

## SAFETY MESSAGE

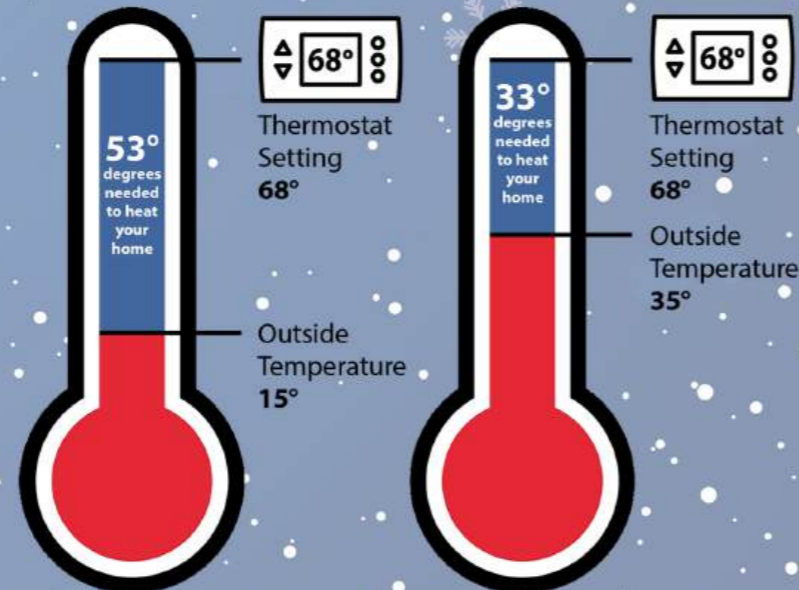
Space heaters and electric blankets can be efficient ways to stay warm, but they can also be dangerous. We encourage you to understand the dangers of heating devices before you use them.

- Check space heaters and electric blankets before use. Cords should not be frayed, brittle, or cracked. The blanket should not have any charred or dark areas.
- Turn space heaters and electric blankets off when not in use.
- Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.

## How Cold Winter Weather Impacts Your Energy Bill

Although we can't control the frigid weather, we can control our energy habits. The colder the weather is outside, the harder your home heating system needs to work in order to keep your home at the temperature on your thermostat.

We recommend keeping your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower during winter months to save on home heating costs.



## CHICKEN ENCHILADA SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- 15 oz can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes
- 10 oz package frozen whole kernel corn
- ½ c chopped onion
- ½ c chopped bell pepper
- 10 oz can enchilada sauce
- 10.75 oz can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1½ c milk
- 1 c shredded pepper jack cheese
- 2 chicken breasts

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a slow cooker, combine drained beans, tomatoes, corn, onion, and bell pepper. Place the chicken breasts on top of the mixture.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together enchilada sauce and soup. Gradually whisk in milk until smooth. Pour sauce mixture over ingredients in slow cooker.
3. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours or on high for 3 to 4 hours.
4. Remove the chicken and shred it into bite-sized pieces. Add chicken back into soup.
5. Top with pepper jack cheese and serve.

Recipe from Joseph Cascio of Nekoosa, WI

PREP TIME - 15 MINS  
COOK TIME - 6-8 HOURS

## Share your recipes!

We're seeking tasty treats, savory meals, salads, soups, and everything in between to feature in upcoming issues of *The Wire*. If your recipe is featured, we'll mail you a gift!

Share your recipes on our website at [www.acecwi.com/submit-a-recipe](http://www.acecwi.com/submit-a-recipe).

# THE WIRE

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative • February 2025

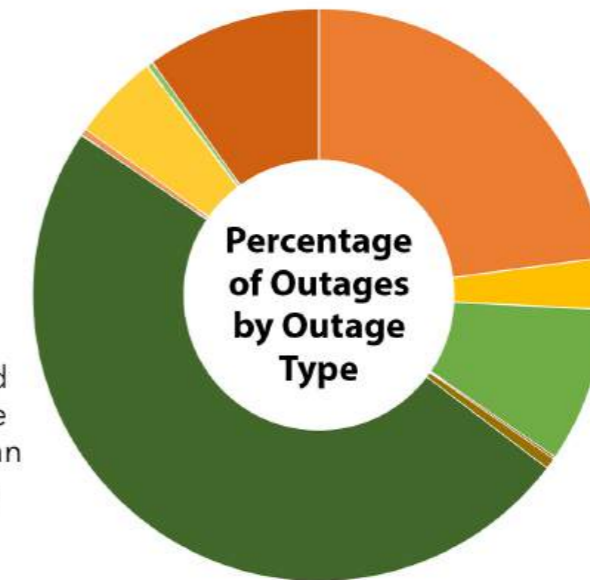
## 2024 RELIABILITY REPORT

Our members had power 99.998477% of the time last year.

We conducted 1,088 planned outages. Planned outages are crucial to ensure our crews can work safely while maintaining our lines, equipment and building new projects.

Weather continues to be the leading cause of power outages, resulting in 352 outages in 2024. Our biggest weather event occurred in April, with lots of heavy, wet snow and ice. The second busiest month for crews related to weather outages was in May when we experienced strong winds and heavy rain, resulting in downed trees on power lines.

The average outage time was 3 hours and 57 minutes. We do our best to minimize the time our members are without power, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as our crews work to safely restore your power.



