



Watt's New

March 2026



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

VERNON ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Aquinas High School
FELICITY MITCHELL



Brookwood High School
CALISTA ZIMMERMAN



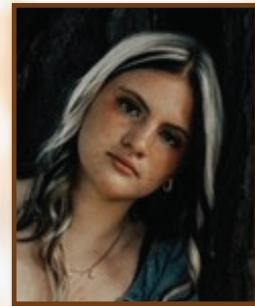
Central High School
ELLIA DALE



Cashton High School
VIVIE DEMPSEY



De Soto High School
BRYCE SCHULTZ



Hillsboro High School
EMMA MCGRAW



Hillsboro High School
Dairyland Scholarship
GILLIAN NOVACHECK



Kickapoo High School
BROGAN CARY



La Farge High School
CHAD WIRTS



Melrose Mindoro High School
MATTHEW ADAMS



Non-Traditional
HANNAH CHRISTIANSON



Sparta High School
AVERY ABBOTT



Viroqua High School
ALANA CHRISTIANSON



Westby High School
KRISTAL LEVENDOSKI

Monthly Co-op



JANUARY TRIVIA:

True or False – In wire gauge sizing, a smaller number means a thicker wire capable of carrying more current.

Answer: True. Wire sizing (like the American Wire Gauge system) works backward from what most people expect — the smaller the number, the thicker the wire.

MARCH TRIVIA:

True or False – Touching a downed power line can be deadly even if it's not sparking.

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Perfect Storm Results in PCA Charges

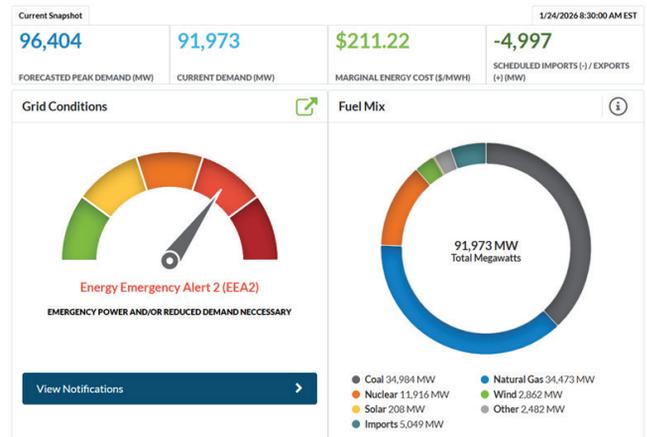
While the morning of Saturday, January 24, seemed like a normal cold January in the Coulee Region, electric grid operators were working diligently behind the scenes, to keep power flowing across our area. Power which was needed to run businesses, heat homes and protect life and infrastructure from the extreme cold. Our region narrowly avoided widespread rolling blackouts during this extreme cold event. The Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) declared an Emergency Alert 2 (EEA2) due to high demand, baseload power plant outages, plummeting wind generation, no solar generation output, and tight natural gas supplies.

While grid conditions improved in the following days and rolling blackouts were avoided, energy demand remained extremely high throughout the MISO region as winter storm Fern slowly moved across the United States. Energy prices reached exceptionally high levels for many days as utilities competed for limited supply. These prices are determined by regional market conditions and are not set by the wholesale power suppliers or local electric cooperatives.

As a result, actual wholesale power costs for January are anticipated to be considerably higher than forecasted, triggering a very large power cost adjustment (PCA) charge on upcoming Vernon Electric Cooperative electricity bills. The Power Cost Adjustment exists to transparently pass through the extremely volatile cost of wholesale power.

When market prices are favorable, the PCA can help reduce overall bills. When prices spike due to extreme conditions, the PCA reflects those increased costs.

At the time of writing this, MISO power cost settlements are still taking place, and the exact cost is not known; however, initial projections show that the January power cost adjustment for Vernon Electric could approach \$800,000. We are working with our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power, to soften the impact to our members as much as possible, and we plan to spread the cost over several months.



More information about MISO and how members can help during periods of peak demand will be featured in the local pages of our upcoming WECN magazine.

Sharing in the Co-op's Success

Each year, your cooperative looks for opportunities to return value back to you — our member-owners — and we're pleased to share that capital credits will once again be retired and returned to members.

Because Vernon Electric Cooperative operates as a not-for-profit, any margins remaining after expenses are allocated back to members in the form of capital credits. These credits represent each member's ownership in the cooperative, based on the amount of electricity purchased during a given year.

A capital credit retirement occurs when the Board of Directors authorizes a portion of those previously allocated credits to be paid back to members. Rather than issuing a separate check, your refund will automatically appear as a credit on your electric bill. No action is needed on your part.

This is one of the many ways cooperative membership benefits you — when the co-op does well, you share in the success.

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.

- Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.
- The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.
- When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.
- We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

Watt's New

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Director of Member Services. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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