

Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Vernon Electric Night at Mt. La Crosse

Friday, February 16 from 4-9 p.m. is a special night at Mt. La Crosse Ski & Snowboarding for Vernon Electric Cooperative members and their families (parents and children). Vernon Electric members will receive a special rate on lift tickets and ski rentals. Anyone interested in attending the Vernon Electric Night on the slopes can register online at www.mtlacrosse.com by clicking on the "Corporate Night" button on the homepage. Please sign up on or before Wednesday, February 14.

Lift ticket and ski rental price: \$25

Lift ticket only: \$19

Lift and snowboard rental: \$35
(based on availability of equipment)



If you're a beginner and age 10 or up, you can get free lessons at 5 or 6 p.m. Please call Mt. La Crosse by February 10 to register as a Vernon Electric member for the free lesson. Lessons, by reservation only, are available for 5 and under for \$18 each and 6-9 years-old are \$10 each.

Package includes free dinner from 6:30-8 p.m. (hotdog, chips, dessert, and drink). Pick up dinner coupons when you check in.

Mt. La Crosse Ski & Snowboarding has been a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative since its beginning in 1959. Skiers of all ages and abilities have fallen in love with Mt. La Crosse, from gentle Mileaway, Wisconsin's longest run, to Damnation, Mid-America's steepest trail. Mt. La Crosse offers the widest variety of skiing and snowboarding terrain in the Midwest. The unique chalet offers food service, a complete ski shop, rental and repair shop, and an award-winning bar, all close to the slopes and handy to parking. Windows overlooking the slopes and trails provide attractive views of winter in Wisconsin. Mt. La Crosse's nineteen slopes and trails are serviced by three double chairlifts and one rope tow. Come join us on the slopes and support one of our member businesses.



DoWATT'S Right!

2018 Electric Water Heater & Flow Restrictor Rebates

- Standard Water Heater, 50-74 gallons..... \$50
- Standard Water Heater, 75 gallons or greater..... \$125
- High-Efficiency Water Heater, 75-99 gallons with an Energy Factor (EF) of .90 or greater \$250
- High-Efficiency Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater with an Energy Factor (EF) of .85 or greater \$400
- Commercial Water Heater, 75-99 gallons \$250
- Commercial Water Heater, 100 gallons or greater \$400
- Heat Pump Water Heater with an Energy Factor (EF) of 2.00 or greater (load management control not required) \$300
- Solar Storage Water Heater with Electric Backup \$1,200
- Faucet flow restrictor of 1.5 gallons per minute or less \$1
- Shower flow restrictor of 2.5 gallons per minute or less..... \$5

- A load management control must be installed (free of charge) by a Vernon Electric technician (heat pump water heaters exempt). A load management control will turn your water heater off for a few hours during periods of high demand or high market costs for electricity. During these periods, you will rely on the stored hot water in your water heater's tank.
 - Rebate not to exceed 20% of the cost of equipment
 - Rebates are in place through December 31, 2018 or until funds are depleted
 - Submit rebate form and receipt no later than 3 months from installation of water heater, or purchase of flow restrictor
 - Rebate forms are available online at www.vernonelectric.org, or by contacting our office.
- See Vernon Electric's website at www.vernonelectric.org for more energy efficiency rebates available.

Eligibility and Instructions

- The water heater must be purchased new, and installed in 2018

\$1,000 Scholarships Available for Future Line Workers

The purpose of the Vernon Electric Cooperative Line Worker Scholarship is to encourage men and women in the local area to pursue an electrical line worker career. Line workers make up half of Vernon Electric's workforce and are an important asset to the cooperative and community. Their primary duty is to construct, maintain, and repair power lines, which are a lifeline to the community and a connection to the local economy.

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually via a random drawing. Anyone who is a high school senior or older and a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative may apply. This is a one-time per member award. Scholarship funds are made available from unclaimed capital credits of the Cooperative. Qualifications for the scholarship are:

- Applicant must be a current member of Vernon Electric Cooperative. If the applicant is a high school senior, his/her parent or legal guardian must be a current member of the Cooperative.
- The application must be completed and received by the Vernon Electric Cooperative headquarters office by 4:30 p.m. on March 30, 2018.
- The recipient must be enrolled, or planning to enroll, full-time in a power line program.

