

Watt's New October 2022



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op



August Trivia: Vernon Electric Co-op was started by local farmers who borrowed money from the Federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to get our Co-op going. Which U.S. President created the REA?

Answer: Franklin D. Roosevelt

October Trivia:

Vernon Electric Co-op's first General Manager was hired in 1937 and was tragically killed in a car accident while traveling from a co-op meeting in 1961. What was his name?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Come Enjoy Our Member Appreciation Picnic

**Wednesday, October 26
from 4-7 p.m.**

Join us in celebrating Co-op Month and feel Vernon Electric's appreciation for you at our Member Appreciation Picnic. The event will be held at our Vernon Electric Cooperative office in Westby on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 4-7 p.m.

Event Includes:

- Baked potato bar, pulled pork sandwiches, refreshments and desserts
- Face painting, bounce house and other activities for children
- Electric vehicles on display
- Blood pressure screenings by the Vernon County Health Department
- K-9 unit demonstration at 6 p.m. by Vernon County Sheriff's Deputy Bellacero and K-9 Dax
- Drawings and games for bill credits
- Meet and greet with Co-op employees and directors
- Opportunity for Q&A with Co-op leaders at 6:30 p.m.



**October is
National Co-op Month**
From booming suburbs to scenic countrysides, electric co-ops play a vital role in shaping the local communities they serve.

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER
Only \$10**

ENERGY-SAVING FAIR

We have partnered with FOCUS ON ENERGY® to offer exclusive discounts on certified ENERGY STAR® products. Take advantage of this exclusive offer at our upcoming event to help you decrease your energy bills.

Member Appreciation Picnic - October 26th | 4-7 p.m.

Water Testing Available

The Vernon County Land & Water Conservation Department is hosting a Well Water Testing Program. For a limited time, you can enjoy more than 50% off a Homeowner's Water Testing Package. Participation is first come, first serve and is very limited. If selected to participate, the cost for you is \$25.

If you are a Vernon County resident and interested in participating, you must be able to collect your water sample on November 15th and return it to the Vernon County Land & Water office.

Next steps if you are interested:

- Sign up by contacting Sarah McDowell at 608-637-5480 or smcdowell@vernoncounty.org.
- You will be notified if you are selected.
- Pick up water sample container from Vernon County Land & Water office in Viroqua and pay \$25 share.
- Be able to collect your water sample on **November 15th** and return it to the Vernon County Land & Water office at 220 Airport Road, Viroqua.
- Wait for results and further information regarding an optional water testing educational event.

- 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).

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, water conservation, 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.

Vernon Electric Cooperative Wins Statewide Magazine Award

Vernon Electric Cooperative has been recognized for our written contributions to the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, the voice of the state's rural electric cooperatives. At the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association Member Services and Communicator's Conference held August 23-24 in Wisconsin Dells, Vernon Electric Co-op was awarded Honorable Mention in the Human-Interest category.

This award celebrates the creative work of freelance writer and Vernon Electric member, Leah Call, who contributes a member human-interest feature article on behalf of Vernon Electric each month. You can read Leah's member feature stories each month in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and see past publications on our website.



Dave Maxwell (left), director of member services at Vernon Electric Cooperative, accepted a human-interest award from the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News (WECN) by Dana Kelroy, WECN editor.

Leah Call, freelance writer, was honored for her contributions to Vernon Electric Cooperative's local pages in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News.

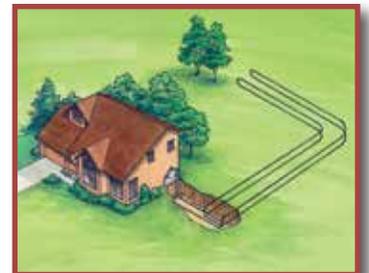
Geothermal Investment Tax Credit Extended Through 2023

The pandemic relief bill Congress passed in December 2020 also included some economic stimulus components. One item didn't get as much fanfare as others but is relevant to cooperative members.

The Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for residential geothermal heat pump systems – which was due to expire at the end of 2021 – was extended. New installations can qualify for a 26 percent credit through 2022, and 22 percent in 2023 with the tax credit expiring as of Jan. 1, 2024. Eligible expenses include labor, onsite preparation, assembly, equipment, piping or wiring to connect a system to the home and some electrical upgrades.

"We are ready to work with members who want to learn more about geothermal heat pumps," Dave Maxwell, director of member services said. "The efficiency of a geothermal heat pump is the best on the market. Although the up-front installation can be more expensive than a furnace or air conditioner, the

extended tax credit can help members, in addition to lower monthly energy costs. Vernon Electric also offers an incentive of \$500 per ton for installing a geothermal heat pump."



Many members currently use two different systems to heat and cool their homes: a furnace and an air conditioner. When it's time to replace both, a member should consider whether to repurchase two separate systems or to put that cost toward a geothermal heat pump, which can heat and cool a home. For every unit of electricity used to power a geothermal heat pump, the system delivers more than four units of heating or cooling. That's over a 400-percent efficient system. The energy savings from a geothermal heat pump result in a five-to-10-year payback for many homeowners.