

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* January 2026 NEWS



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



QUILTS, COMMUNITY,
AND CREATIVITY
BIND IN WITTENBERG

PICKING WINNERS AND SOLAR LOSERS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

SHEET PAN RECIPES



A YEAR IN REVIEW AND THE ROAD AHEAD

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO



As we close out another successful year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments over this past year and look at the road ahead. Your continued support and trust in Jump River Electric Cooperative have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and will help shape the future.

Achievements of the Past Year

Renewable Energy: This year we added a 2.5-megawatt solar array to our system through a solar partnership on a 30-year power purchase agreement, bringing local clean power at a stable, long-term price.

Infrastructure Improvements and Growth: We made substantial upgrades to our infrastructure to enhance reliability and efficiency. Our teams completed critical maintenance and modernization projects across our system, resulting in fewer outages and improved service quality for our members. Some of the highlights include converting 16 miles of overhead lines to underground and changing out over 300 poles. We also experienced some growth again this year, installing 163 new services with 18 miles of new infrastructure.

Member Services Enhancements: As technology continues to evolve, we must evolve with it. This is truly the case with our mapping and outage management software. We have been committed to updating our system map which enables our outage management software to provide more accurate and reliable outage communications moving forward.

Community Engagement: Cooperative Principle #7—Concern for Community—was demonstrated throughout 2025 as we became more active in local schools and community events. Participation included National Night Out, the American Red

Cross Blood Drive, food drive, career fairs, CESA 10 job shadowing opportunities, and electric safety demonstrations, to name a few.

We also supported our membership in 2025 by awarding \$27,000 in Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) scholarships to members and their dependents students, and by donating to many local groups and organizations through the FYF fund, which receives its money from unclaimed capital credits.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We remain committed to delivering reliable, safe, sustainable energy, and affordable services to our members. Our strategic plans include further investments in infrastructure improvements and more reliable and informative outage communications. Also, another long-term solar power purchase agreement is in the works, offering an opportunity to secure additional energy at a stable price.

Upcoming Rate Increase

To support these initiatives and ensure the continued reliability and sustainability of our services, a rate increase will take effect on March 1, 2026. This adjustment is necessary to cover the rising costs of wholesale purchased power, and the cost of replacing aging infrastructure. We are committed to keeping these increases as minimal as possible and will continue to work diligently to provide you with the best value for your dollar.

We understand that any rate change can be a concern, and we are here to help. Our team is available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have and to provide information on energy-saving programs and assistance options. We appreciate your engagement and support. By working together, we can keep our system strong, reliable, and ready to serve you for years to come.

RATE CHANGE FAQs

Why are rates changing?

- Increased wholesale power costs, particularly in relation to demand charges.
- The cost of maintaining our power lines continues to increase due to higher prices for line materials and vegetation management.
- We need to replace aging lines and equipment to ensure reliable power for our members.

What will the new residential rates be?

- The fixed cost of delivery charge will be \$48 per meter.
- The kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate will be \$0.01149 during September to May and \$0.1280 for the months of June to August, reflecting an increase of approximately \$0.004 per kWh.

- On average, a member using around 8,000 kWh annually will see an increase of approximately \$3.81 per month.

When will my bill change?

- The new rates will take effect March 1, 2026, and will be reflected on the bill mailed in April.

What can I do to help lower my bill?

- Monitor your energy usage through your SmartHub account. Tracking your usage patterns can help you identify areas where you can cut back.
- Lower your demand by spreading out the use of high-

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energy appliances throughout the day rather than using them all at once. For example, avoid running the dishwasher, washer, and dryer simultaneously. This has a direct impact on the wholesale purchased power rate.

- If you need to replace an appliance, look for ENERGY STAR® certified products, which are designed to save energy without sacrificing performance.
- Install a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature when you're not home.
- Turn off lights, electronics, and appliances when not in use. Use natural light during the day and consider LED bulbs for lighting, as they consume less energy.

The last rate increase was in January 2023. A complete rate schedule can be found online at jrec.com/rates.

TURKEY GIVEAWAY WINNERS



Ken and Clara Dicus of Ladysmith (above) were among the thirteen lucky winners whose names were drawn, allowing them to take home a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal. Other winners were Randy Ralston and Maynard Schultz of Conrath; Lisa Kemp of Couderay; Angela Valentine of Glen Flora; Lisa Retzlaff of Hawkins; Sheila Krzebetkowski, Christine Mentzer, Donald Musiala, and Sally Myers of Hayward; Tina Krahling of Ladysmith; Julian Symbol of Stanley; and Forest Johnson of Weyerhaeuser. Congratulations to all!

YOUR VOICE MATTERS: Serve on the Cooperative Board of Directors

As a cooperative, JREC has direct accountability to those we serve, our member-owners. This principle has guided us throughout the many decades of service and continues to shape how decisions are made. To ensure member voices are represented, directors elected from and by our cooperative membership provide the policy direction for JREC.

2026 Director Election Information

JREC is governed by nine directors—one from each district. Elections are held in three different districts each year. Board members are elected by the membership and serve a three-year term. The board meets monthly, typically on the last Tuesday of each month.

Cooperative members whose primary residence is in Districts 3, 4, or 9 may be eligible to run as a director candidate in the upcoming election. Director expectations and a district map can be found at jrec.com/board-and-district-information. The graphic below outlines the steps to becoming a director candidate, and if you have any questions along the way, please contact our office—we're happy to help.

