



WHOLESALE POWER AND MATERIAL COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO MEMBERS?

Jackson Electric anticipates a substantial annual increase in the wholesale power cost starting in January 2023. In addition, Jackson Electric will also see a significant increase in the cost of fuel and materials to maintain service lines and equipment.

For the past decade, Jackson Electric has been able to stabilize retail energy rates and alleviate increases in wholesale power costs. It is unfortunate, but Jackson Electric is unable to sustain its current retail energy rates and members will see a system-wide 4.9 percent increase in their power bill beginning with the January 2023 usage, February 2023 billing statement. This adjustment will be equitably assessed on energy usage and area lights.

A residential member will see an estimated increase in their electric bill of \$46 per year, depending on the usage. Annually, dual fuel accounts will see an estimated increase of \$71, and ETS rates will increase approximately \$200.

If you are on the dual fuel or ETS program, electric heat continues to be a better buy and more efficient compared to a fossil fuel source of heat. For example, if you heat with a dual fuel air source heat pump, you'd have to purchase LP at \$0.81 per gallon to be cost comparable to electric. ETS units are 100 percent efficient. To be comparable to electric, you'd have to purchase LP at \$2.04 per gallon.

Delays in coal deliveries and increased fuel costs, primarily natural gas, combined with higher-than-budgeted purchased power costs in the energy market, are forcing our power supplier, Dairyland Power, to increase their wholesale energy rates. Additionally, Jackson Electric may see throughout the year, monthly power cost adjustments on wholesale power bills.

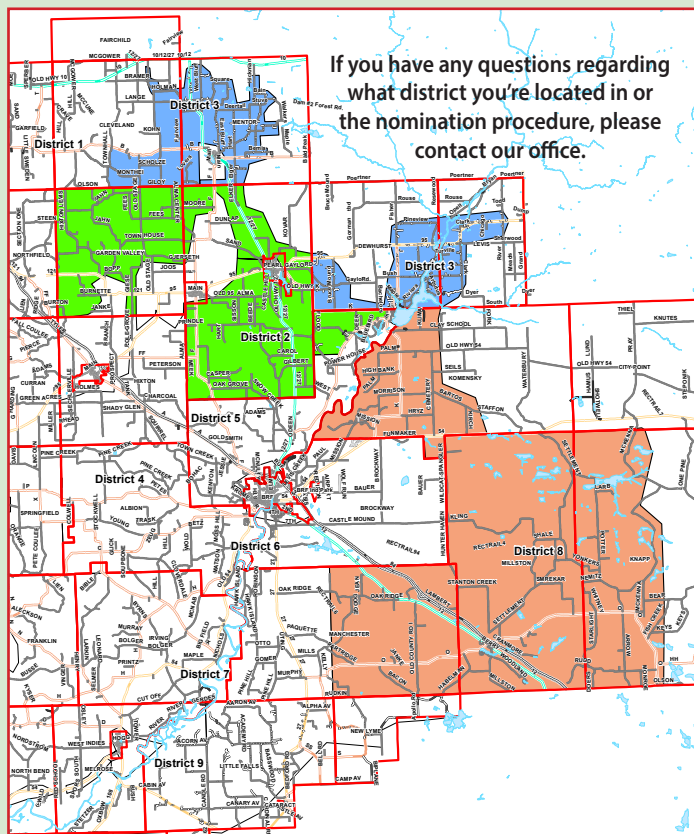
A power cost adjustment, or PCA, is implemented to cover the fluctuations in the cost of power. It's a volatile energy market, and this mechanism is put in

place without having to continually restructure electricity rates. If a PCA is implemented by Dairyland Power to its 24 member cooperatives, to include Jackson Electric, and Jackson Electric is unable to absorb the wholesale PCA, Jackson Electric members may see a pass-through PCA on their electric billing statement.

The Jackson Electric's board of directors is hoping to avoid the implementation of a retail PCA. However, we are unable to control the energy markets and prices.

