



Energy Efficiency Rebates Available

HVAC Rebates

• Central and Ductless Mini Split Air Conditioners	\$40-80 per Ton
• ENERGY STAR Window Air Conditioners	\$25 per Unit
• Air-Source Heat Pumps	\$250 per Ton
• Geothermal Heat Pumps	\$500 per Ton
• Variable-Speed Blower motors	\$125 per System
• WiFi Thermostats	\$25 per Unit
• Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heaters	up to \$450
• Electric Boilers	up to \$450
• Electric Plenum Heaters	\$5 per KW

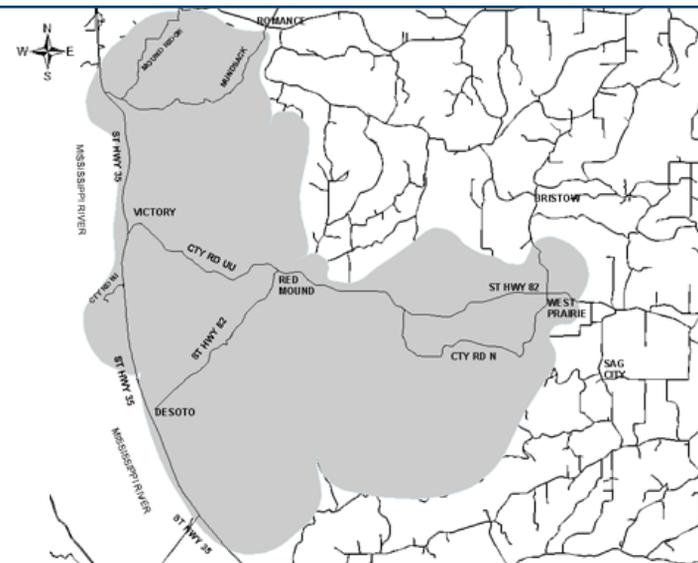
Eligibility:

- Air Conditioners must meet energy efficiency specifications
- ETS heaters and boilers must be enrolled in Off-Peak Storage Heat Program
- Electric plenum heaters must be enrolled in Off-Peak Dual Fuel Program
- Other conditions may apply. See rebate forms online at www.vernonelectric.org or request a rebate form by calling our office at 608-634-3121 or 800-447-5051.

To see all rebates available for water heating, appliances, lighting, agriculture, commercial, water conservation, solar energy, electric vehicle charging stations, and energy audits, visit our website or request information by mail.

Right-of-Way Maintenance Projects Slated For Red Mound Area

If you live in any of the shaded area of the map, you may see tree and brush clearing and herbicide application taking place in the right-of-way of Vernon Electric's overhead power lines over the next few months.



Red Mound Circuit

Zielies Tree Service crews will be working in the shaded area of the map shown over the next few weeks to perform work on trees that are too close to power lines. This is a free service provided to maintain safe and reliable electric service for you and your neighbors.

Please keep in mind:

- You may not have trees or brush located on your property affected by the work.
- Line clearance crews are trained to recognize hazardous conditions. They know different tree species and understand how their growth patterns can cause line maintenance, access, and clearance problems in the future.

- Residential Trees – Trimming clearance is typically 10 feet underneath and to the side of the line, while all offending branches are removed above the line. Brush will be chipped and the wood will be left for the homeowner. A representative will contact you, prior to the work, if the tree is a good candidate for removal.
- Rural Right-of-Way – In general, all species will be removed to a width 20 feet either side of the line. Trees that are located beyond the R/W edge may be removed if they are deemed a hazard. Trees with severe lean toward the line, and beyond the R/W edge, may also be removed. The brush and wood will be piled along the side of the right-of-way or will be mowed.
- Smaller brush stems may be treated with an herbicide rather than cut, while stumps will be treated with an herbicide to prevent regrowth. The herbicides are classified as general use by the EPA and all applicators are licensed by the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. Some areas may be cleared with a large brush-mowing machine. Subsequent stump sprouts will be treated with an herbicide application one to two growing seasons following the clearing. **If your property or parts of your property are Certified Organic and/or we cannot use herbicides, you MUST contact our office at 608-634-3121 or 800-447-5051 as soon as possible, regardless of whether you have called in the past.** It is important to confirm your information.
- Crews may need to access the work by driving on your property. Vehicles will utilize the utility right-of-way or other established roads or lanes which may exist.

Trees are the leading cause of lengthy service interruptions to our members. Maintaining trees and brush at regular intervals is vital to supply reliable electric service. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

Bucket Truck for Sale



Sold as is. Bids on Wisconsin Surplus website (wisurplus.com) will be accepted until 10 a.m. on April 28, 2017. To arrange a pre-inspection of the vehicle at our Westby office, contact Jason Kriel at 608-634-3121, 800-447-5051, or jkriel@vernonelectric.org. More pictures of the truck can be found at www.vernonelectric.org under News & Events.

