

Watt's New

November 2025



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op



OCTOBER TRIVIA:

VEC members have access to several rebates, including LED light bulbs. In lighting, what does the acronym LED stand for?

Answer: LED stands for "Light-Emitting Diode." A semiconductor which glows when voltage is applied.

NOVEMBER TRIVIA:

Approximately what percentage of Vernon Electric Cooperative's members are residential accounts?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)



Did you know Vernon Electric Cooperative offers scholarships?

Eligible schools for the scholarship:

- Aquinas
- Brookwood
- Cashton
- De Soto
- Hillsboro
- Kickapoo
- La Crosse Central
- La Farge
- Luther
- Royal
- Sparta
- Viroqua
- Westby
- Wonevot
- Youth Initiative High School
- At-Large

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Trevor Clark at 608-634-3121 or email at tclark@vernonelectric.org.

- 1. Who is Eligible:** Any member or child of a member.
- 2. Visit the Website:** Go to www.vernonelectric.org to find the scholarship application form. Click the Menu option "About Us", and you will find our Scholarships page.
- 3. Access the Application Form:** Locate the scholarship application you would like to apply for.
- 4. Complete the Form:** Fill out the application form with all necessary details. Ensure that all information is accurate and complete.
- 5. Submit Your Application:** Follow the submission instructions provided on the website to submit your application.
- 6. Check Eligibility for Schools:** Confirm that you or your child is eligible by being associated with one of the listed schools or the At-Large category.
- 7. Deadline:** Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Safety Tip

Heating equipment accounts for 13% of home fires. Place a space heater on a hard surface and make sure clothing, papers and other combustible items are at least 3 feet away from the heater.



PREPARING FOR HUNTING SEASON

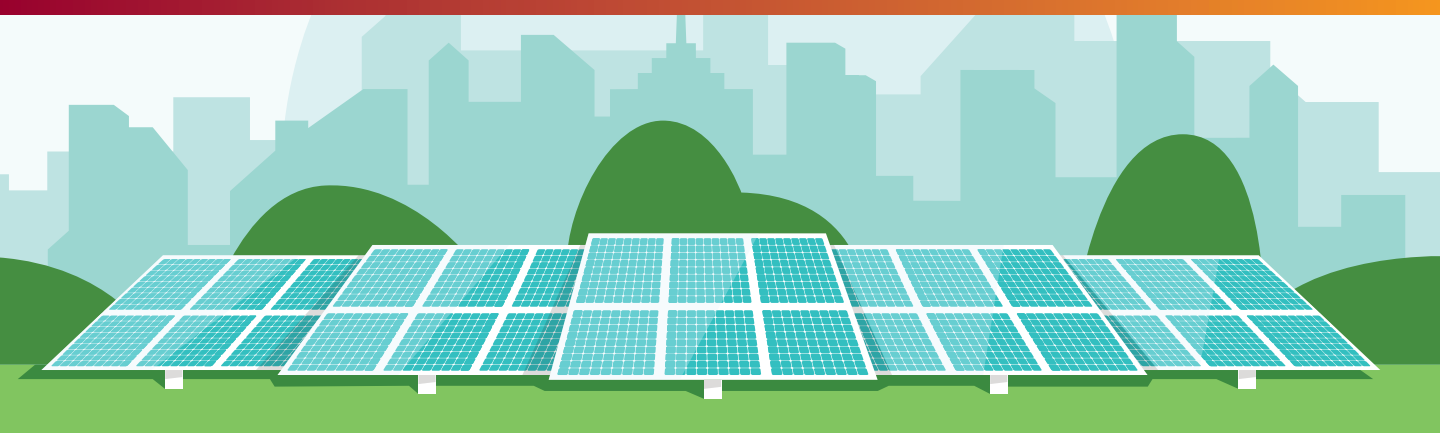
As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Before you climb that tree stand, look out for power lines. Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc through the air up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines, meaning you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous situation: Anyone who gets within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe:

- **Scout the area.** Before hunting, scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.
- **Power safely.** If you're using a portable electrical generator, never use it inside a cabin, camper, RV or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside with plenty of ventilation.
- **Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.** A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.



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 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, the array utilizes bifacial solar panels 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 will be

available for members to subscribe to 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.

RATES

June, July, August (summer) 7 cents per kWh
All other months 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 is 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 chose 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 without needing to sell their subscription. Participants will have the option to renew for the next year annually.

If you are interested in participating in community solar, please contact our office.