

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2024 NEWS



PIERCE PEPIN
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

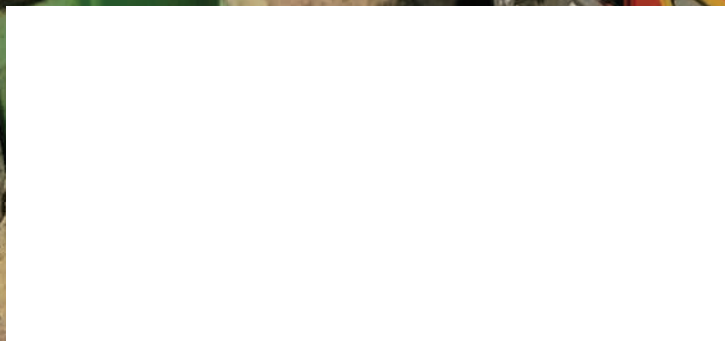
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

THESE ARE A FEW OF
MY FAVORITE THINGS

**SURGE OF SUPPORT
FOR LIGHT UP NAVAJO!**

BE AN ENERGY STAR

**BEST OF 2024
KIDS AND CRITTERS**





A SEASON OF GRATITUDE: THANKING OUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS THIS CHRISTMAS

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO

As the holiday season arrives, we are filled with gratitude for the gift of community and the opportunity to serve you—our electric co-op members. Christmas is a time for reflection, generosity, and connection, and there is no better time to express our appreciation for the trust, support, and partnership you share with us throughout the year.

Our cooperative is more than a utility provider; it's a community of neighbors working together for the common good. As a member-owned organization, everything we do is rooted in service to you. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't focus on profits—we focus on providing reliable, affordable energy while reinvesting in the community we share. Your participation helps us deliver on that mission.

During this season of giving, we are especially thankful for the role each of you plays in shaping our co-op. Whether you've attended an annual meeting, voted in board elections, or participated in energy efficiency programs, your involvement strengthens the cooperative. Your feedback guides our decisions, ensuring that we grow in ways that benefit everyone in our service area. We couldn't do what we do without you.

This time of year also reminds us how vital reliable energy is to creating warm, joyful holiday moments. From festive lights and cozy gatherings to family meals shared around the dinner table, electricity plays an essential role in making the season special. We are honored to be a part of those moments

Our cooperative is more than a utility provider; it's a community of neighbors working together for the common good.

by keeping your homes powered and comfortable, even as winter brings challenges like snow, ice, and cold temperatures.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated employees work hard to ensure your service remains uninterrupted. Linemen, technicians, and office staff alike are committed to serving you during every season. Whether they are restoring power after a winter storm or helping you with a billing question, their efforts reflect the cooperative spirit that unites us all. This Christmas, we are grateful for their dedication and the pride they take in supporting our community.

In the spirit of the holidays, we also want to highlight the importance of generosity. Our co-op takes pride in giving back through community programs and gift-giving programs, helping neighbors in need during difficult times. Your contributions to Operation Round Up®, which supports Pierce Pepin Cares, make it possible for us to support these efforts, ensuring that everyone in our community can experience the warmth and joy of the season.

As we look toward a new year, we are excited to continue building a brighter future with you. Whether through innovative technologies, new programs, or expanded services, we are committed to providing the best possible experience for every member of our co-op family.

From all of us at the co-op, we wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas filled with joy, peace, and togetherness. Thank you for being part of our cooperative community—your support makes everything we do possible. We look forward to serving you in the years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your PPCS co-op family!

(Editor Note: A portion of this was revised using AI tools)



Happy Holidays

**Office Closed -
Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1**

Report outages through SmartHub
or call 800-927-5705.

Report internet issues by calling
715-350-7033.

We wish you all the joy of the season!



Holiday Open House

**December 2 - 20
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Stop in and enjoy coffee, hot apple
cider, and Christmas cookies.
Pick up your 2025 calendar*, too!

*While supplies last.

PIERCE PEPIN CARES GRANTS BENEFIT FOOD PANTRIES AND MORE

Thanks to the generosity of PPCS members participating in the Operation Round Up program, eight area food pantries can stock their shelves to benefit local residents this holiday season. The Pierce County Food Pantry, Pepin County Food Pantry, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Prescott Area Food Pantry, River Falls Food Pantry, Spring Valley Community Food Pantry, Elmwood Food Pantry, Plum City Food Pantry, and Pepin—Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran were each awarded \$2,200 through the program, for a total of \$17,600 to local food pantries.

Pierce Pepin Cares grants were also awarded to the Landmark Conservancy (\$250) for protection of an eight-mile segment of the Chippewa River State Trail, Lost Creek Ranch Therapeutic Riding & Horse Rescue (\$500) to assist with operating costs, Heart (\$1,000) to purchase necessities for families in need, Our Neighbors Place (\$1,000) to support gaps in service following the closure of Assistance & Resource Center (ARC), and Ellsworth Fire Department (\$1,000) for a battery-powered cut-off saw.

