



## EXPLORE YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL AT THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

### Attention High School Students:

The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) offers the opportunity to participate in the annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress to high school students throughout the state. The conference, co-sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives, including Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC), is scheduled for July 26-28, 2017 on the UW-River Falls campus.

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

Student participants will get the opportunity to...

- See what makes the co-op business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.



This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

All registration costs are covered by the generous support of Wisconsin electric cooperatives, including Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Students are sponsored by the electric cooperative serving their area, which means there is no cost

to the student. To qualify as a delegate, you must be a high school student in sophomore, junior, or senior status and live with a parent or guardian who is a member of CVEC.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative is accepting applications from students who are interested in attending this exciting conference. Please go online to [cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com) or call CVEC at 715.239.6800 for more information. All applications must be received by CVEC no later than June 20, 2017.

## SMALL RATE ADJUSTMENT PLANNED FOR JUNE 1, 2017

Chippewa Valley is committed to providing dependable and reliable electric power to its members while at the same time using our members' resources as wisely as possible.

Unfortunately, it has become necessary for us to raise our rates. The wholesale rate increase scheduled for May 2017 and recent low winter sales continue to put financial stress on your cooperative. As members of a small cooperative, it is important to remember that fixed costs and time-sensitive costs in the wholesale rate affect us differently than they do for large electric companies. It is still very beneficial to

the co-op as a whole, if we are able minimize our usage and especially dual usage (for example, using both an oven and a clothes dryer at the same time) during the 3–8 p.m. time slot during the week.

After reviewing the 2017 budget in addition to projecting sales and expenses, it was determined approximately a 1.5 percent rate adjustment would be needed to keep your cooperative within the financial parameters required by our lenders. This increase will take effect June 1, 2017.



# CONSIDER SAFETY WHEN PLANNING LANDSCAPING PROJECTS

Putting in some new landscaping or trees this year? Or perhaps planning your garden? Here are some tips to keep you safe around electricity.

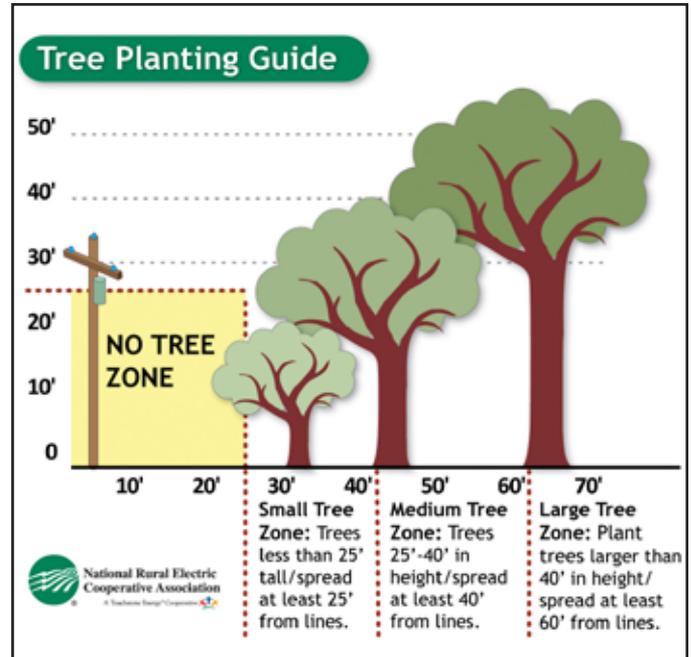
As you plan your tree and landscape plantings, consider that trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. Reduce fire hazards, power outages, and the need for frequent pruning with proper selection and planting of trees near utilities.

In our part of the country, we use dense windbreaks to protect homes from harsh winter winds. Winter sun should be able to reach south-facing windows. Refer to the helpful graphic at right to determine which species to plant in various locations on your property.

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine, and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Medium trees, 40 feet or less in mature height, include hawthorn, pagoda dogwood, star magnolia, and Amur maple, while smaller trees suitable for planting near distribution utility lines might include crab apple, sumac, burning bush, or winterberry.

These tree recommendations are for planting near local distribution power lines. The only trees that may be planted within the 80-foot wide electrical transmission line right-of-way are ornamentals or dwarf fruit trees that grow no taller than 12 feet at maturity.

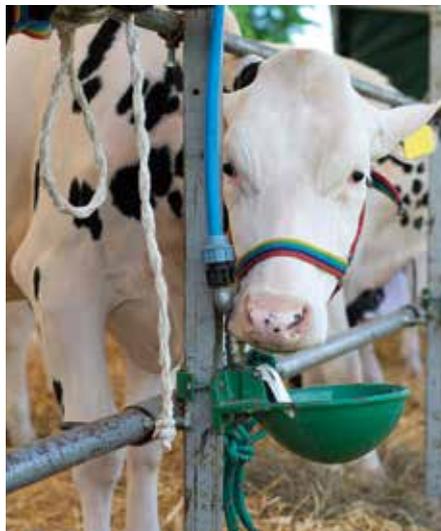
- Take care to plant trees away from underground utilities, as tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables, and wires. Future repairs could damage the health of nearby plants and trees.
- Always look up for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact Chippewa Valley Electric.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers, or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.



- If you have trees that appear to be growing into or leaning toward power lines, contact Chippewa Valley Electric. Never try to prune them yourself.