More information on the energy rate adjustments and PCA will be sent throughout the next couple of months. In the meantime, if members have any questions, they should contact our office.

Jackson Electric is a member of and purchases power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, headquartered in La Crosse, Wis. Jackson Electric has a long-term power contract in which power must solely be purchased from Dairyland Power.



CALL FOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4 (c) of the Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws: "Nominations for candidates for director to represent each district shall be made by petition signed by not less than ten (10) members eligible to vote in the district to be represented by the candidate and delivered to the principal office of JEC at least thirty (30) days prior to the district meeting. Nominations from the floor at the district meetings will not be permitted unless there is no qualified nominee by petition who is able and willing to serve as a director."

Nomination packets can be obtained at Jackson Electric's office. Candidates are subject to a background check. **The documents included in the nomination packet must be completed in their entirety and received within Jackson Electric's office (not the drop box) no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023.**

In-person district meetings will be held in Districts 2, 3, and 8. Meeting notices will be mailed through the USPS in January 2023 to members in each of those districts. The

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newly elected directors begin their terms following ratification at the annual meeting.

- District #2 Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 6 p.m.
- District #3 Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 7 p.m.
- District #8 Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
- Annual Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023, 7 p.m., Lunda Theatre, Black River Falls.

Director Qualifications

Article III, Section 3 (b) of the Bylaws of Jackson Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director.

Qualifications. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in JEC who:

- 1) does not have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts, or
- 2) is not a bona fide resident in the area served by JEC, and of the particular district which he or she represents, or
- 3) is in any way employed by or financially interested in
 - a) a competing enterprise, or
 - b) a business selling electric energy or supplies to JEC, or
- 4) is an employee of JEC, or
- 5) has any form of pending litigation which is, in any way, adverse to the interest of JEC, had participated in litigation or had some form of adversarial claim against JEC within ten years of nomination, election or appointment, or is likely to have an adversarial interest, claim or litigation against JEC during the term of his or her director position, or

- 6) while serving as a director or at any time within ten years preceding his or her nomination, election, or appointment was an employee of JEC, or
- 7) while serving as a director, or at anytime within 15 years preceding his or her nomination, election or appointment, was convicted, or completed a sentence, probation or parole arising from conviction, of a felony or other offense involving dishonesty or breach of trust.

When a membership is held jointly, either joint member, but not both, shall be eligible to be a director, provided the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in (1) through (7), above, and provided further that the other joint member meets the qualifications in (3) through (7), above. When a membership is held by a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, any one (but not more than one) of the officers, partners, or members shall be eligible, provided the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in (1) through (7), above, and provided further that all the officers, partners, or members meet the qualifications in (3) through (7), above.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to preclude any member from serving as a director or from holding any position of trust in JEC because such member is an incumbent of or candidate for the office of town chairman or supervisors or because such member is also a member or director of any other cooperative from which JEC purchases or may purchase electric energy, supplies or services, not shall anything in this section contained by deemed or construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

ZOOMING IN ON BRIAN SCHULTZ

About 21 years ago, Brian Schultz walked through Jackson Electric's doors and put on his hard hat for the first time as an apprentice lineman. Flash forward, and Brian has moved his way up the ladder, or should we say pole, to the line foreman position. "My dad worked for Xcel Energy, so my interest in becoming a lineman came from him," Brian shares.

One does not become a lineman overnight. Brian worked in a factory in Ettrick for a year while on the waiting list to get into the nine-month lineman training program offered

at Chippewa Valley Technical College. Once completed, he earned his spot as an apprentice on the Jackson Electric team. From there, he became a journeyman lineman, and now foreman. "I am backup to the line superintendent (Eric) and oversee the line crew, daily operations, and power quality," shares Brian. "If someone calls with voltage concerns or blinking lights, I investigate those."

Brian not only enjoys the work of a lineman and the variety that each day brings, but also the team he is able to work with. "We're all close here," he says. "It's nice to work with people you like."