These donations are made possible by PPCS members who “round up” their electric bills each month to the nearest dollar or donate a specific amount. PPCS employees also host annual fundraisers to help fund Pierce Pepin Cares. Contact our office at 800-924-2133 to sign up for Operation Round Up today and see all the good we can do together!



Scholarships Available



PPCS awards three \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors graduating in spring 2025. Applications are due by January 31, 2025. For the rules and entry form, go to www.piercepepin.coop under My Community.

We've launched a new FREE member benefit program, Co-op Connections, that saves you money through discounts on health and wellness, travel and entertainment, safety and security, and local deals. Register today at www.connections.coop and start saving!



DID YOU KNOW?



FOOD AND FUN GALORE: CELEBRATING OUR ANNUAL MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

We had a great turnout for our annual member appreciation breakfast on October 26. The Ellsworth Lions Club served pancakes, sausage, ham, milk, coffee, and orange juice. Stockwell's Maple Syrup & Maple Treats provided the syrup, and Maple Leaf Orchard provided apples. PPCS members donated over 320 pounds of food and \$315 to Pierce County Food Pantry. They also donated clothing and \$132 to Basics for Local Kids.

Winners of the \$50 gift cards were:

Food Shelf: Vicky Ehman and Heather Campbell
Basics for Local Kids: Phyllis Beastrom and Michelle Langer

Winners of the Halloween costume prize drawings were:

Daniel Campbell (tricycle)
Clint Thom (Amazon Fire Tablet)
Mallory Ristow (tree swing)
Opie Chollett (scooter)



ENERGY SENSE REBATE FORMS DUE DECEMBER 26

Energy Sense rebate forms are due December 26, 2024. Any qualifying products or services purchased and/or installed from January 1 through December 26, 2024, are eligible if the required documentation is submitted with the proper forms by the due date. For information and rebate forms, visit www.piercepepin.coop or contact Member Relations.



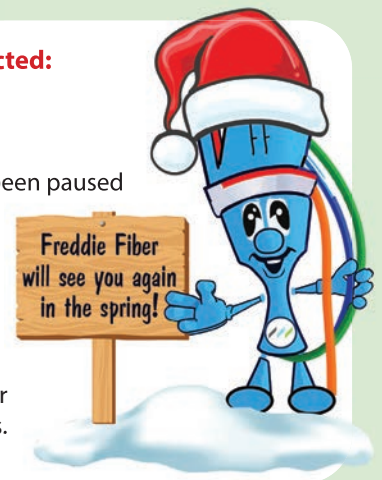
BROADBAND BYTES

Quick Updates from Fiber Freddie

Accounts Connected:

Internet: 3,661
Phone: 780

Construction has been paused due to the freeze and will pick up in the Spring when the ground thaws and road restrictions have been lifted for construction crews.



PREPARE NOW FOR WINTER STORMS

It's hard to predict the weather, but it's easy to prepare for it. Here's how to plan for unavoidable power outages that can accompany winter storms.

- Listen to weather forecasts daily so you'll know when high winds, heavy snow, or ice are coming. This kind of winter weather is most likely to affect power lines.
- Prepare an outage kit that contains a battery-powered radio, fresh batteries, a flashlight, candles, matches, a wind-up clock, bottled water, paper plates, and plastic utensils.
- Keep a stock of canned food in your cupboard, along with a manual can opener. Consider buying a camp stove and fuel that you can use (outdoors only, please) if you can't cook on your electric stove.
- Pile a few extra blankets and sweaters together so you can find them easily if the heat goes off. Dress in layers to stay warm.
- Teach children to stay away from fallen or sagging power lines. Even if the power is out, they could be energized and dangerous.
- Sign up for SmartHub and download the app to your smartphone or tablet. You can report power outages through SmartHub or by calling 800-927-5705.



We hope the weather will cooperate, so we don't have any significant outages this winter. If we do, know that PPCS is prepared to restore service as quickly as possible.

COME LEARN ABOUT ENERGIZE WISCONSIN!

A new community solar project. Enrollment is FREE!

December 11th - 10am-2pm

AT THE PIERCE-PEPIN COOPERATIVE SERVICES OFFICE
W7725 US HWY 10, Ellsworth, WI 54011

- Energy Assistance (EA) staff will be onsite to complete in-person applications
- Households qualifying for EA are eligible - no additional forms required
- Enjoy lower utility bills
- Receive a **monthly** solar credit

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.WESTCAP.ORG

CONTACT US:

- 715-598-4750
- info@wcap.org
- PO Box 308
- Glenwood City, WI 54013

Or apply online at <https://energybenefit.wi.gov>

Ideal Internet Speed
makes everyone merry

USE OUR BANDWIDTH ESTIMATOR NOW

Waistlines aren't the only things that tend to expand during the holidays —so do the number of guests and connected devices in your home. With too-slow internet, buffering will diminish the fun of streaming movies and playing online games.

To find your ideal speed, use our Bandwidth Estimator. Simply answer a few questions, and instantly get a speed recommendation plus details on our corresponding internet plan. We want you to enjoy faster and more festive connections!

Take the quiz at
bandwidthestimatornow.com/swiftcurrent

SWIFTCURRENT
CONNECT
BROADBAND POWERED BY PPCS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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