- Nature (22.9%)
- Customer Equipment (2.9%)
- Equipment Failure (8.8%)
- Extreme Storm (0.1%)
- Fire (0.6%)
- Planned (49.1%)
- Power Supplier (0.4%)
- Public Damage (4.9%)
- Switching Error (0.4%)
- Other (9.9%)

## ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS

We'd love to see your Countryside Landscape photos!

Submit your photos on our website for a chance to be featured in our 2026 member calendar.

Get started at [www.acecwi.com/submit-your-photos](http://www.acecwi.com/submit-your-photos).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 28

Deadline to apply for an Educational or Jon Steinhaus Lineworker Scholarship.

### MARCH 26

Visit our Wautoma office from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. or our Pardeeville office from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. to chat with our general manager, Jon, for discussion days.

### APRIL 1

Voting for your board of directors opens.

### MAY 7

Join us for our Annual Meeting at our Friendship office.

# Annual Meeting Details

All members are invited to join us for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at our Friendship office. Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. with the business meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Districts 3 and 5 are up for election this year. Members running for a board seat will have their candidate profiles featured in March's issue of *The Wire*. Absentee and eVoting will open on April 1. Details about the Annual Meeting will be posted on our website at [www.acecwi.com/annual-meeting](http://www.acecwi.com/annual-meeting).

Wednesday, May 7, 2025  
Friendship office (401 E Lake St)  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

## SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL BILL

ASSEMBLY BILL 470  
SENATE BILL 481

Existing transmission companies would have the first opportunity at building new projects with this bill. A transmission company transports high quantities of electricity to distribution systems like ours. The Right of First Refusal (ROFR) benefits our members by stabilizing electric rates. Not only would jobs stay local, but allowing existing transmission companies to build new projects in our service area ensures we have more control over our electric grid.

### TAKE ACTION

We need support from our members to pass the ROFR bill through the assembly and senate. We ask that members call or email their senators or representatives with the message below:

*"As a member of my electric cooperative and your constituent, please support the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) legislation. State oversight and bidding requirements ensure that projects will be both necessary and cost-effective. When my electric co-op's transmission provider is a project partner, I benefit from their participation. Investment returns will be shared with my not-for-profit co-op to keep my electric rates lower when transmission lines are built."*

### FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Visit [maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?lat=&lon=&address=](https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?lat=&lon=&address=), or scan the QR code to enter your address. It will show you who your elected officials are for your senate and assembly districts. Please contact them with the message above to show your support. We also have your senator and representative's contact information available on our website at [www.acecwi.com/ROFR](http://www.acecwi.com/ROFR).



## INSULATE, SEAL, AND SAVE

Ready to insulate your home? One of the best ways to improve comfort, lower your energy costs, and boost efficiency in your home is through insulation and air sealing.

These home improvement projects can also help remedy and protect against ice dam issues in the winter and air quality issues year-round.

Single-Family Home (1-3 units)	Standard	Income Qualified
ENERGY STAR® Qualified Air Sealing Energy assessment required*	\$675	\$1,125
Attic Insulation	\$525	\$675
Sill Box Insulation	\$75	\$110
Foundation Insulation	\$75	\$110
Wall Insulation	\$450	\$450
Duct Sealing & Insulation	\$75	\$75
Verified Duct Sealing & Insulation	\$150	\$150
DIY Attic Insulation & Air Sealing	\$200	\$200

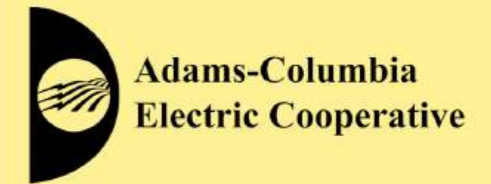
Multifamily Home (4+ units)	Rebate
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation, Existing < R-11	\$1.00 per sq. ft. of attic space
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation, Existing R-12 to R-19	\$0.70 per sq. ft. of attic space
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation, Existing R-20 to R-38	\$0.55 per sq. ft. of attic space
Exterior Wall Insulation, Existing < R5	\$0.80 per sq. ft. of wall area improved

Focus on Energy offers rebates to bring down the cost of insulation and air sealing, and a list of Trade Ally contractors to help you complete the project with ease. Or, if you prefer a hands-on approach to home improvement, check out available DIY Rebates from Focus.

*Note: Insulation must be installed by a participating insulation Trade Ally contractor to be eligible for standard rebates.*



Explore rebates at  
[focusonenergy.com/residential/insulation-and-air-sealing](https://focusonenergy.com/residential/insulation-and-air-sealing)



## CONTACT US

Customer Service & Billing  
(800) 831-8629

Outages & Payments  
(855) 957-3881

Diggers Hotline  
(800) 242-8511 or 811

Email  
[acec@acecwi.com](mailto:acec@acecwi.com)

Website  
[www.acecwi.com](http://www.acecwi.com)

Follow us on social media  
@ACECWI

Business Hours  
Monday - Friday,  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friendship Lobby Hours  
Monday - Friday,  
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friendship Office  
P.O. Box 70  
401 East Lake Street  
Friendship, WI 53934

Pardeeville Office (Drop Box Only)  
W6290 State Road 33  
Pardeeville, WI 53954

Wautoma Office (Drop Box Only)  
N1519 State Road 22  
Wautoma, WI 54982

Check out our pay-by-cash  
payment option through  
SmartHub! Locate retailers near  
you to make a cash payment.



## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jon Congdon, General Manager of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.