



Jackson Electric Cooperative's office will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1. If you experience an outage during this time, call 855.222.DARK (3275).

Payments can be made online at www.jackelec.com or dropped in the secured drop box located in Jackson Electric's building parking lot. Like us on Facebook for the latest updates on Jackson Electric Cooperative.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/
CEO

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

It's that time of year when we begin to hear Christmas music on the radio, see decorative lights illuminate homes and businesses, retail stores have extended shopping hours, and the aroma of baked goods fills the kitchens. The holidays bring together families and friends, creating traditions that are passed down from generation to generation.

This year, Jackson Electric Cooperative is fortunate to host the site for Project Christmas. As you will read on page 16 of this issue, Project Christmas is in its 32nd year of existence. This non-profit organization is managed strictly by volunteers from the community. Every year, volunteers set out to make Christmas a little bit brighter for families and elderly who may not have the funds or resources available to them. Consider volunteering a few hours of your time to help with Project Christmas. It may be the start of a new family Christmas tradition.

As we get ready to close another year, I want to thank you for your membership and support throughout the past year. On behalf of the employees and board of directors of Jackson Electric Cooperative, I wish you a healthy, prosperous, and safe New Year.

DIRECTOR RECEIVES TRAINING CERTIFICATE

Principle #5 – Education, Training, and Information

Jackson Electric Cooperative's Board President Gary Woods received the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) at a recent National Rural Electric Cooperative Association meeting. This certificate is obtained by directors through their diligence in staying educated.

To receive the BLC, a director is required to complete the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification series. This certification focuses on five core courses including strategic planning, financial decision-making, duties and liabilities, the understanding of the electric business, and operations and process. Ten credits from courses within specialty areas are required to receive the BLC. Those areas include grassroots, power supply, governance, financial, communications, technology, and risk management.

President Woods has been a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative's board of directors since 1983 and has been seated as president for nearly 14 years.

Jackson Electric's board president, Gary Woods (left), accepts his Board Leadership Certificate from the cooperative's vice president, Jerry Huber.



WATER HEATER PROGRAM CHANGES COMING IN 2016

Management and staff at Jackson Electric have been working on a water heater program that will benefit the cooperative, thus keeping the members' best interests at the forefront. Recent federal government regulations on electric water heaters have increased the price and stalled the availability on most water heater sizes.

Starting in January 2016, Jackson Electric will be promoting a revised water heater program. Many hours of research, calculating, and surveying have been put into this program. Plans will soon be finalized and information will be revealed in next month's publications.

REBATE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

December 31, 2015

Jackson Electric Cooperative offers rebates and incentives on qualified Energy Star appliances, lighting, heat pumps, and energy efficient home improvements. Go to www.jackelec.com or contact our office for more information.

Rebate applications must be submitted to the cooperative's office no later than December 31, 2015.



Making Christmas memories for others

Beginning the weekend of December 5, you'll see several Jackson County community members come together to deliver a Merry Christmas for several families in the area. It's called "Project Christmas," and for one entire week, volunteers from the area gather together to collect, lift, sort, package, and wrap Christmas presents for families who do not have the resources to put gifts under the tree.

"We want to make Christmas better for the children," says Ruth Buswell, one



of the founders of Project Christmas. In 2014, 482 households in Jackson County received wrapped gifts and kid-friendly food items for the holiday. In addition, several elderly residents received some holiday company. "The elderly appreciate the extra company during the holiday season," Buswell adds.

Project Christmas is celebrating 32 years as a non-profit organization. Ruth and her husband, Charles (Chuck), have been helping make Christmas a little bit brighter for less fortunate families since the organization's beginning. Thirty-two years ago, Chuck noticed that some children didn't have the opportunity to celebrate the holiday in a way that many children are able to. So, he and Ruth, along with a good friend, decided to do something about it. Project Christmas was conceived and continues to be a staple organization in the community.

This year Project Christmas will set up shop at Jackson Electric Cooperative December 5-12. Individuals and groups are always welcomed to volunteer their time. Elves will be wrapping gifts on Tuesday night, December 8, beginning at

6. Please bring scissors, scotch tape, and wrapping paper. On Thursday evening, December 10, also beginning at 6, boxes will be packed, preparing them for Santa's sleigh.

Assistance is needed during the weekdays. Please call 715.284.2100 if you're interested in volunteering your time during the week.

Donations

New toys, ranging from \$15 to \$18. Please do not wrap the toy. Drop-off points are:

- Co-op Credit Union in Black River Falls;
- Jackson Electric Cooperative; and
- If the purchase is from Wal-Mart in Black River Falls, the store will collect the gift.

Monetary donations can be sent to Project Christmas, c/o Co-op Credit Union, P.O. Box 157, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Donations will also be accepted by any CCU teller during working hours.

Donations are tax deductible.

Project Christmas
of Jackson County
Wisconsin, Inc.

