

### **What is Your Solar Energy Interest?**

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is pursuing the idea of construction of a solar generation project. This project, based upon member interest, would be a solar community garden located at the Oakdale Electric Cooperative headquarters building.

Interested members would have the opportunity to purchase single or multiple-panel units, and receive credit equal to their share of the panel's electrical output applied to their electric bill. Any residential or seasonal member, regardless of whether the member is a homeowner or renter, could be a potential share owner in a community solar project. Again, this project is still very early in the planning stages, with more details to follow in the coming months.

We want to hear from you, our members, to see if there is interest in a cooperative-owned source for renewable energy. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey below and send back to Oakdale Electric Cooperative with your next bill stub, drop off at our office (489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale, WI), or send us an email with your thoughts to [dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com).

#### **What is Your Solar Energy Interest?**

If Oakdale Electric Cooperative were to construct a community solar project, would you be interested in purchasing a share? Credit from the panel's electrical output will be applied to your monthly electric bill.

\_\_\_\_\_ YES      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Area Students Shine at Youth Leadership Congress

**O**akdale Electric Cooperative sponsored 34 local high school students to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls July 16–18, 2014. This dynamic three-day event engages students to develop their leadership skills and to learn about the purpose, operation, and scope of the cooperative business.

At this point in their high school careers, students are deciding upon their future education and work plans. YLC provides students the opportunity to experience life as a college student by living, dining, and learning on campus. Their sessions include professional motivational speakers (most notably Craig Hillier), team and leadership skill-building activities, and a lecture on cooperative basics. Additionally, students were treated to fun

sessions including AJ “The Animated Illusionist” and an etiquette dinner followed by a dance, where they all cut some major rugs!

The Youth Leadership Congress program is unique because it is always planned with the assistance of

the previous year’s youth board members. A youth board term is one year, and attendees had the opportunity to apply for and earn one of the open six positions. Becoming a youth board member is not an easy feat, as students must first complete a panel interview, followed by a speech presentation to their fellow youth attendees, who vote for their top six candidates. Adam Kramer (Mauston High School) will be proudly representing Oakdale Electric Cooperative this coming year! Not only will Adam be a part of the planning sessions, he

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*Adam Kramer (back row, second from right) was among the six students elected to the statewide youth board at the Youth Leadership Congress. He was one of 34 students representing Oakdale Electric at this year’s event (pictured at top).*

# Oakdale Electric Cooperative



YLC activities included the etiquette dinner (left) and classroom discussions. Below: A.J. the Animated Illusionist with Justin Shie.

## Youth Leadership Congress *(Continued from page 5)*

will also be traveling to Washington, D.C., on next year's Youth Tour. Congratulations Adam!

Upon returning from YLC, students submitted essays vying for an Oakdale Electric Cooperative and Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative Association Scholarship to use for post-secondary education. Oakdale Electric Cooperative cares about its youth and believes strongly in supporting students as they embark on their educational paths.

The 34 delegates representing Oakdale Electric Cooperative included: Eli Kolb, Adam Kramer, Courtney Miller, Dana Osthoff, Makala Teske, Allyssa Weitkum (Mauston), Tiffany Challoner, Denielle Lessard, Olivia Nokovic, Dakota Zingraf (Necedah), Emma Bunker, Lauren Woggon, Emily Solinski (New Lisbon), Calvin Amundson, Savanna Buchli, Tristan Gardner, Addison Scheel (Pittsville), Jordan Brown, McKenzie Horzewski, Emily Ann Greenwood (Reedsburg), Taylor Ladwig, Josh Murray, Michaela Nofsinger, Emily Nelson, Trenton Pasch, Michael Salamonski, McKenzie Skolos (Royall), Damon Gnewikow, Logan Larsen, Ben Linzmeier, Hailley Steines, Justin Shie (Tomah), Montana Burch, Kylie Ruetten (Wonewoc). ■



**Interested in attending YLC next year?**  
Check with your high school guidance counselor this coming spring for registration information and watch for notices in the local pages of the WECN Magazine!



Left: Hailley Steines having fun at a team-building exercise. Above: District discussions.

# What is the Facility Charge?

Each month, you see a charge on your electric bill (\$28/month). This is the facility charge. It's a monthly charge that all Oakdale Electric Cooperative members pay to help cover the basic cost of bringing electricity to their location. It covers expenses the cooperative incurs regardless of how much electricity is sold. The facility charge covers such things as:

- Trucks, wire, transformers, meters, and power poles needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system;
- Labor to build and maintain the lines;
- Billing and administrative costs;
- And cost of insurance, interest, and taxes.

## Comparison to Other Utilities

Members sometimes ask why Oakdale's facility charge is higher than in other places. It's because of our low consumer density. Oakdale serves an average of five customers per mile of line. Compare this to a city where the average density is easily more than 30 customers per mile of line. It is always more economical to serve areas of higher density.



## Ice Bucket Challenge

*Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees were nominated to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Friday, August 22, after work. It was only fitting the bucket truck helped accomplish this task while raising awareness for ALS. Oakdale Electric employees feel strongly for this organization due to personal ties to individuals and families affected by this disease. Individual donations to the local ALS Chapter were made by employees, with Oakdale Electric Cooperative matching their total donation.*

## A Fair and Equitable Way to Recover Costs

## All Members are Created Equal

All cooperative members benefit from having reliable electric service available when they need it, and the facility charge ensures that all members pay their fair share of the basic costs. Like most utilities, Oakdale has one facility charge that is collected from residential and seasonal consumers. Some of our members use a lot of electricity all year long, and some may use electricity only one or two months per year. Whether you use a lot or a little, the cost of getting electric power to your home remains the same. That is why your electric bill has two separate charges: the facility charge to cover basic costs, and the per kWh charge for the actual amount of electricity consumed. ■

**DON'T FORGET:**

## MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 4

**7:30 to 11 a.m. • Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

- Pancake breakfast
- Cooperative booths and displays
- Bucket truck rides
- Flu shots
- Donuts and popcorn
- Chance to win \$100 credit on electric bill
- Giveaways
- Bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, & kids' prizes



## Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardelt, General Manager  
Deana Protz, Editor

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale WI 54649  
(608) 372-4131 • (800) 241-2468  
info@oakdalerec.com

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: (800) 927-6151

Toll-free online bill payment: 866-392-4307

FAX Number: (608) 372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call (800) 242-8511.