



Price Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



William L. Caynor Sr.,
CEO & President

SOLAR GARDEN

Some label it a solar garden, as community solar, or a solar farm, nonetheless the name alone conjures up a perception of intrigue. What exactly constitutes a garden of solar? Well, in simplistic terms, it's a solar array where the individual solar panels are leased to subscribers. In the setting of an array erected by an electrical cooperative, the

member subscriber would receive a credit on their bill for all generation associated with their leased panel. A typical panel could potentially produce 20–40 kWhs a month, depending on the size of the panel to be purchased, the location of the array, the weather, and the time of year. When the average monthly usage for a Price Electric Cooperative seasonal member is 225 kWhs, and a residential member is 775 kWhs, you can see how a panel could help subsidize a monthly electric bill. One ought to consider that energy rates tend to increase on an average of 2% annually, and the expense of the panel stays the same. It's the recovery of your initial investment that's evaluated when undertaking this type of endeavor.

Subsidizing your electric bill with an energy credit is only one of the benefits to leasing a panel with a one-time modest investment. If you didn't have a good location on your property to install your own solar array, this might be an alternative motive, or you may have too many trees conflicting

with the operation of an adequate array. The initial cost for installing a complete solar array at your home may well be more than you wish to bear, which before incentives, could be \$14K–\$19K, for a 5KW unit. If you live in an apartment duplex, or rent your home from someone else, you would have another reason for leasing a panel. Nevertheless, three of the most common rationales for leasing a panel are to support clean energy (emission-free), to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and also to reduce dependence on foreign countries. On the line side of the meter, there are benefits as well; one of those is to reduce the system demand during summer peaks when the cost of energy is higher, and the solar generation is at its zenith.

The concept of solar gardens at electric cooperatives is relatively universal, and thus, if you drove by our neighboring cooperatives, Taylor, Barron, or Bayfield, you would see solar gardens at their headquarters offices.

Now, let me ask the question, "Does a solar garden project at your cooperative sound appealing?" If so, please let us know. If not, please say so. The first step of the process is to gauge interest, and if there is interest, how much is there? Please answer the questions below or online and tell us what you think.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read and respond to a potential offering that allows those interested with an opportunity, within our continuing effort in exploration, for the potential betterment of your member-owned cooperative.

"We have this handy fusion reactor in the sky called the sun, you don't have to do anything, it just works. It shows up every day."

– Elon Musk

PEC Membership Solar Interest Survey

1. Do you think Price Electric should erect a solar garden? Yes No
2. Would you lease (for the life of the panel) a panel for a one-time cost of \$600–\$1,000? Yes No
3. How many panels would you lease in this solar garden? 0 1 2 3+
4. Would you be interested in installing solar at your residence? Yes No
5. If you answered "yes" to #4, what is your reason for considering a solar array at your home?

6. Enter the drawing for a \$25 bill credit for completing this survey (optional if you prefer to remain anonymous).

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Account Number: _____

A winner will be drawn from all responses on September 30

You may also take the survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NG3Q9WD>.

The Puzzler will return in October. The winner of the July PEC Puzzler was Diana Ciskon. Congratulations!

MY CO-OP

SUMMER STORMS IMPACT MEMBERS & ACTIVATE ROPE ASSISTANCE

Storms that swept through the state the evening of Friday, July 19, caused outages for over 3,000 PEC members (approximately one-third of PEC's membership). The first outage was called in from the Catawba area at 4:47 p.m. Over the next 24 hours, PEC crews worked diligently to restore outages throughout the service area. Although the storms that went through our area were not as severe as those in other parts of the state, lightning and downed trees were still able to cause widespread outages.

On Sunday, July 21, Polk-Burnett Electric, headquartered in Centuria, issued a request for ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) assistance to other electric co-ops in the region. Polk-Burnett had 9,500 outages on their system, which includes portions of Burnett, Washburn, Polk, Barron, St. Croix, and Dunn Counties. PEC Journeyman Lineman Chris Burnis and Apprentice Linemen Colten Cummings

and Jake Kraetke answered the call, joining 63 other line crew workers and contractors from nearby utilities. Throughout the following week, most of

their time was spent setting new poles to replace the 175 poles that had been broken as a result of the storms. Thank you, Chris, Colten, and Jake!



L-R: Chris Burnis, Colten Cummings, Jake Kraetke

We want to hear from you!



2019 is more than half over, and 2020 is on the horizon! Four score years ago, those who took the first steps to provide electricity to what is now PEC's 3,500-square-mile service territory likely didn't know the impact their prospect would have in the 21st century. Eighty years later, your cooperative is going strong thanks to its member-owners, and we want to know what you remember, what your parents or grandparents told you about the lights coming on, or recipes that harken back to a simpler time.

Please send stories, recipes, and pictures (all with pertinent information, such as names of people and dates) to: Price Electric Cooperative, Attn.: Theresa Raleigh, P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555. Original photos will be returned. If your submission is highlighted in the *WEC News*, you'll receive an \$80 bill credit that month.

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2019.

MEMBER RATES WORKSHOP

Did you ever wonder how your electric rates were determined and what factors affected those rates?

Now is your time to find out all about that and more.

On September 19th Price Electric will be hosting a Member Rates Workshop to answer questions you may have and provide you with a better understanding of the rate compilation.

**Join us on September 19th from 5–6:30 p.m.
At Price Electric, W6803 Springs Drive, Phillips**

*There is limited seating available.
Please RSVP to 715-339-2155 to ensure you will have a seat!*

Save the
Date!

7th Annual Price Electric Cooperative BREAKFAST IN THE NORTHLAND

**Saturday, October 19, 2019
7–10 a.m.**

**At the Butternut Park Pavilion
(one block west of Highway 13 on Michigan St in Butternut)**

Make plans to join us for this year's member appreciation breakfast! Pancakes, sausage links, biscuits and gravy, applesauce, milk, juice, and coffee are all on the menu.

We will once again be hosting a food drive at this event—bring nonperishable items to benefit a local food pantry!



Light e-waste recycling available!

Items accepted: Home phones, cell phones, computer cables, keyboards, laptops, netbooks, pagers, digital cameras, speakers, DVD players, and digital music players (MP3, iPods).





WE'RE ON THE MAP!



PEC's EV charger is now available for use and can be found on Plugshare at: <https://www.plugshare.com/location/202534>

We're cooking up some fun!

Enter for your chance to win a slow cooker and recipe book—just in time for all those great fall recipes!



Name _____

Account Number _____ Phone _____

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative, W6803 Springs Drive, P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

REBATE UPDATE

So far in 2019, PEC members have received **\$6,622** in energy efficiency rebates from Price Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative, and **\$11,256** in incentives and savings from Focus on Energy programs. Please contact Price Electric or visit www.price-electric.com for more information on how you can take advantage of energy efficiency incentives available for PEC members!



HAPPY
★ **LABOR DAY** ★

The Price Electric office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on September 2, 2019!

Stop in for an Autumn Treat!

PEC members are invited to stop by the Member Service Center at W6803 Springs Drive in Phillips during the month of September for a treat to welcome fall!



William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

W6803 Springs Drive, P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881
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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Theresa Raleigh, Editor



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