A committee will review all applications received. \$1,000 will be issued after Vernon Electric is in receipt of the first semester transcripts. The scholarship application is available at www.vernonelectric.org or by contacting our office in Westby.

Energy Assistance Available for Qualifying Members

The winter heating season is in full swing. It's important for members to make every attempt to keep current on your electric bill. We understand that things do happen that put financial burdens on people. Certain government organizations can offer heating assistance or point you in the direction of a group that can help.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP and its related agencies help more than 230,000 Wisconsin households annually.

Eligibility

You may be eligible for weatherization or energy assistance if:

- Your received benefits from WHEAP or your gross income for the last three months is equal to or less than 60 percent of Wisconsin's state median income (SMI) for your family size.
- Your dwelling/apartment has not been weatherized before.
- Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, an elderly or disabled member or a child under six.

For more information and application details, please contact your local office:

Vernon County..... 608-637-5210
 La Crosse..... 608-784-4357
 Monroe County..... 608-487-9356
 Crawford County..... 608-326-0248
 Richland County..... 608-647-8821
 Sauk County 608-356-8887
 Juneau County..... 608-847-5988



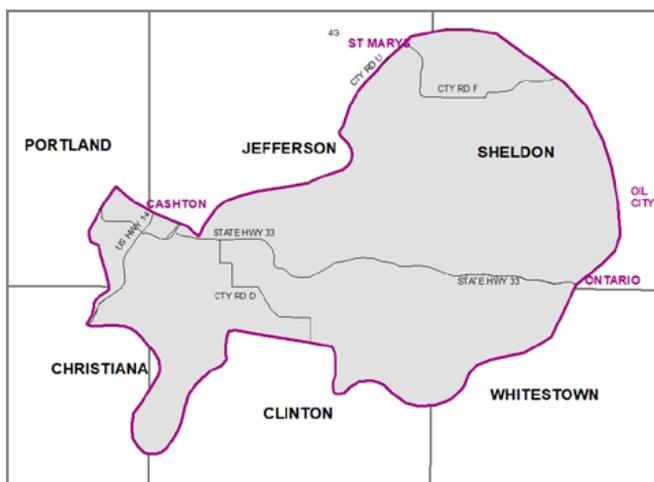
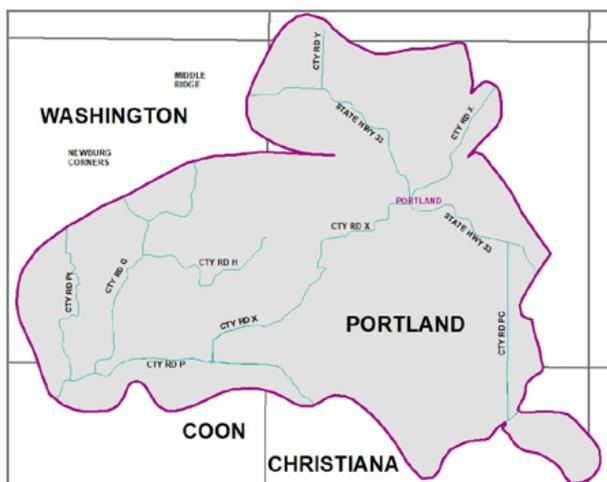
First Call for Help

800-362-8255 or 211 (a resource that will help you to find other agencies in your area that may be able to assist you with payment toward your electric bill)

WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2017-2018 Heating Season

Household Size	3-Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$6,650.25	\$26,601
2	\$8,696.25	\$34,785
3	\$10,742.50	\$42,970
4	\$12,788.75	\$51,155
5	\$14,835.00	\$59,340
6	\$16,881.25	\$67,525
7	\$17,264.75	\$69,059
8	\$17,648.50	\$70,594

Right-of-Way Maintenance Happening in Portland and Cashton Areas



Zielies Tree Service crews are working in the shaded areas of the maps 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 1-800-447-5051 as soon as possible, regardless of whether you have called in the past, please contact our office again to be certain we have 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.

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.

**Watt's
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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:

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 110 Saugstad Rd; Westby, WI 54667
 Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

www.vernonelectric.org • E-mail: info@vernonelectric.org
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