



MY CO-OP



Thank you, Lineworkers!

CELEBRATING LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

At Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC), we're powered by more than just electricity; we're powered by the dedication and hard work of our lineworkers. These skilled professionals are the backbone of our energy infrastructure, ensuring that our members have reliable access to electricity year-round. On Lineworker Appreciation Day, we take a moment to shine a spotlight on these members of our team, celebrating their contributions to keeping the lights on. Rain or shine, their commitment to serving our communities doesn't waver.

Next time you see one of our lineworkers, please thank them for their exceptional service.



CVEC line crew, back row: Kevin Scheidler, Line Superintendent—26 years; Trevin Jensen—5 years; Eric Zurakowski—3 years; Chris Larson—12 years; Kyle Glaus—3 years; JD Bohaty—new to the crew; Grandt Mueller—new to the crew; Dan Ferris—35 years; Nic Alberson, Operations Manager—17 Years. Front row, from left: Greg Olmstead—7 years; Tyler Jones—7 years; Zach Sonnentag—6 years; Quentin Muska—5 years; Luke McIntyre—new to the crew.

NEW TO THE CREW

CVEC is proud to welcome JD Bohaty and Grandt Mueller as additional full-time members of our line crew. Both JD and Grandt began their time with CVEC last summer working as 1,000-hour apprentices.

Luke McIntyre started with CVEC in March as a 1,000-hour apprentice. However, he is not a new face around CVEC. He spent last summer working for our friends at CV Connected LLC.

We are so glad to have these new faces as a part of our team.



Left to right: JD Bohaty, Luke McIntyre, and Grandt Mueller.

GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GOING GEOTHERMAL

There's been a lot of buzz around going solar, but what about going geothermal?

This lesser-known renewable energy source can reduce your energy bills while delivering reliable, efficient heating and cooling year-round.

What is geothermal energy?

Geothermal systems use the steady heat stored beneath the Earth's surface to warm your home in winter and cool it in summer. Also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps—they can even help heat your water. Because the ground stays at a consistent temperature year-round, geothermal systems are highly energy-efficient and renewable.

How does it work?

A geothermal system uses underground pipes, called loops, to move heat between your home and the ground. These loops can be installed horizontally across a large area or drilled vertically into the ground, depending on your yard size and soil type.

Most systems are closed-loop, meaning a water and antifreeze solution circulates through the pipes. In winter, the system pulls heat from the ground and sends it indoors. In summer, it does the opposite—removing heat from your home and releasing it into the ground.

Since geothermal systems move heat rather than generate it, they're far more efficient than traditional heating and cooling methods.

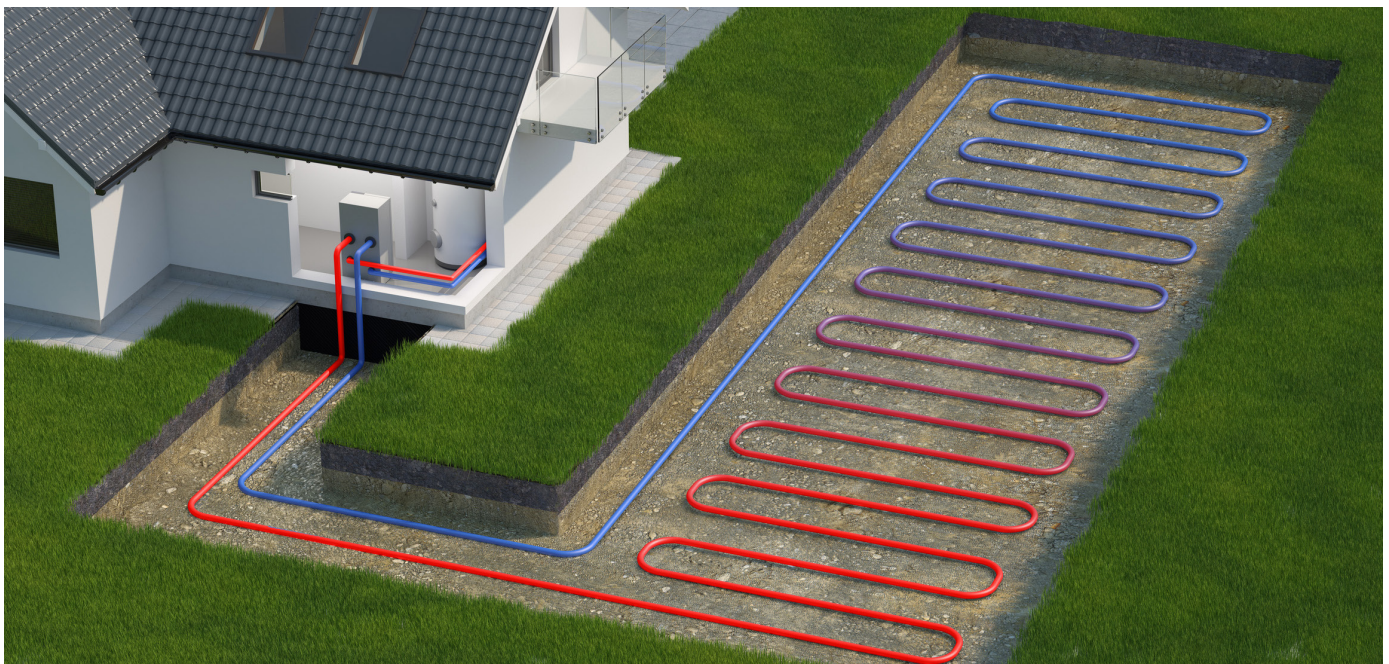
Why choose geothermal?

