

Watt'sNew

February 2026

90th Annual Meeting

Vernon Electric Cooperative Headquarters

110 Saugstad Road

Westby, WI 54667

Thursday, February 26

Registration: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Business Meeting: 5:30 p.m.

Pasta Dinner: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance gift and a chance for more door prizes, including a Blackstone Electric Griddle.



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Your Vote Counts!

Members in Divisions 1, 4, and 7 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 1: Towns of Medary, Shelby, and Bergen

Division 4: Towns of Viroqua, Christiana, and Coon

Division 7: Towns of Webster, Stark, Liberty, Forest (Richland County) and Kickapoo

2026 Energy Efficiency Incentives

Members looking to save energy—and money—are encouraged to review Vernon Electric Cooperative's new 2026 incentive forms. Each year, Vernon Electric publishes a list of energy-efficient products and upgrades that qualify for incentives when members make a qualifying purchase and submit the required documentation.

Eligibility criteria are outlined for each incentive category. Incentives start at \$0.50 and can exceed \$1,000 for select items. All qualifying equipment must be installed at a location served by Vernon Electric Cooperative.

Important submission deadlines:

- Applications must be submitted within three months of the purchase date for items that do not require significant installation time, such as appliances, conservation measures, and lighting.
- Applications must be submitted within three months of the installation date for measures that require more time to install, including water heaters, HVAC systems, commercial and industrial (C&I), and agricultural measures.

ElectricSense®

Required documentation includes:

- Proof of purchase cost and date
- Proof of installation, if applicable
- Verification that required specifications are met (such as ENERGY STAR® certification, SEER ratings, or an AHRI certificate)



A list of available incentives and estimated cost savings is provided; however, it is not a complete list. Members are encouraged to contact the Vernon Electric office before starting any upgrades. In some cases, additional requirements—such as installing a separate meter—may apply. When in doubt, it never hurts to call and ask!

Vernon Electric incentives may also be combined with Wisconsin's Focus on Energy incentives and federal tax credits. Before making a purchase, members should review eligibility requirements and incentive details on our website or request forms directly from our office.

DoWATT'S
Right!



focus on energy™

Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

Energy Assistance Available for Qualifying Members

The winter heating season is in full swing. It's important for you 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 thousands of Wisconsin households annually.

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

- Vernon County – 608-637-5210
- La Crosse County – 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 – dial 211 or 877-947-2211 (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)

Income Guidelines

Households with income at or below the amounts shown may qualify during the 2025–2026 program year (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026).

Household Size	One Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$3,201.75	\$38,421
2	\$4,186.92	\$50,243
3	\$5,172.08	\$62,065
4	\$6,157.33	\$73,888
5	\$7,142.5	\$85,710
6	\$8,127.67	\$87,532
7	\$8,312.33	\$99,748
8	\$8,497.08	\$101,965



Wrapped in Savings

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like The Department of Energy or Home Depot provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit [energy.gov/insulation](https://www.energy.gov/insulation) to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which

measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, type of heating and cooling system and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption.

