

OPERATION ROUND UP®

Make a big difference with small change

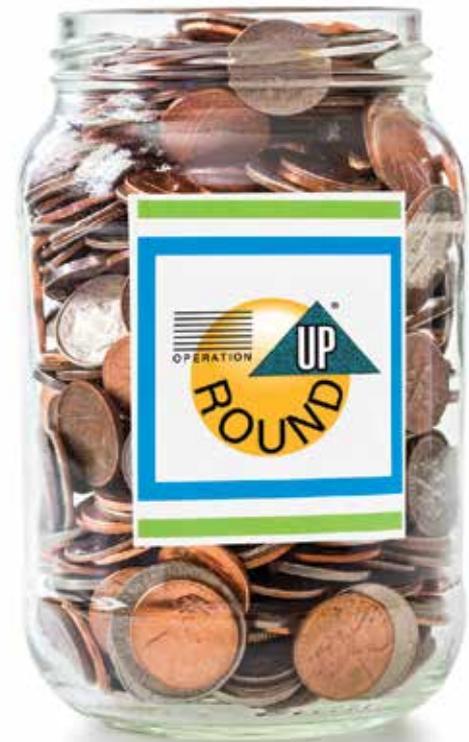


Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Teuchstone Energy® Partner

Thank you to the 860 participating members of Operation Round Up®! By simply rounding up their monthly electric bills to the next highest dollar, members raised \$5,000 that was donated back into the communities served by the cooperative in 2015. The member-comprised Operation Round Up® Board of Directors met four times last year and granted funds to the following organizations and individuals:

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brighter Tomorrows | Mauston Community Sharing Food Pantry |
| Monroe County Habitat for Humanity | Necedah Food Pantry |
| MS Snow Tour | Elroy Food Pantry |
| Miller Elementary School PTO | New Lisbon Food Pantry |
| Nekoosa Fire Dept. | Monroe County Coulee Cap |
| Juneau County WI 4-H Poultry Project | Wilton Food Pantry |
| Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter | Toys for Joy – Mauston |
| Tomah Fire Department | Toys for Tots – Tomah |
| Tomah Parks & Recreation Department | New Lisbon Community Toy Workshop |
| Warrens Area Girl Scout Troop 4428 | Hope House |
| Remembering Jesse Parker | Community Thanksgiving Dinner |
| The Parenting Place – Tomah | Warrens Area Youth Association |
| Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf | Faith In Action |
| Neighbor for Neighbor Food Pantry | (3) Health benefit fundraisers |
| Reedsburg Area Food Pantry | |



MY CO-OP

Complete this form and return with your next bill payment.

SIGN UP TO ROUND UP

Members who choose to participate in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Program can take satisfaction in knowing that the small amount of change they give each month brings about big change in their communities.

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____ Phone No. _____

Signature _____

I understand that by signing and returning this form, my bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month and that unless I call in to have that changed, this will happen until I no longer receive power from Oakdale Electric Cooperative.



Return this form to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 128, Oakdale WI 54649.



SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

with help from your co-op

Life is going to go to drastically change at my home come spring, as our family of two expands to three (plus two four-legged children). It's common knowledge that taking the giant step into parenthood is expensive, but until you're actually staring at it face to face, you may not fully understand the magnitude of it. That was me, until recently, and it was—still is—scary.

I brought up the dreaded “b” word—budget—to my husband, and was met with a giant sigh and groan. This response is typically not uncommon in most households, as who would really opt to spend their evening discussing money over doing something you really enjoy? However, most of us can relate to this topic, as there are very few people not trying to hone down their household budgets and save a few bucks.

Among the many great benefits of being a member of Oakdale Electric Cooperative are the programs and services available to help you save money and plan for your monthly bills in an affordable manner. We've got the tools and tips to help you manage your electricity, save time, and save money.

1. Automate your fixed expenses.

A fixed expense includes any item that occurs on a regular basis, such as housing, utilities, car payment, and insurance. Since these payments are a monthly occurrence, setting up automatic payments for these bills is a great option, versus having to mail in a monthly payment. Not having to purchase mailing envelopes and postage saves money and ensures a payment arrives on time, avoiding a late fee. Plus, there is peace of mind knowing exactly when and how much is going to be deducted from a checking/savings account.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative provides a free monthly, automatic payment program called Bill4U. Members can visit www.oakdalerec.com to learn more or to sign up. For further questions, contact our member service representatives at 800-241-2468.

