

UPCOMING TIMELINE FOR VOTING

MARCH
28



Absentee Ballot Mailed

The absentee ballot will be mailed in the April issue of this magazine.

MARCH
28



Electronic Ballot Opens

Members will be able to cast their electronic ballot through the SmartHub app starting March 28.

APRIL
25



Electronic Vote Closes

Electronic voting will close at 4 p.m. on this date.

APRIL
26



Absentee Ballot Deadline

All absentee/mail-in ballots need to be received at the JREC office by 4 p.m. on this date.

APRIL
27



Meeting Day Ballot Available

The 86th Annual Meeting is held and members who have not cast a ballot can do so prior to the start of the business meeting.

Your Vote Counts!
COMPLETE DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE.



MY CO-OP



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

Spring is on the horizon, and with its arrival comes preparation for our 86th Annual Meeting. Join us for this year's business meeting on Saturday, April 27. Members can attend the meeting in-person at either the Ladysmith headquarters warehouse or the Hayward outpost.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 10 a.m. Members attending at both locations will be able to participate in all aspects of the meeting, from voting to winning prizes. As a way of saying thank you for attending, members will receive a door prize and a \$25 energy credit, plus they will have a chance to win a \$500 energy credit during the meeting.

Voting options remain the same as last year. Members can cast their ballot electronically (web), through absentee voting, or in person before the annual business meeting. Consult the timeline chart at left for detailed information on each voting option. There is a way for every member to cast their ballot and make a difference at their cooperative.

What will you be voting on?

A director election will take place in districts 1, 5, and 6. Director candidates will be featured in next month's magazine issue along with the absentee ballot. Any proposed resolutions that were submitted by the required deadline will also be included on the ballot. Your vote really does count.

Ready to cast your electronic vote?

SmartHub is your go-to-portal for a user-friendly experience. This online account platform not only facilitates voting but also lets you check your current and past bills, pay online, view usage information, and report outages. If you haven't signed up for SmartHub yet, visit jrec.com and click on the SmartHub new user link or scan one of these QR codes. Your participation matters!



How to sign up
for SmartHub



SmartHub
registration

There's more to the annual meeting than just voting. It's your opportunity to find out more about what has been happening at your cooperative and get a sneak peek at what is ahead. We look forward to answering any questions you may have for us or the guest speaker from Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider.

Let's make our 86th Annual Meeting a great gathering of members, celebrating the spirit of community and cooperative progress. We hope to see you there!

Welcome, Spring!

MARCH INTO SPRING WITH SAVINGS

8 things all homeowners should do to lower their energy bills

Tuesday, March 19, marks the spring equinox and the end of the coldest days of winter. With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money. Keep in mind that an investment in energy efficiency not only saves you money on your energy bill, but it may also qualify for an Energy \$ense rebate through JREC.

1. Install and set a programmable thermostat.

You can save money on your heating and cooling costs by simply resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. A programmable thermostat allows you to do this automatically without sacrificing comfort. *Rebates Available*



5. Use window treatments to your advantage.

About 30 percent of a home's heating energy is lost through windows. In cooling seasons, about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters to become heat. In the winter, open coverings in morning to allow the sun to heat your home through the day. In the summer, keep coverings closed to reduce solar heat gain. For natural light, open window coverings that don't get direct sunlight.

2. Switch to ENERGY STAR® appliances, fans, and electronics.

Using Energy Star® certified products throughout your home are life-cycle cost-effective. Most products provide energy guides, but not all are ENERGY STAR® rated. *Rebates Available*



6. Choose energy-saving lighting.

Lighting accounts for around 15 percent of an average home's electricity use. The average household saves about \$225 in energy costs per year by using LED lights. For the greatest energy savings, choose bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR® rating. *Rebates Available*



3. **Use an electronic power strip.** Help reduce phantom loads and save all year by plugging electronic devices into a power strip that is turned off when not in use.



7. Reduce energy for water heating.

Take simple steps like lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads. JREC sells electric water heaters and rebates apply if placed on the load management program.

4. Maintain your heating and cooling system.

Check and replace your air filters regularly and arrange for annual maintenance with a qualified technician. Check your duct system as about 20 to 30 percent of the air that moves through this system is lost, resulting in higher utility bills.



8. Consult a home performance contractor to achieve large savings.

These professionals will do a comprehensive audit of your whole house using special tools to measure home energy efficiency.

Rebate Available: \$150 towards cost of a home energy audit, plus up to \$500 on recommended efficiency improvements made.



A summary of available rebates is listed to the right. Go to jrec.com/energy-sense-rebates for rebate forms and the entire list of available rebates and qualifying guidelines per category. Rebate requests need to be submitted within three months of either the purchase or installation. Be sure to cash in on these rebates in 2024.