## Call Before You Dig

Do your outdoor projects include installing a new mail box or bringing in a backhoe for trench work? At least 72 hours before engaging in any type of digging, call 8-1-1, the national “Call Before You Dig” number, to have the location of underground utilities on your property marked. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster. Calling 8-1-1 before you dig is free, it is easy, and it’s the law.



## CVEC CAN HELP WITH STRAY VOLTAGE CONCERNS

Stray voltage is the common term used to describe neutral-to-earth voltage in a cow or livestock contact area, usually in the barn. When a cow makes contact between two points with a difference in voltage, such as a watering cup and the concrete floor, an electric current may flow through the cow, which the cow may feel. Such situations can be caused by a variety of electrical problems both on farm and off farm.

Neutral-to-earth voltage may never be completely eliminated because it is present on all grounded electrical dis-

tribution systems. However, much can be done to resolve stray voltage concerns. There are fairly simple electrical tests that can be performed by qualified individuals to determine whether stray voltage is present at unacceptable levels on your farm.

If you believe you may have stray voltage, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative stands ready to investigate that possibility. We have the equipment and trained personnel to offer assistance and advice pertaining to stray voltage.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: What is Diggers Hotline?

A: Diggers Hotline is a free service that you use before you do any kind of digging to make sure you don't damage underground lines. Call Diggers Hotline, 811, at least three working days before you start digging to avoid the cost and danger of accidentally hitting buried lines.

### Q: Will all of the lines be marked on my property?

A: Diggers Hotline coordinates between excavators (such as a homeowner) and the owners of buried lines. It's up to the owners of the lines to mark the locations near your job site with paint and/or flags. Private lines, such as an electric line to a detached garage or other outbuilding or a line from a propane tank that may be on your property, are considered the responsibility of the landowner and will not be marked by Diggers Hotline. A locating company can be hired to mark private lines.

### Q: What are private lines and why don't they get marked?

A: Private lines are facilities that are owned by homeowners or private businesses and are contained fully on their property. Because these lines do not cross in to the public right-of-way, they are not required to be members of Diggers Hotline and will not be notified of locate requests. Examples of private lines include propane lines, sewer laterals, sprinkler systems, ornamental lighting, and electric lines to a barn or garage.

### Q: Do I have to call if I'm only using hand tools?

A: Yes, and it doesn't matter how deep you are digging. State law (Wisconsin Statute 182.0175) requires notifying Diggers Hotline before you excavate, grade, trench, dig, drill, auger, tunnel, scrape, plow cable or pipe. Excavation, according to the law, means anything that moves, removes, or displaces earth rock or other material in or on the ground.

### Q: Why do you ask so many questions?

A: Many of the questions are required by Wisconsin state law and some questions are required by the underground line owners to help them accurately mark their lines at your job site.

### Q: I can't wait three working days. Can I get an earlier start date and time?

A: Early start dates must be obtained directly from each facility owner after submitting a locate request. Diggers Hotline can provide you with the list of facility owners who will receive your locate request and their phone numbers. All facility owners will need to agree to your earlier start date request.

### Q: How deep are underground lines buried?

A: It depends on the type of buried line, and whether it was installed properly. Although facility owners may follow depth guidelines when installing lines, they have no control over depth variation caused by human interference, weather, or other circumstances. As a result, depths are not provided by utility locators.

### Q: Why do I have to hand dig within 18 inches of a marked facility?

A: Locating is not an exact science, and, therefore, the actual location of the facility could vary from the position of the marks. Also, state law mandates an 18-inch buffer zone on each side of a marked facility. No mechanized equipment can be used within this buffer zone; only hand digging is allowed. Also, you should stay 18 inches away from any utility structure at your job site.



## SUMMER LOAD MANAGEMENT HOURS

Starting May 1, the load management hours will switch to summer hours. These hours will be in effect until October 31.

<b>Summer Load Management Hours</b> <b>May 1 – October 31</b>		
<b>FULL LOAD CONTROL</b> (Events issued in June, July, and August when energy demand is at its highest.)		
Load Description/Class	Load Management Start Time	Load Management End Time
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program. Dual fuel water heaters are controlled daily.)	2:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	2:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	1:45 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
<b>ECONOMIC CONTROL</b> (Can occur any time between start and end times. This control period is dependent on energy market prices only.)		
Residential Water Heaters (1B) (Does not include water heaters on the dual fuel program)	6:00 p.m.	12:00 a.m.
Dairy Water Heaters (4A)	6:00 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
Dual Fuel Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps (2A, 2B, 2C, 2W, 4B) (Cycled on/off every 15 minutes)	6:00 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
<b>DAILY ENERGY STORAGE</b> (Dual fuel water heaters interrupted Monday-Friday; no control on weekends or holidays)		
Dual Fuel Water Heaters	11:30 a.m.	8:30 p.m.



Starting with your July billing statement, June usage, you will notice the regular residential energy charge will switch to the summer energy charge. This charge will be in effect with the June, July, and August usage.

The summer energy charge is a bit higher than the rest of the year because the wholesale cost of energy is higher during the summer months of June, July, and August. High electric demand related to air conditioners is the main driver in the summer. Those costs are passed on to the members in the form of a higher summer rate. All electric utilities in our area experience this summer cost increase; however, some utilities blend this increase over 12 months. CVEC uses a higher summer rate to recover these increased energy costs as they occur.

Limiting electrical usage between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. is especially critical on peak load control days, occurring on the hottest days of the summer, because CVEC pays peak demand charges in addition to the higher rate.

### Dean Ortmann, President/CEO

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Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

*CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*