

What is Your Solar Energy Interest?

Chippewa Valley 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 a site yet to be determined.

Interested members would have the opportunity to purchase single or multiple units, and receive credit equal to their share of the garden'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 Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative with your next bill stub, drop off at our office (317 S. 8th St., Cornell, WI 54732), or send us an email with your thoughts to cvec@cve.coop.

What is Your Solar Energy Interest?

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

_____ YES _____ NO

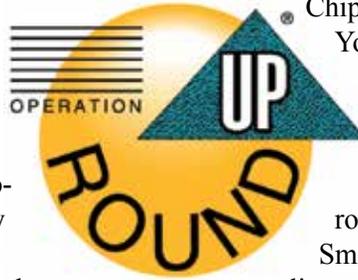
Additional Comments: _____

Send back to Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative with your next bill stub, drop off at our office, or send an email to cvec@cve.coop.

Radon Kits Offered to NEW and EXISTING Operation Round Up Members

During the October 2014 board meeting of the Chippewa Valley Community Fund, Inc. the decision was made to purchase 100 radon kits to offer members of Operation Round Up. We will be offering these kits at the Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative office in Cornell beginning January 2015 until the 100 kits are gone. To purchase these kits for \$7.00 you will need to be a member of Operation Round Up or become a new member.

To date, Operation Round Up has 806 participating members. These members choose to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar and donate the extra change to our Round Up fund. Throughout the year, the Chippewa Valley Community Fund receives applications from individuals who are in need of financial assistance during a time of crisis. We have made donations on behalf of Operation Round Up to several cancer victims, families losing their homes to fires, and for survival needs such as furnaces or water heaters. Each application is carefully assessed. The application forms are available at



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's office. You may stop in to pick it up or call the staff and they will send it to you.

Stop in today to purchase a discounted radon kit! If you are not a member of Operation Round Up, please consider rounding your bill up to the nearest dollar. Small change can make a big difference in the lives of those in crisis. This is a simple way to support crisis needs in the Chippewa Valley.

We also have openings for new board members. If you are interested in contributing your time to this cause, please leave a message at Chippewa Valley Electric (715.239.6800) or call one of the board members listed below.—*Sue Hartzell* ■

Current Chippewa Valley Community Fund Board Members:

Paul Gilbertson, Mary Endru, Sue Hartzell, Kathleen Filas, Kathy Seilheimer, and Daryl Lorberter

Fight the Winter Chills

By: April Lollar, APR, CCC

Another colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work overtime, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open that bill. However, there are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it's not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.

- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

So, when temperatures fall this winter, using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use. But your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime. For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference. Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher. ■

Two Directors to be Elected in February

78th Annual Meeting of the Members Set for February 28, 2015

The 78th Annual Meeting of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) will be held at the Cornell High School on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

