

THE POWER OF OPERATION ROUND UP

It started as a simple idea 30 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use the difference to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Oakdale Electric Cooperative, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with 1,600 participants

in the Round Up program, it adds up to make a significant impact. Since 2002, participating members of Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up have bettered their local communities through their contributions.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's program is governed by a board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op.

This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community.

The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected nationally and



This past fall, Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program helped provide gift cards to members devastated by flood damage (above, center). The Monroe County K-9 unit was another recent recipient of Operation Round Up funds (far left).





The New Lisbon Education Foundation was one of the 2018 Operation Round Up recipients.



distributed for a wide range of activities. This can include helping a family in need after a house fire. Assisting the local food pantry. Providing funds so that the local fire department can get a needed piece of equipment. Or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve. Most recently, Oakdale Electric’s program provided gift cards to assist members devastated by flood damage. (See sidebar for all 2018 Operation Round Up donations.)

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country —

and the world—is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer Operation Round Up. We will continue to “borrow” ideas from other co-ops and welcome your participation. Please share with us additional activities we should explore to serve you and your neighbors.

Contact us Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 608-372-4131 or email info@oakdalerec.com.

2018 Donations

- Center Stage Dance Studio
- The Parenting Place
- The Boys and Girls Club of West-Central Wisconsin
- Tomah Area Cancer Support, Inc
- Camp Douglas Elementary School
- Kendall Fire Department
- Monroe County K-9 Unit
- New Lisbon Educational Foundation
- Remembering Jesse Parker
- Tomah Gridiron Club
- Mile Bluff Medical Center Foundation
- Monroe County Ag Society
- ChallengeScape
- Mauston High School
- Touched Twice Juneau County Clinic
- Camp Douglas Food Pantry
- Camp Douglas Food Pantry
- Ecumenical Bread Basket
- Elroy Food Pantry
- Mauston Community Sharing Food
- Monroe County Couleecap – Food Pantry
- Necedah Food Pantry
- Neighbor for Neighbor Food Pantry - Tomah
- New Lisbon Food Pantry
- Ontario Food Pantry
- Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf
- Reedsburg Food Pantry
- St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Pantry
- Wilton Food Pantry
- Wonewoc Area Food Pantry
- New Lisbon Community Toy Workshop
- Toys for Joy – Mauston
- Toys for Tots – Tomah
- Tomah Community Dinner
- 5 – Donations to benefits for members

YES, I would like to participate in Operation Round Up!

Please round my electric bill to the next highest dollar, with the difference placed in Operation Round Up.



Member Name _____

Member Number _____

Address _____

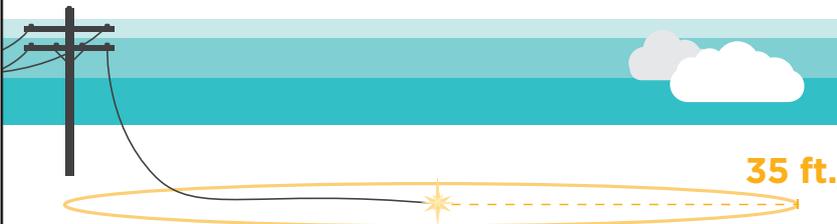
City/State/ZIP Code _____

Email Address _____

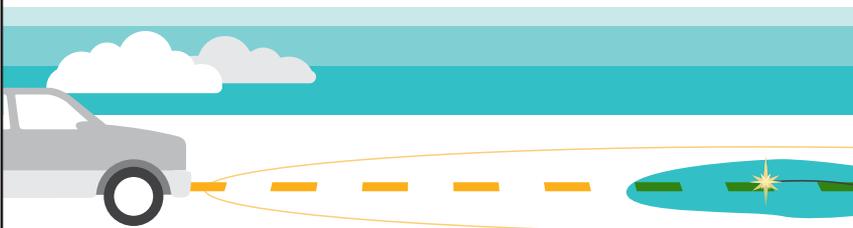
Please return this form to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649

Downed and Dangerous

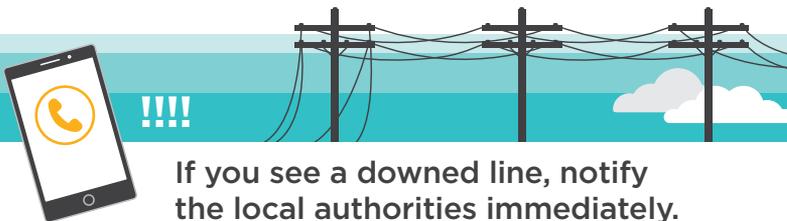
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: *ESFI.org*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TURKEY WINNERS!

Thank you to all members who entered Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Annual 5 Days of Turkey Giveaways!

This year's lucky winners were:

- Day #1: Carol, Necedah (pictured below)
- Day #2: Linda, Camp Douglas
- Day #3: Cindy, Kendall
- Day #4: Ron, New Lisbon
- Day #5: Rose, Sparta



2019

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES COMING SOON!

December 21, 2018, was the deadline to return 2018 incentive forms. If you were not able to take advantage of those incentives, watch for new incentives for 2019. Previous years included incentives on lighting, appliances, heat pumps, home performance evaluations, water heaters, and more. Watch our website, oakdalerec.com, and future issues of this magazine for news on the new incentives.



Clean up your paper clutter this New Year!



Begin the New Year cleaning up your paper clutter by signing up for paperless billing through SmartHub. While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Set up recurring and stored payments
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Start the New Year off right and sign up for SmartHub online. It's OEC's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password. Questions? Call, click or visit us at 608-372-4131 or oakdalerec.com.

Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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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

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