

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2025 NEWS



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

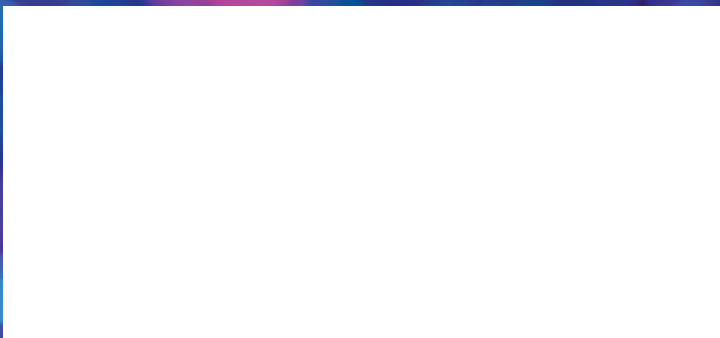
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWERING THE FUTURE

BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL ENERGY SCAMS

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

CO-OP MONTH EVENTS ON PAGE 17





POWERED BY PURPOSE

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

In October, electric cooperatives nationwide observe National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible.

As General Manager/CEO of Jump River Electric Cooperative, I witness our cooperative's mission in action daily. Our cooperative prioritizes service to our members, who are also our neighbors and community members. This focus is the foundation of our operations and decision-making processes.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and

locally controlled. This structure ensures that members have a say in our operations by electing board members who reside within our service area and understand local challenges and opportunities. Decisions are made locally, reflecting the priorities of our community. Our local accountability enables us to concentrate on delivering reliable and affordable electricity.

As stated last month, we are looking to expand our essential infrastructure and technology to enhance our grid and improve service. These upgrades are essential for our progress and our ability to meet evolving needs, but they do come with a cost. Recognizing this, we strive to manage expenses and maintain

competitive rates, understanding the impact of rising prices on families and businesses.

Beyond electricity, co-ops were built to meet community needs by supporting local schools, youth programs, volunteer organizations, and hosting events like blood drives. Community involvement is integral to our mission.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to recognize the value of your cooperative membership. As an owner and stakeholder, you play a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected, and energized.

Thank you for the continued trust you place in us. We are honored to serve as your local electric cooperative.



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



UNDERSTANDING YOUR PART IN THE POWER SYSTEM

We are always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding this can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

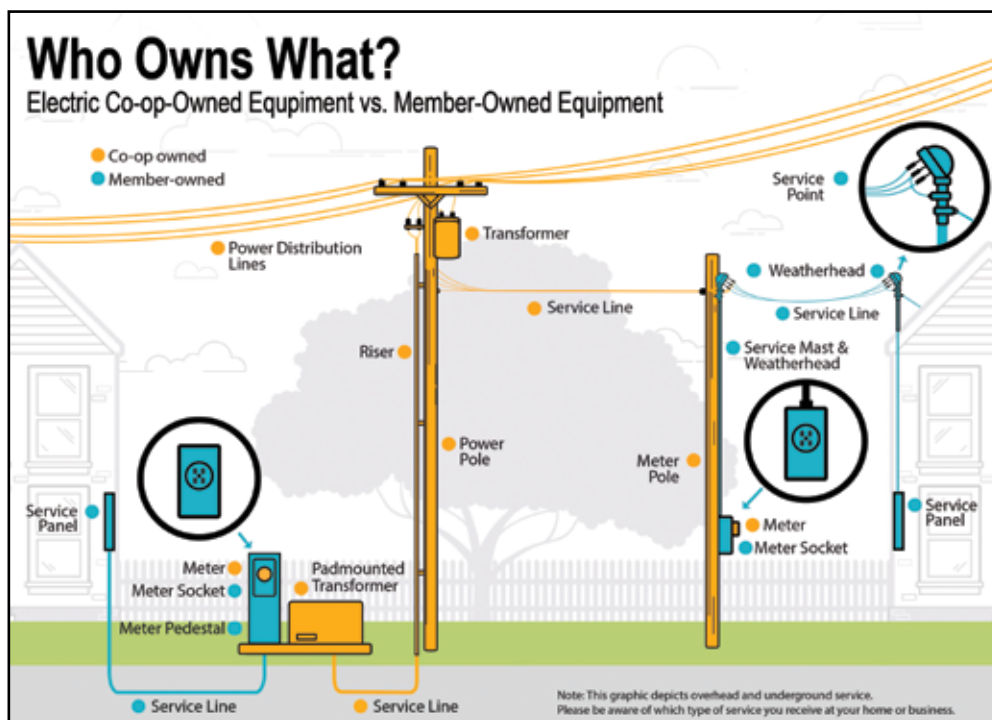
The cooperative is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your electric meter, and the homeowner is responsible for the equipment between the meter and the home or business. The graphic depicts co-op equipment in (gold) and member-owned equipment in (blue).

Any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before JREC can restore power. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration

process if severe weather impacts our community.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help.



Ready Your Home **FOR WINTER**

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at:



ENERGY ASSISTANCE



As the heating season quickly approaches, we want to remind everyone of the services available to assist with winter heating and utility bills, should the need arise. You can find this information, along with other resources for housing expenses such as replacing a water heater or furnace, online at jrec.com/energy-assistance.

Some assistance programs offer one-time payments during the heating season, which typically runs from October 1 to May 15. The amount of energy assistance received can vary based on several factors, including the household size, income, and energy costs. Additionally, crisis assistance may also be available if you have no heat, are nearly out of fuel, or if your electricity has been or will soon be shut off.