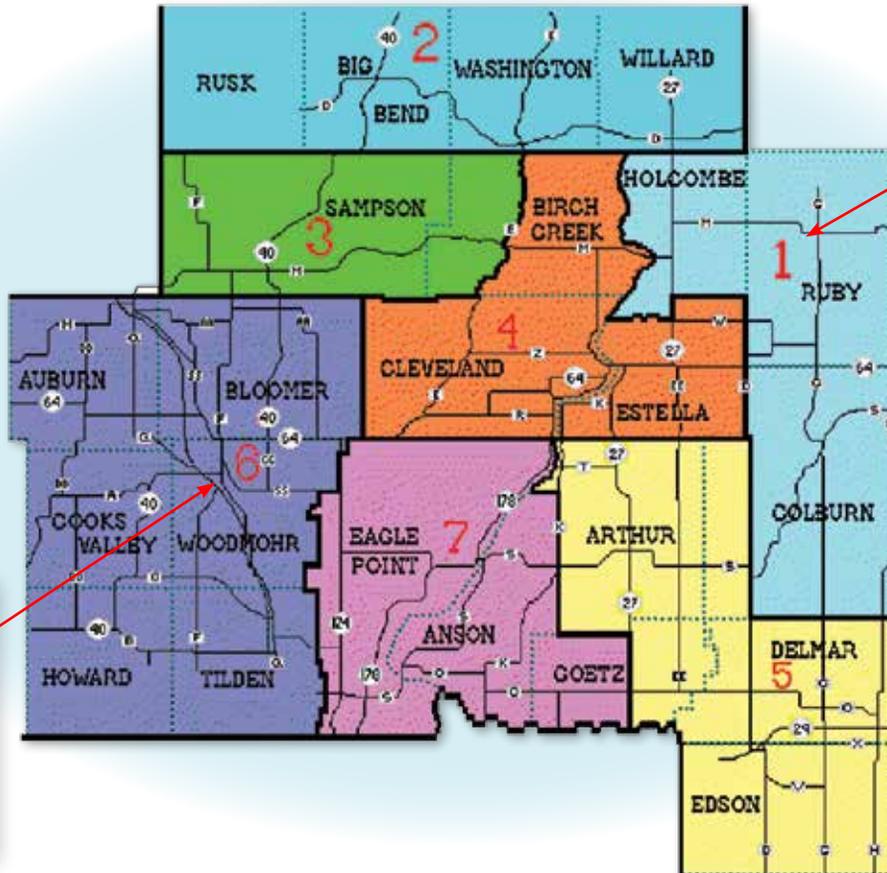
This year, Districts 1 and 6 are up for election. Members who reside in these districts received notice with the bills that were mailed in November 2014. Board of directors representatives who presently hold positions are eligible to seek re-election.

Currently, District 1 is represented by Don Frei, and District 6 by Ken Schmitt. At press time all candidates were running unopposed for their districts. Please contact CVEC if you reside in Districts 1 or 6 and are interested in participating in the upcoming director election. The deadline for declaring candidacy for any of the open districts is January 14, 2015 (45 days prior to the annual

meeting). All director candidate papers must be returned to CVEC at that time.

A map showing the district boundaries is shown below. If you are unsure which district you are in, please feel free to contact the cooperative at (715) 239-6800 or toll free at 1-800-300-6800.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's board is comprised of seven directors representing seven geographic districts. Each director serves a three-year term of office. In February each member in Districts 1 and 6 will receive a ballot in the mail along with a notice announcing the annual meeting. Please do not lose your ballot—you will only receive one. The ballot can be brought to our office or mailed so that it is received at the cooperative in order to be counted at the meeting. ■



Don Frei



Ken Schmitt

Enjoy the Convenience of the Automatic Payment Plan



Sign up and receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill!

Credit is for first-time ACH participants only. ACH (Automated Clearing House) allows transfer of funds from your checking or savings account directly to Chippewa Valley Electric's account to pay your electric bill. A direct withdrawal would be made on the due date of each month for the amount of your bill.

If you are interested in participating in this convenient payment method, please fill out the form below and return it to our office with the required information. The sign-up deadline is March 31, 2015. ■



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

Todd Howard, President/CEO
Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor

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Cornell, WI 54732
(715) 239-6800 • 1-800-300-6800
<http://www.cvecoop.com>

CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

I want to participate in the Automatic Payment Plan

Name(s) on CVEC Bill _____

CVEC Account Number _____

Billing Address _____

Work Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Your Financial Institution _____

Account Number _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

If your payment is to be delivered from a checking account, enclose a blank check. Write VOID across it and DO NOT SIGN IT. If your payment is to be deducted from a savings account, enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number. Please allow one month for the set up of the Automatic Payment Plan.

CVEC has the right to cancel use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to CVEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan.

Account Holder(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Note: Only first time ACH participants are eligible for the \$20 credit. Member must remain on ACH for a minimum of 18 months. Sign-up deadline is March 31, 2015. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to CVEC, P.O. Box 575, Cornell, WI 54732. For more information, call 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800.