaters must be enrolled in Off-Peak Dual Fuel Program
- Other conditions apply. See rebate forms online at www.vernonelectric.org or request a rebate form by calling our office at 608-634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

To see all rebates and incentives available for water heating, appliances, lighting, agriculture, commercial, electric vehicle charging stations and energy audits, visit www.vernonelectric.org or request information by mail. Also check out www.focusonenergy.com or call 1-800-762-7077 for even more incentives. Vernon Electric and Focus on Energy incentive programs are separate and have separate application processes.

Incentive forms must be submitted by December 31, 2024.

- Air-Source Heat Pumps* . . . \$300 per Ton
- Geothermal Heat Pumps* . . . \$500 per Ton
- Variable-Speed Furnace Blower Motor* \$35 per System
- Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heaters. up to \$450
- Electric Boilers up to \$450
- Electric Plenum Heaters. \$5 per KW

*Additional incentives may be available from Focus on Energy (www.focusonenergy.com or 1-800-762-7077).

Watt's New

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Manager of Communications & Member Relations. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
110 Saugstad Rd; Westby, WI 54667
Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

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