Members can also contact their local agency to determine eligibility. A list of both county and statewide agencies is provided below. If you are unable to keep your account balance current, it is important to contact us at 715-532-5524 to discuss your situation further.

Local Energy Assistance Agencies:

Chippewa County: 715-726-7840

LCO Tribal: 715-634-8934

Rusk County: 715-532-2299

Sawyer County: 715-634-4806

Taylor County: 715-748-3332

Other Available Resources:

Farm Crisis Center: 1-800-942-2474 (for farmers only)

Foundation for Rural Housing: 1-888-400-5974 or wisconsinruralhousing.org

Heat for Heroes: 1-800-891-9276 or heat4heroes.org

Keep Wisconsin Warm: 1-800-891-9276 or kwwf.org

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): 1-866-674-6327 or energyhelp.us

National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR): 1-866-674-6327

Tomorrow's Home Foundation: 1-608-255-1088 or tomorrowshomefoundation.org

Wisconsin Help for Homeowners: 1-855-246-6394 or homeownerhelp.wi.gov

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP): 1-866-432-8947 or energybenefit.wi.gov or energyandhousing.wi.gov



LET'S CELEBRATE CO-OP MONTH TOGETHER

October is National Co-op Month, and we are excited to host events that allow us to demonstrate our commitment and concern for the community we proudly serve.

Join Us For the Second Annual Blood Donation Drive

A blood donation drive will be held in the community room of the Ladysmith headquarters office on Thursday, October 16. Please consider giving the gift of life.

Here is why you should donate:

- A single blood donation may help save more than one life.
- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- Only 3 out of 100 Americans donate blood.
- 1 in 7 patients entering a hospital will need a blood transfusion.
- Blood can't be manufactured. It can only come from generous donors like you!
- You don't need to know your blood type to donate; however, type O blood is most requested by hospitals and is often in short supply.
- You can give blood every 56 days up to 6 times a year. Please consider giving today.



Join Us for a Spooktacular Time

We're thrilled to invite you to our 5th annual Trunk or Treat event, where members of all ages can enjoy a frightfully fun time. This event is a fantastic way to conclude National Co-op Month with excitement, community spirit, and of course plenty of candy!

Get ready for a costume contest at the Ladysmith location. Dress up in your best Halloween attire and drive through our warehouse, where representatives from various local businesses will be ready to deliver treats right to your vehicle. Meanwhile, in Hayward, our employees will be handing out candy at the community event being held in the Community Parking Lot.

We look forward to spending Halloween with you!

Celebrate Co-op Month By Giving

If you haven't already enrolled in the member-funded Community Cents program, now is the time to do so. When you join, your bill is "rounded up" to the nearest dollar. If you prefer, you can make a one-time donation to this program.

WHY? For a few cents each month, you can lend a helping hand to local charitable organizations. On average, members contribute \$6 or less a year. JREC has around 10,000 members and if everyone participated, we could do tremendous things and make this an even better place to live than it already is.

HOW? You can enroll by calling our office, visiting jrec.com, or by filling out and returning the opt-in form at the right.



COMMUNITY CENTS Opt-In Form

I understand that by completing this form, my bill will be adjusted accordingly, and this will continue to happen until I either opt-out or no longer receive power from JREC.

Participation Method/Account Information

I wish to participate in the Community Cents Program using the following method:

- ☐ Nearest Dollar
☐ Monthly Fixed Amount of \$ _____
☐ One-Time Donation of \$ _____

Account # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848

CAPTURING RURAL BEAUTY

Selecting the photo contest winners was challenging, given the diverse images captured within our community. The images below, along with other amazing photos received throughout the year, will be featured in our 2026 calendar. Members can pick up a calendar at our offices before the end of the year, bringing a piece of our community's beauty into your homes.

Congratulations to our talented photographers whose winning entries earned them an energy credit.



Above: first place —
Marcia Suchy, Couderay



Above: second place—
Guy Franzese, Hayward



Right: third place—
Tiffany Noel, Tony

JREC RECEIVES AWARD FOR LOCAL NEWS

Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) recently won an award of excellence for presentation of local news within this magazine. Denise Zimmer, the communications and member services specialists, serves as the editor of the co-op's local pages. These pages received an Honorable Mention award in the category of Human Interest for the previous year.



Denise Zimmer (left) accepts the award from Dana Kelroy, *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* editor.



FOR AS LITTLE AS \$.50 A MONTH
YOU CAN SUPPORT
RENEWABLE ENERGY



AN INEXPENSIVE WAY TO SUPPORT
GREEN POWER

Evergreen is an opportunity for electric cooperative members to voluntarily contribute to the increased use of renewable energy sources. Private ownership of renewable energy does not work for everyone. A member's property may not support it, or the upfront costs and maintenance may be too great. Through this program, you have access to clean, local, renewable energy that best fits your lifestyle and budget.

To participate in the *Evergreen* program, members can purchase *Evergreen* blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of power. Each block is priced at 50 cents per block. *Evergreen* is in addition to the regular electricity charges. For more information or to sign up for this program, go to jrec.com/evergreen-program or call our office at 715-532-5524.

1102 West 9th Street North • P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-5524 (Ladysmith); 715-634-4575 (Hayward) • www.jrec.com

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111
Pay by Phone: 844-967-2320

Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram



Denise Zimmer, Editor



Scan the QR code to find us on
Facebook (left) and Instagram (right).



JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.