

Watt's New

January 2023



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op



December Trivia:

How many members does Vernon Electric Cooperative serve per mile of line?

- a) 5 members b) 25-30 members c) 50-60 members

Answer: Vernon Electric Co-op serves about 5 members per mile of line. That's compared to investor-owned utilities providing service to 25-30 members per mile and municipals serving an average of 50-60 members per mile of line.

January Trivia:

How many members does Vernon Electric Cooperative serve?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Tax Exemption Opportunities

Vernon Electric Cooperative is updating the tax exemption forms we have on file. If you are currently receiving a tax exemption for electricity, you will need to fill out an updated form. If you are not currently claiming a tax exemption, and if you use electricity for agriculture or manufacturing purposes or have a 15-digit state-issued tax exemption certificate (i.e. 501(c)(3) organizations), you may qualify for tax exemption on your electric bill.

The tax exemption form can be found under "Forms" on www.vernonelectric.org, by stopping in the Vernon Electric office, or on the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website.

If you have questions regarding sales tax exemptions, please contact your tax advisor, visit the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website, or call their office at 608-266-2776.



Completed forms should be returned to Vernon Electric Cooperative by February 1, 2023. Please email to info@vernonelectric.org, mail to our office, or bring a paper version to our office.

Cast Your Ballot for Your Co-op Representative

Members in the following Divisions will receive a list in the mail of all the members in their township or village:

Division 1 (Jerry Kramer, incumbent): **Towns of Shelby, Medary, Bergen & Hamburg**

Division 4 (Orlan Bakkum, incumbent): **Towns of Viroqua, Christiana & Coon**

Division 7 (Samantha Laskowski, incumbent): **Towns of Kickapoo, Liberty, Forest, Stark & Webster**

We ask that you select five members to represent you at the District Committee Conference to be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023. The two lowest of the five top vote receivers will be the alternates. Your vote is important, and those elected will be invited to attend the District Committee Conference. Business reports

and work plans will be discussed, and director candidates will be selected by representatives of those divisions having elections.

Remember, when you receive your ballot, choose five members, **sign the ballot envelope** and return it to our office in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by **Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.**

Each ballot lists the name of each member as shown on their electric bill. If you want a joint member listed (i.e., spouse) on your account, please call our office. We follow the Co-op Principle of One Member, One Vote, so if you decide to have yourself and your spouse listed on the ballot, it will be listed as one OR the other (example: John or Jane Doe). You can only vote for one person in a joint membership, and only one person can be elected from each membership.



New Energy Efficiency Programs for 2023

Focus on Energy and Do Watt's Right Programs

Vernon Electric will be offering many incentive options for energy efficiency this year. Wisconsin's Focus on Energy programs and additional incentives through our in-house Do Watt's Right program will be available to Vernon Electric Co-op members. Details of specific incentives will be shared in this monthly newsletter as we progress through the year. In the meantime, you can find a full listing of incentives by visiting our website at www.vernonelectric.org/rebates.



Featured this month is our Heat Pump Water Heater (AKA hybrid water heater) incentive:

- Vernon Electric's Do Watt's Right incentive for 2023 is \$300.
- A federal tax credit up to \$300 may be available for a new heat pump water heater. More information can be found at www.EnergyStar.gov. See tax form 5695 for instructions and to complete the application.
- There may be additional incentives through Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program directly through retailers.
- Vernon Electric does not require heat pump water heaters to have a load management control installed to receive a rebate.
- More details, other electric water heater rebates and application forms can be found on our website or obtained by calling our office at 608-634-3121 or emailing info@vernonelectric.org.

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 on these cold winter days. This helps Vernon Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and the savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help save a substantial amount.

On these coldest days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcast on our website, www.vernonelectric.org, and on WVRQ-FM 102.3 and WVRQ-AM 1360.

Let SmartHub Make Your Life Easier



SmartHub is a portal which provides you options when it comes to managing your energy bill as a member of Vernon Electric Cooperative. Have you ever wondered when your highest electric usage takes place? Have you wondered why your energy bill costs what it does? SmartHub helps you determine those answers.

Utilize SmartHub to take advantage of smart benefits which allow you to:

Track Your Energy Usage

SmartHub gives you the ability to view your electrical energy usage on a monthly, daily or hourly interval. You can compare electrical usage, charges and temperature differences of any two months, side-by-side, to note seasonal or behavioral changes in usage. This is especially helpful considering nearly 50% of a typical home's energy bill is due to heating and cooling costs. By using energy markers, you can track your household energy use over dates where changes occurred, such as implementation of a programmable thermostat or when you have guests stay in your home. This is a great tool to help explain energy usage on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy use.

Make and Manage Payments

SmartHub allows you to make a payment or schedule a future payment on your account by credit card or bank account.

Enroll in AutoPay

Enroll in automatic bill pay using a bank account or credit card.

Track Your Payment History

The payment history screen is a quick reference for viewing the amount paid, when it was paid and by what method.

Go Paperless

There is no need to save old billing statements. You can view the actual bill images on your screen.

Manage Your Notifications

Do you want to know when your bill is available to be paid, if Vernon Electric received your payment or receive a reminder that you have an upcoming payment due date? These are just some of the notifications available to members who want to be notified by email or text message.

It's easy to sign up for SmartHub if you haven't already done so. Just go to www.vernonelectric.org and click on the SmartHub link. All you need is your electric account number, your last name and an email address. You can also download the SmartHub app to use on your smartphone or tablet from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.



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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Courtney Moser, communications specialist. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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