

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

July 2026



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

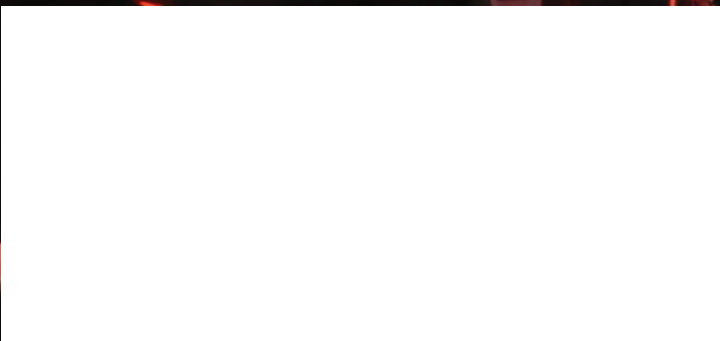
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

FOREFRONT OF FUSION

**HOW TO HELP
DURING PEAK DEMAND**

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MEMBER PROTECTION AND BENEFITS COME FIRST WHEN DISCUSSING NEW DATA PROCESSING LOADS



By Kurt Harris, General Manager and CEO

With new technologies emerging, electric cooperatives across the country are receiving requests to serve different types of electric loads, including small data processing units housed in shipping containers. As we evaluate and work with this type of load, our number one priority is and always will be protecting and benefiting our current members.

How do we do this? Before serving this type of load, the cooperative ensures that existing members will not pay for any infrastructure needed to serve this new load. That means 100 percent of the required infrastructure investments must be paid up front by the potential member, including any needed equipment or system improvements.

Additional financial safeguards are also required. A security agreement covers any unpaid electric bills if the potential member stops operations or fails to pay. The electric rate for this type of load also includes a favorable margin, ensuring the arrangement provides value to the cooperative and its members.

The container units of the potential member we are in discussions with will utilize a closed-loop cooling system, which circulates cooling fluid within a contained system to manage equipment heat. This design removes the water consumption issue that everyone hears about.

Data centers located in our region will ultimately be served by a utility provider, whether that service comes from our cooperative, municipal utility, investor-owned utility, or another load-serving entity. Because Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, operates within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) market, new large electric loads can affect the broader regional transmission system, generation needs, market prices, and resource planning requirements.

As a result, the impacts of data center energy usage may be felt by our members even when those facilities are not directly served by our cooperative. For that reason, it is important that we actively engage in these discussions and take advantage of opportunities to shape how this growth occurs, ensuring that any new development is managed in a way that supports system reliability, helps stabilize rates, and maximizes long-term value to our members.

By requiring up-front infrastructure payment, financial security, and a rate that benefits membership, we can carefully evaluate new load opportunities while keeping our members protected. Our approach is simple: new projects must make sense for the cooperative, strengthen our system, and best serve the interests of the members we already serve.

SUPPORTING MEALS AND CONNECTION ACROSS FOUR COUNTIES

Jump River Electric Cooperative is proud to support the Meals on Wheels programs serving Chippewa, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties with donations of \$500 each. These contributions were made possible through the cooperative's Federated Youth Foundation, funded by unclaimed capital credits, along with matching funds through CoBank's Sharing Success program.

Pictured at right are Jenn Viergutz, ADRC Director for Taylor County (seated at left), and the dedicated volunteers from the Jump River community who not only deliver meals to local residents but also serve family-style meals twice each week. These meals provide more than nourishment; they offer connection, companionship, and care.

We are grateful for the compassion and commitment of Meals on Wheels volunteers serving throughout Wisconsin. The program plays an important role in supporting our local communities by helping ensure that individuals receive nutritious meals while maintaining valuable social connections. Thank you for making a difference each and every day!



Volunteers and donations are always welcome. For more information about this program in your county, visit the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. at www.gwaar.org.

CONSTRUCTION CORNER: *Solar and More*

Breaking Ground

Construction began in June on the new 3.75-megawatt (MW) solar garden located on County Road S, southwest of Gilman. This is the second solar project Jump River Electric Cooperative has participated in over the past two years. The first was a 2.5-MW solar array in the Hannibal area, completed in October 2025.

Both projects are owned and operated by OneEnergy Renewables of Madison and are located on land leased from local property owners. The solar panels use tracking technology that follows the sun throughout the day to maximize energy generation.

The Gilman project is one of several utility-scale solar arrays being developed across Wisconsin by OneEnergy Renewables. The cooperative will purchase energy directly from the array at a fixed long-term rate, providing price stability for our members. Developed on 19.65 acres, the new 3.75-MW solar array is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 925 homes.


We believe cooperatives are stronger when they work together, which is why we partnered with other cooperatives on this project. By aligning our project timelines, we were able to secure more competitive pricing and maximize the value for our members. The new solar

garden, consisting of approximately 7,670 panels, will generate up to 3.75 MW of peak energy, directly benefiting our members with clean, locally sourced power at a stable, long-term cost.




In addition to generating renewable energy, both solar sites will support local ecosystems. The land beneath the solar panels will be restored with pasture, prairie grasses, and wildflowers, creating pollinator habitat while helping prevent soil erosion through healthy root systems.


Overhead-to-Underground Work

Another work plan project is underway in the Lost Land and Teal Lake areas near Hayward. JREC linemen are converting 2.4 miles of two-phase overhead to three-phase underground service. Replacing aging infrastructure improves reliability and power quality, while allowing for the strategic placement of protective equipment that can reduce outage duration and limit the number of members affected when outages occur.