PATHWAY TO BECOMING A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE

District 3, 4, and 9 Director Elections



UPCOMING DEADLINES:

January 20 – Members interested in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee should contact our office by this date. This committee adopts rules and procedures for conducting the annual meeting and reviews submitted resolutions.

February 24 – Proposed Resolutions need to be submitted by this date. This allows the Rules & Resolution Committee adequate time to consider the resolution and to obtain any additional information needed to make an informed decision.



WILLIE'S POWER UP PICK: ENERGY SENSE REBATES

Your cooperative offers more than just safe, reliable electricity. We also provide a variety of other services and products to support you. Each month, with the help of Willie Wiredhand, we will highlight one so you can power up on these member advantages.

Bigger Rewards for Going Energy Efficient in 2026!

Members looking to save energy and money in the new year should review the rebates offered through the Energy Sense program, our Power Up Pick for the month. Not only is this program back, but it's bigger and better. Energy Sense gives members the opportunity to put money back into their pocket—both by reducing energy usage, which lowers monthly bills, and through direct incentives ranging from \$1 per LED lightbulb to \$1,000 for an EV charger. Please note that most rebates need to be claimed within three months of either purchase or installation date.

Here is a sample of available rebates:

- \$125 rebate on an ENERGY STAR rated All-in-one Washer/Dryer.
- \$500 per ton on a Geothermal Heat Pump.
- \$500 on a dairy plate cooler/well water pre-cooler.

- Up to \$400 electric water heater rebate. Rebates vary based on size of electric water heater and whether it is purchased from JREC or an outside source.
- \$200 per kW (\$2,000 max.) of the solar/wind system based on its AC rating.
- \$1,000 rebate on a ZefNet or smart electric vehicle charger with integrated metering.

Find a detailed listing of available rebates along with the necessary rebate forms at jrec.com/energy-sense-rebates.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION #1: BE AN ENERGY SAVER

Do you leave every light on in the house or are you the one that goes around turning them all off? We just got through the holidays and another year, so it is a great time to look back and ask yourself, how was my energy year?

If you're not sure, let's compare. The typical U.S. household spends nearly \$1,900 a year on energy costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Examine your energy bills over the past year. If they're higher than average, look at your energy-using behaviors.

Common energy-wasting habits

Here are some things people do every day that waste energy. Do they sound familiar?

- Forgetting to adjust the thermostat to save energy when your house is unoccupied
- Leaving lights and electronic devices on when they're not being used
- Running the dishwasher or clothes washer with only a small number of items
- Taking long, hot showers and running water while shaving or brushing your teeth
- Standing in front of an open refrigerator deciding on what to eat
- Falling asleep in front of the television

Make your New Year more energy efficient

Use these simple, low-cost tips to save energy next year and beyond.

- **Adjust the thermostat to save energy at night or when no one is home.** Smart, programmable models make it easy by automatically adjusting temperatures while providing you with remote control. *Programmable thermostat rebate available!*
- **Install energy-efficient LED bulbs throughout your home.** They use 75% less energy than conventional bulbs and last longer. Also, hit the OFF switch when you're the last to leave a room. *LED bulb and fixture rebates available!*
- **Plug electronic devices into smart plugs or advanced power strips.** They automatically cut power to devices when they're not in use.
- **Install WaterSense®-labeled low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.** They use less water while still providing a comfortable flow. Remember to take shorter showers and turn off the tap.
- Run your dishwasher and laundry only when you have a full load. If your appliances are older or in need of repair, replace them with ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which use less energy than standard models. *Rebates available on ENERGY STAR® appliances!*

Consider a home energy audit. A qualified professional will inspect your home and provide you with a set of custom recommendations to reduce your energy bills all year long. *Yes, we have a rebate for that too.*



HEATING SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER

Simple precautions can help you avoid **fire hazards** and **electrical dangers**

There is nothing like curling up by the fire on a cold winter day. But heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. With a few simple steps, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



STAY COZY AND SAFE THIS WINTER:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment like furnaces, radiators, fireplaces, electric or wood stoves and space heaters.
- Maintain a 3-foot kid- and pet-free zone around heating equipment.
- Plug heaters and electric fireplaces directly into wall outlets.
- Never use extension cords or power strips.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Unplug heaters when not in use.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Test smoke alarms every month.
- Hire a qualified professional to install or service stationary heating equipment and water heaters according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Have your heating system, vents and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

WE BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER!



UNLIMITED DATA PLANS

Packages starting at \$69.99 /mo.



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Since 1938
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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START THE YEAR WITH SAVINGS!
*Receive FREE equipment *FREE standard installation * Shorter Contract Commitment
Packages starting as low as \$69.99. Taxes apply. Special includes a 12-month contract commitment. Packages availability is based on where you live. Special ends January 31, 2026.
See jrec.com/viasat for details.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP?



If you are attending a post-secondary college this fall and meet one or more of the following criteria, you'll want to learn more about the scholarship opportunities available to Jump River Electric Cooperative members and their

dependent students. You can also scan the QR code for full details.

These scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits and there is \$33,000 available in scholarships. Don't wait, apply now!


You must meet at least one of the following to apply:

- Graduating from one of the following high schools: Bruce, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Flambeau, Gilman, Hayward, Ladysmith, Lake Holcombe, LCO, Rib Lake, Stanley-Boyd, and Winter.
- Will receive a homeschool diploma.
- Entering a one-year Electric Power Distribution/Lineworker post-secondary program.
- Attending Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University in the fall.



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Denise Zimmer, Editor



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

Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.