

Watt's New

February 2024

88th Annual Meeting

Vernon Electric Cooperative Headquarters

110 Saugstad Road

Westby, WI 54667

Thursday, February 29

Registration: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Business Meeting: 5:30 p.m.

Soup and Chili Dinner: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance gift and chance at winning one of two electric grills



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Your Vote Counts!

Members in Divisions 2, 5 & 8 will soon receive their ballots for the upcoming director elections. The ballots will be delivered to your mailbox, and your vote is an essential task in the democratic process. The importance of this cannot be overstated, as it is a direct invitation for members to engage in selecting your Division representative. Elected directors will serve a three-year term.

As a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative, the duty to vote extends beyond personal choice; it is a commitment to the cooperative principles and a demonstration of community. When receiving your ballot, a crucial step is to sign the outside of the ballot

envelope. By signing the ballot envelope, you validate your identity and ensure the integrity of the vote. If an envelope is received without a signature, it will not be opened or counted.



Division 2: Towns of Freeman, Genoa, Harmony, Freeman, Wheatland

Division 5: Towns of Greenfield, Leon, Sparta, Portland, Washington, Wells

Division 8: Towns of Bloom, Forest (Vernon Co.), Glendale, Union, Wellington

Food Pantries receive \$1,000 donations

Vernon Electric donated \$9,000 to nine local food pantries in December. Each of the food pantries received a \$1,000 donation to be used to serve people in need. The donations are from Vernon Electric's Federated Youth Foundation Fund. This Foundation has been set up to accumulate funds forfeited by members of the Co-op who could not be found to disperse their Capital Credits. These unclaimed funds can only be used for charitable and educational purposes. The nine area food pantries who benefitted from the funds are listed to the right.

Bethel Butikk Food Pantry – Westby
Cashton Cupboard & Closet – Cashton
Good Samaritan Food Pantry – Hillsboro
La Farge Free Methodist Church Food Pantry – La Farge
Living Faith Food Pantry – Viroqua
New Hope Food Pantry – De Soto
Stoddard Community Food Pantry – Stoddard
Trinity United Church of Christ Food Pantry – La Crosse
Viola Food Pantry



Photo: Left to Right
Dan Korn, Ole Yitri, Richard Nemeec,
Orlan Bakkum, Bernadine Hornby,
Dan Giese, Michael Paulsrud, CEO/
General Manager Craig Buros

2024 Energy Efficiency Incentives

Members wanting to save energy and money should review Vernon Electric Cooperative's new 2024 incentive forms. Vernon Electric annually publishes a list of energy-efficient items eligible for an incentive when a member makes a qualifying purchase and submits the required paperwork.

Eligibility criteria for each category are listed on the forms. Incentives begin at \$0.50 and may be more than \$1,000 for specific items. Equipment must be installed at a member's location served by Vernon Electric Cooperative.

- Members must submit the forms **within 3 months of purchase date** for measures that do not take a significant amount of time to install (Appliances, Conservation, and lighting measures).
- Members must submit forms **within 3 months of install date** for measures that take a significant amount of time to install (Water Heaters, HVAC, C&I, and Agriculture measures).
- Information required along with the application form includes:
 - Proof of cost and date of purchase
 - Proof of installation if applicable
 - Proof that specific requirements are met (ex. ENERGY STAR, SEER Rating, AHRI Certificate)

To the right is a list of incentives Vernon Electric has available and associated cost savings. This is not the complete list, and we encourage members to contact our office if they are performing upgrades of any sort, as they may qualify for custom incentives. It doesn't hurt to call and ask!



LIST OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

Ag, Commercial, & Industrial: \$25 - \$1,000

- Dairy Plate Cooler/well Cooler
- Circulation and Exhaust fans
- Variable Frequency Drives (VFD)

Appliances & Appliance Recycling: \$25

- Clothes Dryer
- Dishwasher
- Refrigerator

Electric Heat: up to \$450

- Electric Boiler
- ETS Room Unit or Furnace
- Plenum Heater

Lighting: \$0.50 - \$5.00

- LED Bulb
- LED Fixture
- LED Exit Sign

Water Heaters: \$75 - \$300

- Residential
- Residential High Efficiency
- Heat Pump Water Heater

HVAC: \$25 - \$2,000

- Heat Pump – Air Source & Mini Split
- Heat Pump – Geothermal
- Smart Thermostat

BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

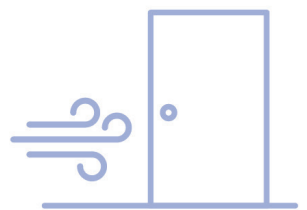


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

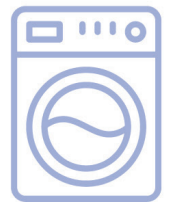
ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Manager of Communications & Member Relations. 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.

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