1. Budget your bills.

In order to take further control over monthly bills fluctuations, budget billing is a great option. By signing up for this service, your costs are spread evenly over a 12-month period, so you know in advance how much your payment will be. The amount you pay is calculated based on the average amount billed at your address over the past 12 months. In order to keep payments accurate, the budget amount may be adjusted from time to time depending on actual usage. The days of having steep, seasonal surprise bills are long gone with budget billing.

Active members of the cooperative residing at their current residence for at least 12 months, who are also up to date on their payments, are able to enroll in budget billing. Contact our member service representatives at 1-800-241-2468, and we'll be happy to get you signed up.

2. It's time to focus on your energy.

You've probably heard the radio and TV commercials advertising Focus on Energy, but perhaps never took the time to investigate what it is actually all about. In a nutshell, Focus on Energy is Wisconsin utilities' statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program. Their mission is to help Wisconsin residents lower their energy consumption and costs by making their homes more energy efficient. Focus on Energy provides information, resources, and monetary incentives for qualifying projects.

Since 2008, Oakdale Electric Cooperative has been a participating member of the Focus on Energy program. Their comprehensive website, www.focusonenergy.com, provides energy and money-saving solutions for both residential and business members. Contact Focus on Energy representatives at 1-800-762-7077 to learn more.

3. Send in your qualifying rebates.

Who doesn't love getting money back? In addition to partnering with Focus on Energy, Oakdale Electric Cooperative also provides financial incentives when you purchase or install qualifying energy-savings products. Simply submit a rebate application (www.oakdalerec.com, programs & services > incentive rebate forms) along with the receipt to Oakdale Electric Cooperative the same year of purchase. After approval, a check will be mailed to your place of residence, and more than likely, the money you invest will pay for itself over time with the energy you save. Now that is a deal too good to pass up.

For further questions, contact our member service representatives at 1-800-241-2468. Note: The deadline to submit 2015 rebates to Oakdale Electric Cooperative was December 31, 2015. The deadline to submit 2016 rebates is December 30, 2016.

4. Attend your co-op's annual meeting and member appreciation day.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative hosts two special events annually for members: Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day. Both events are great opportunities to learn more about co-op programs and services, as well as speak with co-op employees directly. You're able to get immediate answers to questions that are pertinent to you.

Mark your calendars for this year's annual meeting on Saturday, April 2, and Saturday, October 3, 2016, for Member Appreciation Day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sometimes it takes the pitter patter of little feet to get you thinking about making some lifestyle changes. For others, it's saving for college, paying off credit card debt, or simply the desire to be more environmentally friendly. Whatever it may be that motivates you to make some changes, your co-op is here for you.

Oakdale Electric strives to be efficient in our utilization of our members' resources every day in order to continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Let us take the guesswork out of your efficiency improvements—follow the tips above, stop by our office, or give us a call.—*Deana Protz*



OAKDALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S SECOND TURKEY GIVEAWAY DRAWS HUGE RESPONSE

Thank you to all members who entered Oakdale Electric Cooperative's **Second Annual 5 Days of Turkey Giveaways!** We received an amazing 500 total entry submissions! With such a great response from members, the drawing will return next year. This year's winners included:

- Day 1:** Alice Olson, Warrens
- Day 2:** Lester Leatherberry, Elroy
- Day 3:** Dennis Oertel, Necedah
- Day 4:** Patricia Cornwell, New Lisbon
- Day 5:** Stanley Krzeckowski, Nekoosa

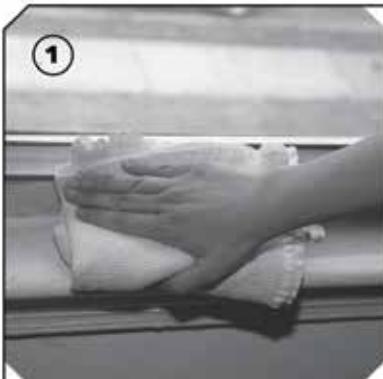


Alice Olson picks up her turkey from the Oakdale Electric Cooperative office!

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly **HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE?** Caulking cracks and gaps around windows and doors, and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines), water spigots, and dryer vents can pay off with **BIG ENERGY SAVINGS.**

**Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



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MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Caulk
- Caulk gun
- Knife or tool to cut
- Rags
- Water

1. PREP Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint, or old, cracked caulk.

Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2. LOAD You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun.

Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

3. APPLY To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought. Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack, or space.

4. RELEASE Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5. CLEAN Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.



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Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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info@oakdalerec.com

Deana Protz, Editor



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.