



CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATES IN UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR

Popple Creek Project Nears Completion

Earlier this year Clark Electric Cooperative announced the development of the Popple Creek Utility Scale Solar Project, a 2.0 Mega-Watt (MW) solar array located in Green Grove Township, Clark County. We are pleased to announce that the site is nearing completion and should be operational by the end of January 2024. The array contains 4,472 modules, 20 inverters, and is expected to generate over 4,407,000 kWh annually. To maximize energy production, the array utilizes a tracking system that follows the sun throughout the day.

The concept for the Popple Creek Solar Project really began in tandem with eight other electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, working together, along with OneEnergy Renewable of Madison, to develop utility-scale solar arrays across the state.

“Basically, we coordinated the timing of our local solar project with other cooperatives to get a better price and return on our investment for our members. Cooperation among cooperatives is our guiding principle for this project,” said Tim Stewart, CEO/GM. “Wisconsin electric cooperatives are known for our work together to benefit members; for example, you often see co-ops assisting each other with storm recovery. This utility-scale solar project will benefit our local membership by providing renewable energy to help with the goal of de-carbonization of power supply in a cost-effective way.”

The cooperative has entered into a purchased power agreement to purchase the output from the 2 megawatt solar

project located in Green Grove Town. The project developer, One Energy Renewables, is a leading solar energy company that is experienced in site development, engineering, equipment purchasing, construction, and operations of solar. The Madison-based team has developed 15 projects across Wisconsin, and another 11 in adjacent states.

This project is the second solar project that Clark Electric Cooperative has been involved in, the first being a 50 kW community solar array adjacent to the cooperative’s headquarters building in Greenwood.



ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 8, 2024

Clark Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024, at the Neillsville American Legion, 6 Boon Blvd., Neillsville, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is an important event for the cooperative. Members will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, conduct business, and elect their representatives to serve on the board of directors.

The governance process is summarized below and is not intended to replace the details found in the bylaws.

Nominations by Petition

- Candidates for director shall be nominated exclusively by petition. For a candidate to be validly nominated, the petition shall contain the signatures of no less than ten (10) members. The signature of either or both members holding a joint membership shall constitute the signature of one (1) member. To be valid, a petition must be received by the cooperative not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting (In 2024 that date is March 8, 2024).

Voting in Person or by Absentee Ballot

- If there is only one (1) nominee for a seat, election may be by unanimous consent or by voice vote or similar process at the annual meeting, without the need to cast written ballots. Where there is more than one (1) nominee, the election will be by ballot, members may vote in person or by absentee signed ballot. Absentee ballots shall be provided to all members. To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the cooperative or designee no later than noon on the last business day preceding the day of the annual meeting.

Director Districts

- Director district boundaries are intended to balance the number of members in the respective districts while endeavoring not to split towns, villages, or cities between districts. See map of director districts.
- The cooperative has seven (7) directors, two of which serve from each district and one (1) serving in an at-large position.

This year members will be asked to elect three directors for a three-year term: one position from district one (1), one from district two (2), and one from the at-large district. These seats are currently held by Marvin Verkuilen, town of Worden (District 1); Herman Seebandt, town of Weston (District 2); and Thomas Odeen, town of Loyal (District – at-large). These directors are eligible for re-election.

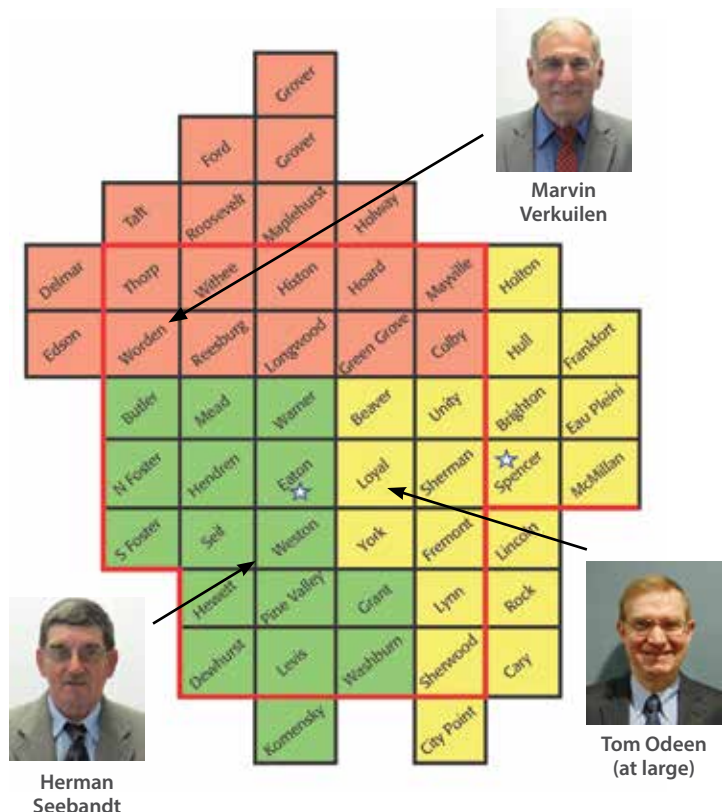
Any advisory resolutions must be received by the cooperative at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting

The cooperative's bylaws establish the minimum qualifications for being a director as well as broader detail on the election process. A copy of the bylaws is available on the cooperative's website at www.cecoop.com or by contacting the business office at 715-267-6188. If you have any additional questions about becoming a director, please contact Tim Stewart, CEO/GM, at the business office.

Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings; represent the cooperative in state, regional, and national affairs; and take advantage of NRECA educational opportunities such as classes, seminars, and workshops. Directors need to read, study, and analyze a lot of information throughout the month to keep informed on the electric industry. Directors will spend approximately 20 to 35 days a year in the performance of their duties.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice lunch, register for a \$25 door prize, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative.

Watch for more information regarding this important event.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Clark Electric Cooperative is once again offering a scholarship opportunity to graduating students from qualifying high schools in our service area. One \$2,000 scholarship will be available for a student from each school or group of schools in our service area.



To be considered for the scholarship, the student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Clark Electric Cooperative and currently receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative.

The Clark Electric Cooperative scholarship program began in 1995, and since its inception we have provided more than \$277,000 in scholarships to area students. An independent scholarship committee judges the applicants based upon merit.

Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our area youth is another. Clark Electric is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals.

Applications are available from your high school counselor, on our website at www.ccecoop.com, and at our office located at 1209 W Dall-Berg Rd., Greenwood.

All applications must be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 4, 2024.

Schools Eligible for Scholarship Consideration

Abbotsford High School, Colby High School, Granton High School, Greenwood High School, Loyal High School, Neillsville High School, Owen-Withee High School, Spencer High School, Thorp High School, Stanley High School

One Scholarship Between These Grouped Schools:

Group 1: Stratford High School, Columbus High School, Osseo-Fairchild High School, Abbotsford Christian Academy

Group 2: Marshfield Senior High School, Medford High School, Gilman High School, Pittsville High School, Home School Student

Group 3: Lineman Scholarship – A scholarship may be awarded to a student attending an approved Line Distribution Program.

If you have any questions about Clark Electric Cooperative's scholarship program, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-7958 or 1-800-272-6188.

These scholarships are financed through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits. Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) is a non-profit charitable foundation serving cooperatives across Wisconsin.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

If you find yourself in need of assistance in paying your winter heating and utility bills, certain government organizations can offer heating assistance or point you in the direction of where you can get help. You may be eligible for assistance from the various programs like the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund, or the Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program.

You can find more contact information and links to many of these programs at cecoop.com/Billing & Rate information tab/energy Assistance, or go to homeenergyplus.wi.gov. You can also call 1-866-HEATWIS or Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund – Bill Pay Assistance at 1-800-981-9276.

Income guidelines for the 2023-2024 Home Energy Plus Program are as follows:

WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2023–2024 Heating Season

(10/01/2023 through 9/30/2024)

60 percent of state median income guidelines

Household Size	One Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$ 2,820.67	\$33,848
2	\$ 3,688.58	\$44,263
3	\$ 4,556.50	\$54,678
4	\$ 5,424.50	\$65,094
5	\$ 6,292.42	\$75,509
6	\$ 7,160.33	\$85,924
7	\$ 7,323.00	\$87,876
8	\$ 7,485.75	\$89,829

WINTER'S HERE:

Be alert for peak alerts

Winter is upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Clark Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcast on the local radio stations. You can also look up the status on our website at www.cecoop.com. Go to the Operations Tab, Load Management Program and click on the load management status link.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use on cold winter days between 4 and 9 p.m.



Clark Electric Cooperative GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Need ideas about what to get that special someone for the holidays?

We all have someone on our shopping list who seems to have everything. How about giving them the gift of energy with a gift certificate from Clark Electric Cooperative? If they receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative, you can contact our Billing Department at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to obtain a gift certificate.



Happy Holidays!

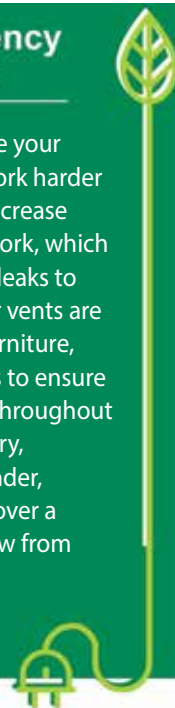
Spark joy and light this holiday season. From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a safe and warm season with friends and loved ones.

Our office will be closed Monday, December 25, and Monday, January 1.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes, or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov




Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

1209 West Dall-Berg Road
P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437
email us at info@cecoop.com or tnelson01@cecoop.com
www.cecoop.com



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.