When Brian isn't working, you'll find him spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, and riding his motorcycle when he can. We learned more about Brian from his responses to the following questions:

1. Do you have any pet peeves?
Not putting stuff back where it belongs.
2. What was your first paying job?
I worked on a pig farm shoveling manure every Saturday.
3. Pick one ... cat or dog?
Dog, any day. I'm not a cat person...and I'm allergic to them.

Line foreman Brian Schultz goes over the day's plan with linemen Hazy and Adam.





SIP BACK, WINE DOWN, AND TAKE IN THE VIEW AT *Creekside Winery*

Less than 10 miles from the heart of Black River Falls is a serene new establishment overlooking Trout Run creek. After several years of anticipation, Jackson County residents and visitors can now enjoy the views (and the wine) at Creekside Winery, located on County Road X. “We wanted to make sure everything was right before opening,” shares owner Jerry Wild.

Jerry and his wife Cheri’s interest in wine all began years ago when they started traveling with another couple to wineries around the state. “It all started driving in a convertible along Highway 35 and going to different wineries along the Mississippi,” explains Jerry. “We had so much fun that it became a hobby to stop at a winery wherever we travel.”

The Wilds and their friends now have a winery bucket list to visit at least one winery in every state. The current status: 30-plus states and counting. You’ll find the commemorative glasses neatly lining the top shelf of what Jerry and Cheri refer to as the “library,” a cozy space nestled adjacent to the tasting room.

Jerry’s hobby developed from tasting wine to making wine when his children gifted him wine-making equipment one



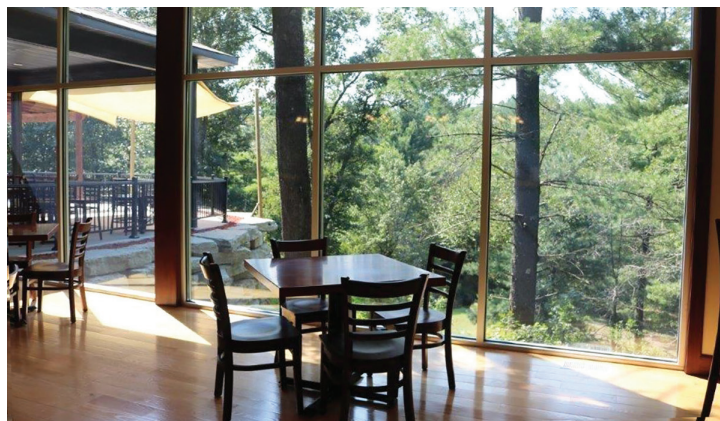
Jerry and Cheri Wild are happy to be open and greet new and returning tasters.

year for Christmas. The hobby got carried away, as Jerry puts it, and soon the Wilds were putting together a plan for a winery to call their own. “We have seen many different establishments and incorporated the concepts we liked into our business plan and design,” Cheri explains. “It’s a quiet, laid-back atmosphere where you can relax and visit. We wanted to keep it simple and enjoyable.”

Opening a winery doesn’t happen overnight, as Jerry and Cheri found out. Initially, they had to go through a petitioning process and referendum

because the Town of Irving was a dry (non-alcoholic) township. Once they were able to obtain a wine-only license, the concrete was poured in 2016, and the building of the establishment commenced. “After the building was completed, we went through a lengthy process of obtaining all of the state and federal licenses required for wineries,” shares Cheri.

Walking in the doors of Creekside Winery, visitors will immediately see the stunning view of the trees and creek through the floor-to-ceiling windows. Jerry and Cheri’s son-in-law, Lucas Lockington, built the winery, putting many special



Top row, left to right: The Library is a cozy space to gather with a few friends. Jerry and Cheri plan to incorporate a fireplace in the future. Carriers allow tasters to enjoy their wine at their own pace. Pictured is Shiraz, a dry red wine made from grapes grown in Barossa Valley of Australia. The patio offers additional space to gather outdoors with your group. Bottom row: The tasting room offers natural light and views through the floor to ceiling windows.

touches in the tasting room as well as the library. “He incorporated a beautiful coffer ceiling, which highlights the chandelier we purchased years ago at an antique store,” explains Cheri.