Geothermal offers a range of long-term benefits:

- **Energy savings:** It can cut energy bills by up to 50%. Savings grow over time to offset higher upfront installation costs.
- **Reliable:** It provides heating and cooling 24/7, in any weather.
- **Long lifespan:** Indoor components last 20-25 years; underground loops can last 50 years or more.
- **Low maintenance:** Once installed, systems require minimal upkeep.
- **Quiet and safe:** It uses no combustion, no outdoor units and fewer emissions making it a clean, quiet choice for your home.
- **CVEC offers incentives:** In an effort to support energy efficiency improvements across our territory, CVEC in partnership with our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative provides an incentive for members who install geothermal. The form can be found here: https://www.cvecoop.com/PDFs/RebateForms/2026/Fillable_2026-IncentiveForm-HVAC.pdf.

A geothermal heating and cooling system offers energy savings, reliability, and environmental benefits. Carefully weigh the upfront cost against your long-term home plans to determine if it's right for you.

—Article Source: safeelectricity.org





HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVITED TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) will be held at UW-Stout on July 14-16. The YLC is a dynamic three-day event for high school students across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative business. High school sophomores and juniors with family members who belong to CVEC are eligible to request an application.

To request an application, please contact CVEC at cvec@cve.coop or call 715.239.6800.

Applications are due to CVEC by June 13, 2026.



NO FOOLING: APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Spring showers bring May flowers, but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that post hole digger, shovel, or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request that buried electric, gas, cable, and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen?

If you hit a line, you could become seriously injured or even die. Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance include causing a power outage, hitting a gas line, possibly losing telephone or internet service if fiber is hit.

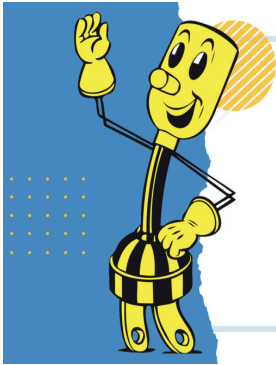
Don't be a fool! Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans, and call Digger's Hotline or fill out the online form at diggershotline.com before you dig.



**CALL 811
BEFORE YOU DIG**

For projects big or small, call at least two to three days prior to digging.

**Safe
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Your Cooperative **CVEC** Powering Your Future

Sparks CO-OP NEWS

CELEBRATING OUR CO-OP COMMUNITY!

Thank You for Attending our 89th CVEC Annual Meeting

We had a great turnout for our 89th Annual Meeting! Thank you to all our members who attended. Annual Meeting recap information will be shared in the May issue of *WECN*.

Energy Assistance Available

If you are in need of energy assistance, the regular energy assistance benefit period is open now through **May 15**. CVEC members are encouraged to contact their county's local energy assistance department directly to see what benefits are available. By submitting an application locally, your request may be processed sooner, and your local agency can inform you of other programs you may be eligible for.

Members living in: Barron, Chippewa or Dunn Counties **West Cap**

(715) 598-4750 or online forms are located at:
www.westcap.org/services/energy-assistance

Members living in: Rusk or Taylor Counties
Indianhead Community Action Agency
(715) 532-4222 or online forms are located at:
www.indianheadcaa.org/emergency-services

An additional resource for any low-income household in our service territory:

Foundation for Rural Housing

1-888-400-5974 or wrrh@wisconsinruralhousing.org

Collaboration with Local School to Get Ready for Member Appreciation Picnic

CVEC had the opportunity to work with Bloomer High School's Manufacturing Class to help us build a few new picnic tables. These tables will be used for our Annual Member Appreciation Picnic and replace some of our older tables which have become unsafe to utilize.

This partnership was the perfect fit for us to get a few new tables while supporting students in our service territory.

Huge shout out to the students and technical education teacher, Darren Schwartz, for making this happen.



Students from the Bloomer High School manufacturing class, from left: Nate Weber, Jacob Skaar, Colten Burgess, Charlie Hebert, Micah Welle, and Jackson Mitchell.

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us on Thursday, June 12! More details to come.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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Monday — Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Rebecca Pehlke, Editor