Save the Date

Tuesday, December 8: Wrapping
Thursday, December 10: Boxing
Saturday, December 12: Delivery

@ Jackson Electric





YOUTH AMBASSADORS ON THE MOVE

Jackson Electric Cooperative’s Youth Ambassadors enjoyed excellent fall weather and great hospitality when they toured Harkner & Sons, Inc., cranberry marsh on October 14. In addition, the students toured the Cranberry Discovery Center and Wetherby Cranberry Company in Warrens. During the tour, students learned about the cranberry industry and its history, how Ocean Spray, a cranberry cooperative, is structured, and the differences between a cranberry cooperative and an independent business.

Thank you to Tom and Judie Harkner for planning the tour.



On November 4, the youth ambassadors traveled to Dairyland Power Cooperative to tour the headquarters and its Genoa power plant. While at Dairyland, the students learned about mapping and systems operations, toured the biology and chemistry labs, and observed the electrical maintenance, fleet management, and warehouse operations areas.

While at the power plant, students got a firsthand look at how electricity is generated and learned about careers at the power plant.

MY CO-OP

Youth Ambassadors Raise Money for Friends Sharing Food

During the month of October, the Youth Ambassadors raised money for the Friends Sharing Food organization. This is a volunteer organization that works to help reduce hunger in Jackson County families. Students from Black River Falls and Melrose-Mindoro promoted this fundraising effort throughout their communities. Youth Ambassadors raised \$246.95; Jackson Electric Cooperative matched that for a total donation of \$493.90.

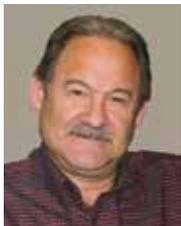


SAND TURNS TO ROCK

Jackson Electric Cooperative’s lineman Jesse Hansen shows the crew at the Jackson County Highway Department how an energized downed power line transformed sand into a rock formation. Overhead and underground power line safety was discussed during the highway department’s safety meeting. Also participating in the safety education from Jackson Electric were lineman Brian Schultz and safety and compliance specialist Ben Bella.



ELECTRICITY IS USED FOR HOLIDAY BAKING, LIGHTING, AND PARTIES



By Ron Blado,
Member Services Manager

Happy Holidays! Deer hunting, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and ringing in the New Year are favorite occasions for a lot of people.

The extra activities during the holidays affect electric energy consumption. Holiday cooking and baking, family get-togethers, parties, lighting, and home heating are all part of the joy of the season, and many of us would not change what we do or when we do it.

Many of our Jackson Electric Cooperative members call me the month after a holiday to ask why their electric bill is higher than the past month. After I ask a few pertinent questions of the member, they seem to understand what happened. Looking at additional holiday activities may help us understand how it may coincide with your monthly electrical consumption.

- **Holiday baking and cooking** – During the holidays we bake more cookies, pies, and meals. If your cooking device is an electric oven, that usage will add to your electric bill.
- **Overnight guests** – It is fun to have guests over for a couple of days, but you may see an increase in your electric usage. Electric water heaters, electric space heaters, operating the dishwasher, washing several loads of extra laundry, playing x-box games, etc. all have an impact on your electric bill.

- **Outdoor holiday lighting** – Many families really go all out during the holidays to be the most decorated house on the block. Decorative lighting seems to be for all seasons and starts early. Much of the indoor and outdoor lighting we use today is more energy efficient than it was just a couple of years ago. Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) are the wave of the future in lighting and are much safer than the incandescent bulbs. According to a publication printed by Dairyland Power, LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than conventional holiday lighting.
- **Colder temperatures and darkness** – This is the time of year the weather gets much colder and it's dark earlier and for a longer period. Heat pumps may operate more and lights are typically on for a longer period, thus increasing your electrical usage.

You may wonder if Scrooge wrote the article this month. No, Scrooge didn't. The reason I elected to publish this article is to prepare you for the reality of the holiday season's impact. What can you do to control, or at least maintain, your energy consumption? As you prepare for the season, look for deals on LED holiday lighting, install timers on your indoor and outdoor lighting, and prepare what food you can ahead of time. Scrooge's advice would probably be much different than mine, but truly, enjoy the holiday season with family and friends.

INCREASE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL BY PLUGGING IN AN ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER

Throughout the next three to four months, we will receive several calls from members regarding high electric usage. For many, the culprit tends to be the use of an electric space heater.

Even though **all** electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient, they still use a considerable amount of electricity if used regularly. If you must, use an electric space heater for supplemental heat in a small area. They are not designed to heat your entire home. For an approximate operating cost of

an electric space heater, use the following formula:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \$0.1130/\text{kWh} \\ \times 8 \text{ hours of operation} = \text{cost.}$$

For example, a 1,500-watt space heater operating eight hours a day for 30 days costs \$40.68 per month to operate.

There are more economical choices available to heat your home. Contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to learn more about cost-effective electric heat options.



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Jerry Huber, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel Smrekar, Junior Jacobson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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