



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative



IT'S COMPLETE!

As of November 9 we moved into the new Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative headquarters. At this time, we should be settled into our new space. Thank you to all of our members for being patient during the construction process.

The entire building project went well. Everything stayed on schedule, and even a few rainstorms couldn't prevent the contractors from staying on target with the scheduled completion deadline.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative would like to thank all of the contractors who were involved with our beautiful new headquarters. We appreciate their hard work and dedication. The new building looks great! Thank you for a job well done!

River Valley Architects, Inc. – Linda Powers
 Market & Johnson, Inc. – Mike Brantner
 IT Shared Services—Rob Weber
 Advanced Engineering Concepts
 Real Land Surveying, LLC
 A.M. Structural Engineering
 Andress Plumbing Design
 Apex Engineering
 LZ Designs, Inc.
 Professional Service Industries, Inc.
 County Materials Corporation
 Fabcon, Inc.
 Industrial Construction Specialists
 Skyline Steel, Inc.
 Larson Custom Cabinets
 Eau Claire Insulation, LLC
 RTS Roofing, Inc.
 Langford's Caulking, Ltd.
 Kendell Doors & Hardware, Inc.
 Lakeland Overhead Door

Esser Glass of Eau Claire, Inc.
 Hellenbrand Glass, LLC
 R&L Tile Company
 VerHalén, Inc.
 Gegare Tile, Inc.
 Pine Valley Painting & Finishing, LLC
 Valley Builders Hardware Co., Inc.
 Vertical Blinds, Etc.
 Local CenturyLink technicians & engineers –
 Jim, Mike, Todd, and Tim
 Fireline Sprinkler Corporation
 Suda Plumbing, Inc.
 Hovland's, Inc.
 Best Bore, LLC
 Hudson Electric – Jim & Dave
 Haas Sons, Inc.
 RaiseRite Foundation Pier Systems, Inc.
 Monarch Paving Company
 Harmon Concrete & Construction, Inc.
 Winona Nursery



It all started with the board of directors breaking ground in April. Left to right: Don Frei, Clyde Shipman, John Petska, Harold Flater, Candis Homme, Deone Goettl, and Dennis St. Auburn.



By Justin LaBerge

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative wants you to stay safe during the holidays, so here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

We can't guarantee that the hustle and bustle of the season won't leave you with a few frayed nerves, but we can certainly help you avoid frayed wires.

Inspect your seasonal items – Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. The holidays are also a time when we dust off specialized cooking gadgets that allow us to prepare our favorite seasonal treats. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases, and other tip-over hazards

Extension cords are temporary – When you asked your teacher for an extension on your term paper, it was a one-time thing, right? The same holds true for extension cords. They are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution.



Watch for frayed cords like this one, which are safety hazards.

Never defeat safety devices – There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two, and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. Don't do it! If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together. Rather than tampering with a safety feature, find a safe solution.

Look up and live – When decorating outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines.

Beware of power lines through trees – Over time, tree branches can grow around power lines running along the street and to your home. If those branches come in contact with power lines, they can become energized, too. If your holiday plans call for stringing lights through trees, this can create a safety hazard. If you notice tree limbs that are too close to electric lines, contact Chippewa Valley Electric.

Stay away from your service connection – The overhead wire bringing power from the utility pole to your house is dangerous. You should treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on our system. Maintain a safe distance, even if that means a small gap in the perfect gingerbread house outline of lights. If you must perform work close to your service entrance, contact Chippewa Valley Electric, and we can help you find a safe alternative.

Read the fine print – If you take a few minutes to read and understand the specifications and limitations of your lights and other electrified holiday decorations, you can save yourself a great deal of work and frustration in the long run. For example, the tag at the end of an extension cord will tell you if it's rated for outdoor use, whether it will remain flexible in cold temperatures, and how much energy it can safely handle. Similarly, holiday lights will tell you how many strings can be safely linked together.

Don't forget about the kids...and pets – If you have small children, you've probably spent a great deal of time making sure every square inch of your home is childproof. Every cabinet is locked and every outlet is covered. But sometimes the joy of celebrating the holidays with our little ones makes us a little less vigilant about electrical safety. Make sure your holiday décor receives the same level of safety scrutiny you apply to all of the permanent items in your home. Curious and mischievous pets can present similar challenges. Make sure Fluffy isn't nibbling on all those extra wires or using your tree as her personal back scratcher or jungle gym.

Justin LaBerge writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

WINTER IS HERE: BE ALERT FOR PEAK ALERTS

Winter is coming 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 between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Chippewa Valley Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.



