



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

GOBBLE GOBBLE GIVEAWAY

It's time to talk turkey! Just complete the drawing ticket below and mail it to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, and you could win a turkey for your holiday dinner.

Five lucky winners will be drawn from all entries received. You may submit up to two entries per family. Drawings will be once a day from November 9–13. There will be one winner per day, with only one winner per family during the drawing period. Turkeys will not be shipped or delivered and must be claimed by December 1, 2015.

Good luck! Hopefully, we'll be calling you soon!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # _____

ACCOUNT # _____

EMAIL _____

Return this form to Oakdale Electric Cooperative,
489 N. Oakwood St., P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649.
The form must be filled out completely to be valid.

DUAL FUEL TESTING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18

Each year, a test of the load management system is conducted for members of the Dual Fuel program. This year, the test will take place on Wednesday, November 18. The electric heat will be turned off at 5 p.m. and will be turned back on starting at 8 p.m., with everyone's electric heat scheduled to be back on by 10:30 p.m.

The test is done each year to ensure that your backup system to the electric heat is working properly and also to make sure Oakdale Electric Cooperative's load management equipment is working properly. Please check your systems on Wednesday, November 18, during the test times and let us know if you experience any problems. Also, please contact us if you have any questions about the test, the load management equipment, or the Dual Fuel program.



ARE YOU ENERGY EFFICIENT?

*Complete the crossword puzzle and find out!
Always remember to practice energy efficiency at home, and tell your friends and family about the tips you've learned below.*

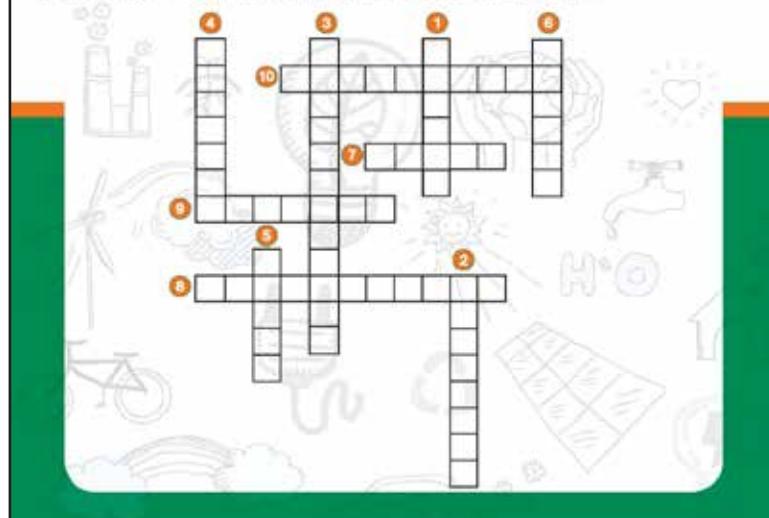


DOWN

1. Turn off the _____ when no one is in the room.
2. On sunny days open the _____ for natural sunlight instead of turning on the lights in your home.
3. Avoid leaving the _____ door open for long periods of time. This prevents cold air from escaping while you are looking for food.
4. Keep all _____ and doors closed while the heat or air is running.
5. Make sure none of the _____ in your home are blocked. Blockages will prevent your heat or air from circulating properly.
6. Try to develop _____ efficient habits now. This will help you save energy and money for the future.

ACROSS

7. Don't leave the _____ running when you brush your teeth.
8. Turn off and unplug all household _____ (i.e. chargers, computers, toasters) when you aren't using them.
9. Take _____ more frequently than baths to help save money on water bills.
10. Don't leave your _____ on when you leave the room. If no one is watching it, turn it off.





Concern for the community is the reason why Oakdale Electric Cooperative was founded. The people in our parents', grandparents', or great-grandparents' generation came together using the cooperative business model as their guide. It was their concern for our community—to bring safe, reliable, and affordable electric power to our region—that defined our purpose.

"While our first priority is delivering safe, affordable, reliable electricity to those we serve, we also feel strongly about supporting and contributing to the sustainment of our communities," stated Bruce Ardelt, general manager.

For the past four years, Oakdale Electric Cooperative has been partnering with CoBank's "Sharing Success" program. CoBank is a member-owned cooperative bank of which OEC is a member. The "Sharing Success" program matches contributions from the local co-op to the non-profit organizations of their choice on a dollar-for-dollar basis, from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000.

When Oakdale Electric Cooperative decided to again take advantage of this matching donation program, the selection of the non-profit was a unanimous decision—the local fire departments providing service to our cooperative's members. These brave men and women voluntarily put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect our rural communities. For their selfless service, a donation was made to 23 fire departments, with each receiving \$500. The needs for each department are different, and therefore the funds can be applied to each department's greatest need.