Years of Service and Workplace Safety Recognized

 <p>Kurt Harris, General Manager/ CEO, 20 Years</p> <p>47,117 Hours with No Lost Time Accidents</p>	 <p>Dan Anglemyer, Ladysmith Foreman, 15 Years</p> <p>35,910.5 Hours with No Lost Time Accidents</p>	 <p>Benji Gindt, Ladysmith Lineman, 5 Years</p> <p>11,777 Hours with No Lost Time Accidents</p>
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Safety is our number one priority with the commitment to send everyone home safe every day. The three employees above were recently honored for their years of service and hours of no lost time accidents. Combined they have worked nearly 95,000 hours without a lost-time accident. Thank you for working safely!



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

250th

ANNIVERSARY

★★ 1776 – 2026 ★★

Offices Closed: Friday, July 3

Join us as we celebrate Independence Day and the Semiquincentennial of America.

Report outages through SmartHub or call 866-273-5111.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

ENTER TO WIN A UNITED STATES FLAG



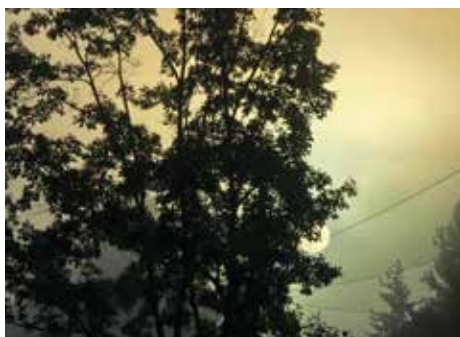
July 1 – July 31

To enter drawing, please email your name, address, and phone number to jrec@jrec.com or call 715-532-5524.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Thank you to everyone who participated in our most recent photo contest, capturing their rural story from the lens of their camera. We enjoyed seeing the many perspectives, landscapes, and moments that make our rural communities special. Congratulations to our first-, second-, and third-place winners, who received respective energy credits of \$50, \$30, and \$20. Thank you to all who shared their co-op view with us!

Please keep capturing the beauty around you as you enjoy your summer. We will be hosting another contest during the month of August. Please continue to snap the beauty around you, including family, friends, creatures, and landscapes.



First Place – Lori Davis, Ladysmith



Second Place – Marcia Suchy, Couderay



Third Place – Cindy Meyer, Gilman

SAFETY THROUGH THEIR EYES

Area youth creatively captured a variety of important electrical safety messages as part of the 24th Annual Electrical Safety Poster Contest. The posters reflected the different lessons students take away from the electrical safety demonstrations our linemen provide at area schools each year. From power line safety and electrical hazards to general awareness and prevention, the posters showcased the many ways these important messages resonate with students.

Students were awarded \$50 for first place and \$25 for second place in both age categories. In addition, Jawunny received a \$25 gift card from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association as part of the third-grade statewide contest.

5 – 7 Age Category: Aspen R. (1st) and Maddon E. (2nd) both from Winter

8 – 12 Age Category: Jawunny S. (1st) and Cambri B. (2nd) both of Ladysmith

Thank you to all the area youth who participated and helped share the importance of electrical safety.



Aspen R.



Maddon E.



Jawunny S.



Cambri B.

Willie's PowerUP Pick

Welcome to the COMMUNITY & TRAINING ROOM

The Community & Training room located at the headquarters office in Ladysmith provides another opportunity for JREC to serve its members and community. The primary purpose of this room is to serve JREC's operations and training needs; however, nonprofit organizations are also welcome to utilize this larger space for their next meeting or training session.

Hours of use are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with maximum capacity being 60 people. Some of the features available are as follows:

- Separate entrance
- Spacious room
- 2 large TVs and audio
- WiFi available
- Large whiteboard
- Separate restrooms
- Customizable space
- Convenient parking

You can find the guidelines and fees associated with utilizing this room at jrec.com/community-room. Fees collected are donated to the Community Cents program, which are given back to the community as future donations.



HELP YOUR CO-OP KEEP RATE PRESSURE DOWN

Do the Summer Shift

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. Hot, humid summer days often mean more time spent indoors and air conditioners running longer, creating spikes in electricity use known as peak demand.

The Summer Shift program was started many years ago to help reduce these peaks and lower power costs. The goal of this voluntary program is simple: move nonessential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., when demand is lower and electricity costs less on the open market.

Participating is easy—just avoid energy-intensive chores and activities during peak hours. When more members participate, the savings benefit the entire cooperative by helping keep electric rates stable and reducing strain on the grid.

Watch our social media channels and listen to local radio for when load shifting is needed. Your participation helps your cooperative continue providing affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy.

Here are some additional ways to make the Summer Shift:



Same Energy. Different Impact.

The demand for electricity is typically highest in the late afternoon during peak energy hours. You can help lower demand by shifting when energy-intensive activities happen.



Shift appliance use to off-peak hours.

- Run the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use the oven earlier or later (during off-peak hours).
- Space out use of major appliances.



Use a programmable or smart thermostat.

- Automatically adjust the temp setting during peak hours.
- Schedule home cooling cycles for efficiency.






Opt for low-energy alternatives during peak hours.

- Use small appliances like slow cookers or air fryers—or fire up the grill—instead of the oven.
- Air-dry clothes instead of using the dryer.
- Use ceiling fans for additional cooling.

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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).



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.