On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the following stations:

WAXX	104.5 FM
WAYY	790 AM
WECL	92.9 FM
WIAL	94.1 FM

In addition you may visit us online at www.cvecoop.com and go to the Load Management page to find the up-to-date information regarding the status of the load control.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use during these winter evenings between 4 and 9 p.m.



Med-A-Lert *in case of emergency*

*Safe & Independent
in My OWN Home*

Med-A-Lert is the dependable 24-7 Personal Emergency Reporting System from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, that helps you and your Loved Ones achieve quick access to HELP IMMEDIATELY.

With a touch of a button on your lightweight pendant, belt clip, or wristband, a trained monitoring center dispatcher will respond immediately, analyze the call, and contact your predetermined responder(s), and/or send medical assistance if needed.

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Provided by:



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

317 S. 8th St., Cornell, WI 54732

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HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILLS

The next energy bill you receive may be higher than your recent autumn bills were because of the following:

You used more energy – Because of the holidays, you may have had guests or your children were home. This would have caused you to use more energy for electronics, cooking, cleaning, and lighting. If you decorate your home for the holidays, you likely used more electricity than usual to keep the lights twinkling.

The weather is colder – With normal weather conditions, December typically is 10 percent colder than November. Colder weather tends to increase your heating costs.

The days are shorter – Since it's dark already by the time you leave work, you're probably spending more time indoors, with the lights on, perhaps spending a little more time watching TV or movies or playing electronic games.

MY CO-OP



MANAGER YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILLS

Looking for ways to save money this winter? Consider these energy-saving tips from Togetherwesave.com:

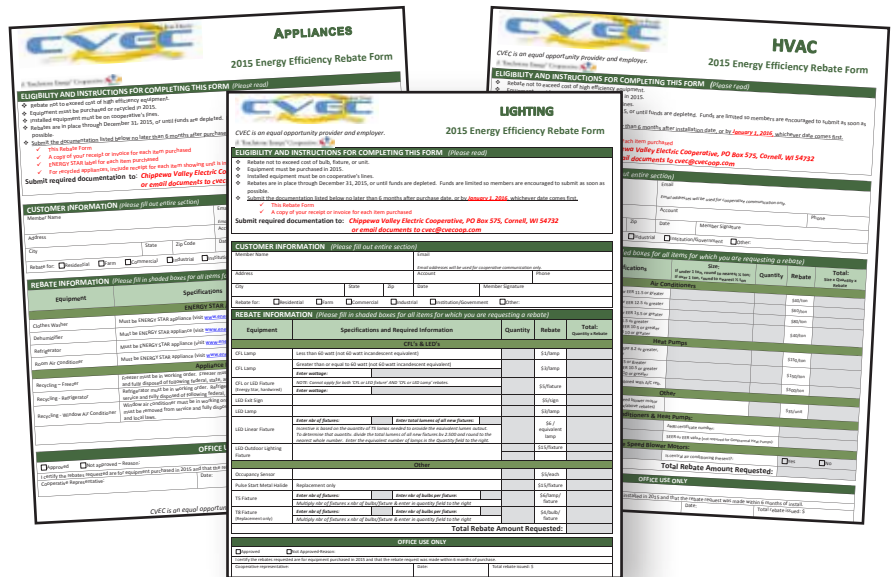
Pick smarter lightbulbs. Decorate for the holidays efficiently with strands of light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Using LED holiday lights for 12 hours a day cuts seasonal lighting costs by 90 percent when compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights.

Check furnace filters. Be sure to clean or replace your heating and cooling system's air filter. At a minimum change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder.

Install a programmable thermostat. Is your home alone most of the day? Programmable thermostats can knock up to 10 percent off heating bills with the ability to automatically turn temperatures down 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours a day.

Insulate water heaters and pipes. Wrap water pipes connected to the water heater with foam, and insulate the water heater, too. To save about \$75 annually, consider lowering the water heater temperature from 130 degrees to 120.

Bundle up your home. The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Use an incense stick to spot air leaks. When it's windy outside, hold a lit incense stick near your windows, doors, and electrical outlets. If the smoke blows sideways, you've got a leak that should be plugged with weather-stripping, caulk, or expandable foam.



CVCEC REBATE REMINDER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative wants to remind its members that there are a variety of rebates available with the purchase of qualifying energy efficient products. Rebates are in place through December 31, 2015, or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted. Please submit rebate requirements as soon as possible to ensure that you can take advantage of our rebate program.

Rebate forms and information are available online at cvcecoop.com/services/rebates.php or contact our office at 715.239.6800 or toll free 800.300.6800.



Season's Greetings

from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative.
Our office will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1.

Todd Howard, President/CEO

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www.cvcecoop.com

Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor



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