A local fire department is an invaluable asset to the community in which it serves. In small towns and rural areas, where the population is under 10,000, the majority of these brave men and women volunteer their time. The time commitment to a fire department is one of the most demanding of all volunteer activities today. Aside from battling fires, firefighters are called upon to serve and protect the public from a wide variety of emergency situations every day including medical emergencies, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, water rescue emergencies, and general public calls. Long hours are put in when duty calls, but additionally much time is spent practicing and honing skills for future



Oakdale Electric donates to 23 local fire departments

emergencies. For most fire departments, the number of calls has steadily climbed due to the increase of emergency medical issues and false alarms, thus demanding even longer hours of the volunteers. Fundraising is a key component to keeping fire departments afloat, which yet again takes all hands on deck (or truck).

Oakdale Electric Cooperative believes strongly in supporting our local communities and is proud to provide assistance to organizations with the same core beliefs and values.

Cutler Fire Department for 11 years. He was compelled to join because of a desire and belief in giving back and supporting his local community. Fowler also recognized a void that needed filling.

"Rural fire departments struggle to find volunteers with flexible daytime schedules," he said, emphasizing, "I am fortunate to have an employer that understands the importance and value of our fire department. When duty calls, I am able to leave at a moment's notice."

"We are so appreciative of the generous donation," stated Town of Cutler Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Fowler. "It is wonderful for Oakdale Electric Cooperative to support not only our department, but our neighboring stations as well." Fowler has served on the

1. Oakdale Electric Board Secretary Jonathan Williams (right) presents a check to Mauston Fire Chief Kim Hale.
2. Oakdale Electric Director Matin Potter (left) presents a check to Town of Cutler Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Fowler.
3. Members of the Pittsville Fire Department accept a check from Oakdale Electric Board President Robert Hess.



The Cutler Volunteer Fire Department will put its donation towards the purchase of new equipment and truck maintenance.

For current firefighters serving on the Mauston Fire Department, the average length of service is 23 years.

"This is pretty phenomenal, considering some volunteers have been on the squad for less than 10 years," stated Fire Chief Kim Hale.

The same can be said for Hale, who has dedicated 40 years to the department and is a fourth-generation fire chief for the Mauston Fire Department.

"This lifestyle was embedded in me," he said. "My father volunteered for the department for 52 years. It was the life that I knew because I was born and raised around it."

(Continued on page 18)



FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS

(Continued from page 17)

Hale has the same passion as Fowler to serve his community, stating, "This is my way to give and help others in need."

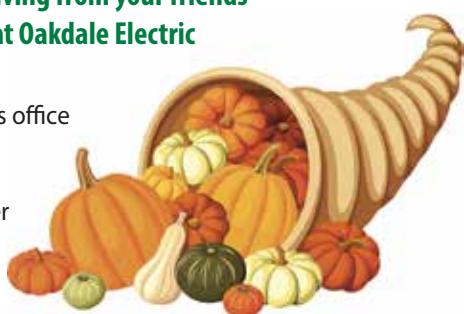
The Mauston Fire Department will put its donation towards ice-water rescue equipment.

A desire to serve their communities is a commonality found in all firefighters, as well as in your local electric cooperative employees. Oakdale Electric Cooperative believes strongly in supporting our local communities and is proud to provide assistance to organizations with the same core beliefs and values. We thank you, all of the brave men and women, for your dedication and commitment to community.

The 23 fire department recipients include: Armenia Fire Department, Camp Douglas Fire Department, City Point Volunteer Fire Department, Cutler Fire Station, Elroy City Fire Department, Kendall Fire Department, LaValle Fire Department, Lyndon Station Fire/Rescue Department, Mauston Fire Department, Necedah Fire Department, Nekoosa Fire Department, New Lisbon Fire Department, Norwalk Area Fire Department, Oakdale Fire Department, Pittsville Fire Department, Port Edwards Fire Department, Reedsburg Fire Department, Remington Volunteer Fire Department, Sparta Rural Fire Department, Tomah Fire Department, Town of Lincoln Fire Department, Wilton Area Fire Department, and Wonewoc Volunteer Fire Department. ☐

Happy Thanksgiving from your friends and neighbors at Oakdale Electric Cooperative!

The cooperative's office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, for the holiday.



Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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

Deana Protz, Editor

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION RECENTLY? Phone, mail, and email address

We'll explain why it is necessary to keep all three current and why the co-op might need to contact you!

1. Phone

- Courtesy phone calls pertaining to emergency and planned outages.
- Recognition of phone number speeds up reporting and restoration process, when calls are placed to outage hotline.
- Prompt return of member phone messages from cooperative employees.
- Questions from operations, engineering, or billing department that require immediate responses.

2. Mailing Address

- Monthly billing statement received in a timely manner.
- Important information from operations, engineering, or billing departments that require immediate attention.
- Capital credit notification.
- The monthly *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News (WECN)* magazine delivered to your mailbox.

3. Email Address

- Notification of determined outage causes.
- Prompt viewing of current monthly billing statement.
- Information on upcoming events hosted by the cooperative.

Please contact our office at 800-241-2468 or e-mail billpay@oakdalerec.com to update your contact information today.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 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.