—Sources: Energy.gov and Energystar.gov



Energy Sense™

Together we can... Together we will



ENERGY STAR RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING

LED Bulb (5 bulbs or more to qualify)	\$1/bulb
LED Fixture	\$1 per 800 lumens
Occupancy Sensor	\$5

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER

ZefNet EV Smart Charger with Integrated Metering purchased from JREC	\$800
Level 2 EV Charger Station	\$400

Must be on JREC's EV load management program.

ELECTRIC ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES

Refrigerator	\$100
Clothes Washer	\$100
Clothes Dryer	\$25
Dishwasher	\$50
Dehumidifier	\$25
Inductive Range	\$25
Freezer (min. 10 cu. Ft.)	\$25

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC HEAT PUMPS

Geothermal Heat Pump	\$500/ton
Commercial Air Source & PTHPs (Under 20 ton, EER 11+; 20-59 ton, EER 10.5+; and 60+ ton, EER 10+)	\$300/ton
Air Source Heat Pump and Mini Split (SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+, or SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+)	\$300/ton
Variable Speed ECM Blower Motor	\$35/unit
Programmable Thermostat	50% of cost, \$50 max

Additional rebates available based on kW size for mini-boilers, Electric Thermal Storage units, and plenum heaters

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

75 to 99 gallons	\$150*
100+ gallon	\$300*
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300

* Water heaters can be purchased directly from JREC with greater rebates available. Load management receiver must be installed, and energy efficiency standards met to receive rebate.

AG., COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRESCRIPTIVE

Exhaust Fan	\$1/inch
Circulation Fan	\$1/inch
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler	\$500/unit
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	\$300/unit
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	\$50/unit
Scroll Refrigerator Compressor	\$30/HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$30/HP

Willie Wiredhand reminds us:

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, our homes, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. However, the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard.

As you plan your tree and landscape plantings, consider that trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. Reduce fire hazards, power outages, and the need for frequent pruning with proper selection and planting of trees near utilities. You can find



more on how to plant the right tree in the right place at jrec.com/row-maintenance.

Remember to also call Diggers Hotline (dial 811) at least 72 hours before you begin any digging project.

Plant the right tree in the right place.
Don't plant trees under power lines.
Call 811 before you dig.



SmartHub Redesign is Here!

Current users recently received an email explaining the SmartHub redesign. This online account portal has a **new look and feel**, but still contains all the powerful features that allows you to take control of your account. How you access your SmartHub account will not change. Go to jrec.com for details.



FARM SAFETY TIPS

When working near power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles.

Safe Electricity.org

March 19 is National Ag Day. Thank you to farmers on this day, and every day, for all they do for us. #NationalAgDay

ANNUAL RUSK COUNTY SPRING EXPO

March 30, 2024

9 a.m.–2 p.m. – Ladysmith High School

All area residents are invited. Come in and view the displays and meet your local dealers and industry representatives. Stop by the JREC booth and discover the many member advantages and services offered by your cooperative, including Viasat Internet. Be sure to register for the prize drawing while there.



NEED HELP PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL?

Find out if you qualify for energy assistance

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills. It is funded by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Public Benefits (PB) program. Find more at energyhelp.us or call 1-866-674-6327.

You can find more information on how to apply for WHEAP and web links to other programs like Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund and Wisconsin Help for Homeowners online at jrec.com/energy-assistance. Members can also contact their local agency to determine eligibility.

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
Wisconsin Rural Housing.....(888) 400-5974
Farm Crisis Center....(800) 942-2474 for farmers only

If you are unable to bring your account up to date, please take ACTION NOW. Please contact us at 715-532-5524 to discuss this further and reduce your chance of disconnection.



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: 888-255-6489

Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram

Denise Zimmer, Editor



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



Don't pass up this exciting opportunity to attend the 2024 Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), held July 16-18 at UW-Stout. JREC is looking to sponsor high school students who are in their sophomore or junior year. All costs associated with this conference are paid by JREC.

Participating students elect a six-member youth board that plans the following year's conference. These six students can also attend the NRECA Youth Tour, held in Washington, D.C., the following year.

Students leave this event understanding what it takes to be a great leader and how they can positively impact their peers, schools, and communities. See your high school guidance counselor to find out how you can attend this conference.

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS

Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit

We hope you have been busy over the last month snapping pictures of what you love about living in Wisconsin. If not, please pick up your camera or cell phone and capture the beauty around you. All photos must be taken within the JREC service territory.

Find the contest guidelines, consent form, and prize information at jrec.com/photo-contest. Your best three photos must be submitted by April 1.



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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

JREC's offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 29.