Since COVID prevented the Wilds from opening, Jerry had time to build the back bar, which was inspired by some of the old back bars they’ve seen in their many visits to antique stores. “We also decided to add a large patio overlooking the creek to give patrons an outdoor space to enjoy their wine,” Jerry says.

Creekside specializes in dry red and dry white, as well as a few sweet wines. The wines are named for the grapes themselves, as even the name and label must be approved by the state before sale. “I recommend the Cabernet Sauvignon, a dry red wine,” says Jerry.

“The Gewurztraminer is a good transitional white wine popular amongst those who normally like sweet wine,” Cheri adds.

When you experience a tasting at Creekside, you can do so at your own pace without feeling pressured. Jerry and Cheri observed the COVID protocols at several wineries, and they were drawn to those that allowed customers to take their tastings back to their table to enjoy. That’s why they invested in carriers

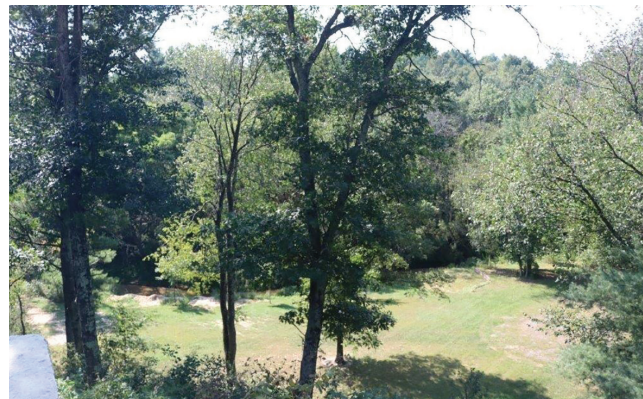
that allow you to take three different pours back to your table after the server explains the wines and the best order to taste them.

“We’ve been to busy wineries where people are standing behind you waiting in line while you’re tasting,” Cheri explains. “It puts pressure on both the taster and the server.

You can use a carrier to take your tastings back to your table and really enjoy the experience.”

Creekside officially opened on July 30, 2022, and is open every Saturday through December 17 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular business will resume in March 2023. The business has been well-received so far, and the Wilds are appreciative of the community’s support in making their dream a reality. “We’ve had neighbors and locals visit and even people from Madison, Iowa, and the Twin Cities who were watching our Facebook page and waiting for us to open,” says Jerry.

“We also had visitors who were camping and looking for something to do on a rainy day,” Cheri adds.



The namesake creek can be viewed from the tasting room or patio.

If you haven’t had a chance to stop by Creekside Winery yet, now is the time to call up an old friend, walk through the beautiful wooden front entrance, and continue straight ahead to take in the view before you head to the bar to learn about the wines from one of the friendly servers. You’ll carry your wine to the seat of your choice, whether that’s in the main tasting room, the library, or the outdoor patio. You might even purchase a packaged snack to go with it. “We had a group of college friends meet here and they stayed for a few hours catching up,” Cheri says. “It really is a comfortable, quiet place to enjoy a glass of wine,” Jerry concludes.—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

GET READY FOR WINTER PEAK ALERTS

Dual fuel energy management receivers will be tested on Wednesday, November 16, 5 to 10 p.m. Members who participate in the dual fuel program will experience an interruption in their electric heat during this period.


All members on the dual fuel program should have an automatic, backup source of heat to supplement heating needs during a peak alert period. **Please make sure your backup heating system is operational before the test date.**

This system-wide test is administered by Dairyland Power. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jackson Electric’s office.

Be Notified of a Peak Alert

Members can be notified by email, text, and/or phone call when an energy management event or peak alert is issued. Please contact the office to request an energy management enrollment form or go to www.jackelec.com to download the form. This form must be on file at Jackson Electric for you to receive notifications.



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Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Brian Huber,
Troy Torkelson, Les Dokkestul
Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

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