



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/
CEO

SAFETY EDUCATION IS PRIORITY #1

This month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and as you read through the local pages of this magazine, you'll see several safety tips to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

To promote safety education in our communities, you'll see Jackson Electric's line crew performing hot line demonstrations to youth and adults. We provide electrical safety education materials to driver education instructors, schools, and emergency responders. Safety education content is also published in this magazine, Jackson Electric's website and social media outlets, and the local radio station.

In addition, Jackson Electric spent more than \$500,000 in 2016 in vegetation maintenance of trees and shrubs near power lines that could potentially cause a power

outage. The concern is not only outages, but public safety. The temptation for someone to climb a tree or build a treehouse near a power line could possibly be prevented if trees are cleared from the power line corridor.

We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. Jackson Electric is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect

from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

Safety education is the number-one priority at Jackson Electric. It's our goal to make sure everyone goes home safe every day after work, and to provide electrical safety awareness in communities where we work and live.

SAFETY TIP

Little ones should always ask an adult for help when plugging in or removing cords from an outlet.



BEGIN YOUR NETWORKING AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Deadline to register is June 9

Jackson Electric Cooperative sponsors high school students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall to attend the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Congress. This year's YLC will be held July 26-28 at the UW-River Falls campus.

Students will participate in team-building activities, learn about cooperative principles, and have an opportunity to interview and campaign to be part of the Wisconsin Youth Board. All sessions are designed to develop the next generation of community leaders. Those students attending YLC also have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.

Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by Jackson Electric. Contact Deanna at doliver@jackelec.com by June 9, 2017, to register for this event.

SAFETY TIP

Flying a kite is great for outdoor fun! But remember to always be mindful of overhead power lines. (*Safe Electricity*)



"SNOWY SUNRISE"

March photo of the month winner is Nicole Thompson of Merrillan. This photo was taken near East Snow Creek Road in Merrillan. Nicole received a \$25 energy credit and this photo was on display throughout the month of April in Jackson Electric's lobby.

Time is starting to run out for you to submit your favorite monthly photo for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit and bragging rights. Photos for May can be submitted until May 31, 2017, and June photos until June 30, 2017.

Go to www.jackelec.com, Jackson Electric's Facebook page, or contact our office for photo contest rules and release for photo use.



JACKSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

“How many in the audience tonight are 80 years old or older?” asked President Gary Woods at Jackson Electric Cooperative’s 80th Annual Meeting held March 21. “I’m sure you remember what it was like living without electricity, or the excitement you and your family felt when your first light flickered. This is something many of us can’t relate to. The convenient use of electricity has always been available to us,” Woods continued.

During his presentation to more than 200 members, Woods highlighted that the cooperative has a solid long-term financial plan in place, a secure network to prevent cyber threats, and a strong culture of safety for the employees and community. Woods assured members that the board of directors is happy with the direction the cooperative is going.

General Manager/CEO Kevin Babcock continued with President Woods’ thoughts by stating residential and commercial members of the cooperative will not see a regular energy rate increase in the year 2017. The last time there was a rate increase was in 2012. Babcock went on to answer the most popular member questions received at the office. Included were the value of right-of-way vegetation maintenance, components of the facility charge, output of Jackson Electric’s solar array, and a request to learn more about member interest from a



Jackson Electric Cooperative’s Board of Directors. Back row, left to right: Dan Smrekar, Dave Peasley, Chris Curran, Brian Huber, and Jerry Wagner. Seated, left to right: Jerry Huber, Kristi Hanson, Stan Gran, and Gary Woods.

community solar garden survey that was distributed to members at registration.

Director Junior Jacobson was recognized for his 18 years of service on the board. Jacobson chose not to run for re-election as district #2 representative. Members of that district elected Kristi Hanson, of Alma Center, as their representative to the board. She, along with re-elected directors Jerry Huber and Dan Smrekar, began their term on the board after membership approval of ratification at this meeting. Both Huber and Smrekar

ran unopposed in their districts. District meetings were held in February.

The Jackson Electric Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship was presented to Mykayla Wollin. She is a student at Melrose-Mindoro High School and plans to attend Winona State University in the fall.

The Mike Anderson Memorial was presented to the Jackson County Coats for Kids organization.

The annual meeting was held at the Lunda Theatre in Black River Falls.

SAFETY TIP

For outdoor equipment, use lighting and power tools that have the label of an independent test laboratory, and make sure they’re made for outdoor use. (NFPA)



REMINDER FOR BUDGET BILLING PLAN PARTICIPANTS

Members on the Budget Billing Plan will receive a bill in May, which is considered the “clean-up” month. Your remaining payment on your budget billing plan is due on or before June 1, 2017.

To find out what your remaining balance is, please contact our office.

SALES TAX ON SUMMER ELECTRIC BILLS

A sales tax will be applied to your electric bill for electric usage in the months of May through October. According to Wisconsin Statute 77.54 (30) (a) 2, “Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March, and April for residential use” are exempt from sales and use tax. This statute was enacted in 1995.