- Make: International
- Model: 1996 4800
- All-Wheel Drive
- Boom: Altec AM855
- Mileage: 69,718
- Hours: 6,456
- Transmission: Manual
- Engine: Inline 6 DT 466 Turbo Diesel
- GVW: 33,000
- Color: White

Dairyland Director Report

—By Dan Korn



As your representative on the Dairyland Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that Dairyland's rates will remain stable for 2017. I assure you that Dairyland staff provides a **safe, reliable** and **sustainable** supply of electricity that remains **affordable** for members of Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Dairyland is implementing business plans in all areas of operations to achieve the cooperative's top strategic priorities.

Cooperative Purpose: Exceeding members' expectations is Dairyland's vision. Dairyland staff are committed to living the seven cooperative principles and leveraging the cooperative advantage. They are focused on improving communities and the quality of life in our region.

Employee Development: Dairyland is focusing on attracting, developing and retaining talented leaders who are focused on serving co-op members. Maintaining and improving performance depends on a skilled and motivated work force.

Resource Diversification: Diversifying the energy resource mix and expanding the use of renewable energy are strategic priorities. Dairyland staff have developed a long-term "preferred plan" for generation resources that diversifies intentionally and thoughtfully by using the best economic decisions for a sustainable resource mix.

In 2016, Dairyland announced agreements for 15 new solar installations with total solar generation of 20 MW. As a cooperative initiative, the solar facilities are being built in the service areas of Dairyland's member cooperatives, including 2 MW of solar in Vernon Electric's service territory. Together, the solar facilities will be able to produce enough renewable energy to power over 3,000 homes.

Although these projects constitute Dairyland's largest solar investments to date, Dairyland also purchases energy from other major solar installations (Westby, Wis., Oronoco, Minn., and Galena, Ill.). Dairyland's Solar for Schools renewable energy and education initiative is establishing solar generation at three high schools and one college campus in its western Wisconsin service territory.

In addition to the solar projects, a power purchase agreement with EDP Renewables for the output of the Quilt Block 98 MW wind power project in southwest Wisconsin was announced at Dairyland's 75th Annual Meeting in June.

Competitive Service: Ensuring rates and services are competitive is critical to the economic well-being of the region as well as the long-term viability of Dairyland and our cooperative members. Stable rates for 2017 reflect Dairyland's focus on efficiency improvements and wise management of controllable costs and risk. Dairyland is also investing in prudent

transmission opportunities that will improve reliability and add value for members.

Financial Strength: Maintaining financial strength and competitive access to capital are critical to delivering on Dairyland's Strategic Plans. However, building Dairyland's financial strength must be balanced with maintaining competitive rates and service for members.

Operational Excellence: The Genoa Station #3 (G-3) and John P. Madgett (JPM) coal-fired generating stations once again achieved "World Class Status" for their minimal forced outage rates due to boiler tube failures (BTFs) in 2016. As Dairyland tracks operational performance at its plants, lowering forced outage rates is a key objective. Safety is also enhanced, as a reduction in forced outage rates minimizes potential hazards that can be caused by BTFs.

A scheduled major turbine overhaul and maintenance outage was completed at G-3 in January 2017. These significant projects are contracted every eight years to ensure operational efficiency and reliability.

Dairyland is in the midst of rebuilding a vintage transmission line that extends 71 miles from Genoa through La Crosse to Alma, Wis. Known as the "Q-1" transmission line, this line is the primary provider of electricity for the City of La Crosse and the surrounding areas. It is in critical need of rebuilding from 65 years of use and exposure to the elements to ensure reliable power delivery. Wood poles are replaced by steel poles, which are much less prone to deterioration. Dairyland plans to finish the final segment of the line in 2017.

Plant Decommissioning: Projects are underway to successfully complete decommissioning of the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) and the Alma Station in a manner that ensures public safety and compliance with all regulatory requirements, while minimizing the cost impact on Dairyland's members and reducing future liabilities. Dairyland has contracted with EnergySolutions, a national radioactive waste services contractor, for the final decommissioning of LACBWR.

In October 2016, Dairyland accepted a settlement offer from the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for damages related to the government's breach of contract with LACBWR, Dairyland's shutdown nuclear facility. The net proceeds of the settlement were returned to Dairyland's member cooperatives. Vernon Electric will use its share to mitigate rate increases to its members.

I am pleased that Dairyland is positioned financially and operationally sound. I assure you that Dairyland continues to plan to meet our future energy needs.

**Watt's
New**

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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