The state government regards electricity for residential use during the winter months as a necessity; therefore, it is exempt from sales tax during these months. “Residential use” is defined in the statute as a structure or portion of a structure which is a person’s permanent principle residence. It does not include use in motor homes, travel trailer, other recreational vehicles, or transient accommodations.

If you feel your farming operation or business meets year-round tax exemption status, please confirm that you have a completed and signed Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate on file at Jackson Electric’s office. Forms are available from our office or at www.jackelec.com/My Account/Tax Exempt.

WATER HEATERS WORK WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Turning off your water heater while you're away doesn't guarantee that you will save money on your water heating. Generally, if you have a high-efficiency water heater there is little benefit in turning off the water heater for a duration of less than one week.

If you plan to be gone for longer than one week, timing is the key to saving

money. If your water heater is completely heated at the time you turn it off, there will be little, if any, savings by doing so because you have already paid to heat the water that will cool down while you are away. The money-saving trick is to turn the water heater off early enough so most of the water you paid to heat is used before you leave. Cold water entering the water heater as you use the hot water will remain cold, using no energy, until you return and turn the water heater back on.



SAFETY TIP

Working outdoors? Play it safe and use a wooden or fiberglass ladder. Remember to keep a minimum of 10 feet between the ladder and power lines. (National Fire Protection Association)



SAFETY TIP

How well do you know your home's electrical system? Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, or outlet. (ESFI)



PLANNING A NEW BUILD?

If you're planning to build a house, shed, or livestock facility and need electric service installed, please contact Jackson Electric Cooperative to schedule an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. We can also help you with electric heating and cooling options, water heating, and Energy Star rebates for residential, business, and agricultural.

SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY AT A LOWER PRICE

Evergreen blocks of energy are available at \$1 per block

As a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative, you can support renewable energy by purchasing blocks of energy through the Evergreen program. This program is a voluntary renewable energy (green power) program and is for those who want to support renewable energy and are willing to help pay for the extra costs associated with its production.

In addition to your monthly electric bill, you volunteer to pay a small, additional charge each month to offset the additional cost it takes to support renewable energy generation. Your investment in Evergreen results in the generation of renewable energy above and beyond state requirements.

Blocks of renewable energy can now be purchased for \$1 per block. For those members who already subscribe to Evergreen at \$1.50 per block, the new price of \$1 per block will be reflected on your June billing statement. Because of the lower price, this gives you an opportunity to purchase more blocks for your money.

To purchase more blocks or if you're new to purchasing Evergreen, use the form at right or download the form at www.jackelec.com.

SAFETY TIP

Bulb wattage matters! Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture, causing a fire hazard. (ESFI)



Please sign me up for Evergreen so I can support renewable energy!

- 1 block (\$1 per month)
- 2 blocks (\$2 per month)
- 3 blocks (\$3 per month)
- 4 blocks (\$4 per month)
- 5 blocks (\$5 per month)
- ____ blocks at \$1 per block per month

*** One block = 100 kilowatt-hours**

I understand that this amount is in addition to my monthly energy bill and that I may cancel my purchase at any time.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Account No.: _____

Complete and return to Jackson Electric Cooperative.
P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615



SUMMER LOAD MANAGEMENT HOURS

Starting May 1, the load management hours will switch to summer hours. These hours will be in effect until October 31. To learn more about the summer load management hours, go to www.jackelec.com and click on the Load Control Schedule tab. Full Load Control events are announced on WWIS and WAXX affiliated radio stations, and on Jackson Electric’s Facebook page and website.

Summer Load Management Hours May 1 – October 31		
FULL LOAD CONTROL (Events issued in June, July, and August when energy demand is at its highest.)		
Load Description/Class	Load Management Start Time	Load Management End Time
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program. Dual fuel water heaters are controlled daily.)	2:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	2:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	1:45 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
ECONOMIC CONTROL (Can occur any time between start and end times. This control period is dependent on energy market prices only.)		
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program)	6:00 p.m.	12:00 a.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	6:00 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	6:00 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
DAILY ENERGY STORAGE (Dual fuel water heaters interrupted Monday-Friday; no control on weekends or holidays)		
Dual Fuel Water Heaters	11:30 a.m.	8:30 p.m.

SAFETY TIP

NEVER touch anyone or anything that’s in contact with a downed power line! Power lines may be live, so it’s best to stay a safe distance away. (NFPA)



SUMMER ENERGY CHARGE

Starting with your July billing statement, June usage, you will notice the regular residential energy charge will switch to the summer energy charge. This charge will be in effect with the June, July, and August usage.

The summer energy charge is a bit higher than the rest of the year because the wholesale cost of energy is higher during the summer months of June, July, and August. High electric demand related to air conditioners is the main driver in the summer. Those costs are passed on to the members in the form of a higher summer rate. All electric utilities in our area experience this summer cost increase; however, some utilities blend this increase over 12 months. Jackson Electric uses a higher summer rate to recover these increased energy costs as they occur.

Limiting electrical usage between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. is especially critical on peak load control days, occurring on the hottest days of the summer, because Jackson Electric pays peak demand charges in addition to the higher rate.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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www.jackelec.com

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Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Jerry Huber, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner