



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Wake up to a beautiful sunrise or count the stars as you drift off to sleep with this view.

Wake up to a beautiful panoramic view of a Black River country sunrise without leaving the comfort of your bed. Or pour a freshly brewed cup of coffee and take in the serenity of the outdoors on the patio just steps away when you stay at one of the Black River Falls Glamping Domes.

Located on State Highway 54 West, approximately six miles outside of Black River Falls in the Township of Irving, the Black River Falls Glamping

Domes are the newest amenity that can meet your needs if you've ever wanted to camp in the area but don't own a camper or maybe don't want to sleep in a tent. "I've been coming up here the last several years to ride side by side," shares owner Dan Chumbley. "There's so much to do in this area. After staying in a dome in Tennessee, I decided to bring this unique concept to the area."

Glamping, glamorous camping, allows you to experience nature without

sacrificing the comfort of electricity, indoor plumbing, heating/cooling, and a comfortable bed. "The domes are permanent structures built with a steel frame, almost like a jungle gym on a playground," says Dan. "They're fully furnished; the only things they don't have are an oven/stovetop and dishwasher."

When you arrive at the driveway to the domes, a secured entrance provides you with added safety and privacy during your stay. Follow the wooded route, take in the scenery of the pond, and maybe spot some wildlife on the way to the top of the ridge. When you reach the top, the signs direct you to go straight ahead for Dome 1 or to take a right down a small decline to Dome 2. After taking in the view, obtain your key from the secure lockbox, and get ready to relax. "It's really a couple's getaway," shares Dan. "Dome 1 is larger and features a loft to accommodate two couples or a couple with kids, and Dome 2 is smaller with just one bed."

Dan and the construction crew put in



Clockwise, starting upper left: The domes are fully furnished, offering a cozy space to relax indoors or out on the patio.

Your own private getaway where you can sit and enjoy the view from the patio or the hot tub. The small kitchen provides most of the essential items you'll need. Dome 1 is larger with stairs leading to a loft with a second bed.

Dome 2 is smaller, but it features the same amenities and coziness.



a lot of hard work last year so that the domes would be ready this season. The domes became available to rent May 15, 2023, and have already gained popularity. Guests comment on the coziness of the space and convenience of accessing nearby attractions. Dan encourages guests to shop, eat, and explore with other local businesses. “We have a guidebook on ATV rentals, pontoon rentals, kayak/canoe rentals, hiking trails, and local bars/restaurants,” shares Dan. “They can also grill out on the patio, relax in the hot tub, and we have some yard and board games available.”

When you book your stay on the company’s Vrbo or Airbnb sites, you’ll see the full list of amenities, but most of the items you need are covered, including a refrigerator and a modern bathroom with a tiled shower. “We ensure cleanliness and upkeep of the property by utilizing local cleaning and maintenance companies,” shares Dan.

From the picturesque landscape to the charm that surrounds the domes, you’ll find tranquility during your stay at any time of year. Now just imagine the view as summer changes to fall, waking up to crisp mornings and

enjoying the last warm days before winter returns. “Photos truly don’t do justice,” concludes Dan. “The drone footage available on our Facebook page helps provide insight, but you physically have to be here to take it all in.”—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

For more details and to book your stay visit:

Facebook and Instagram

@blackriverfallsglampingdomes

Search a stay in Black River Falls on

www.airbnb.com or www.vrbo.com

and look for the Black River Falls Glamping

Dome 1 and 2 listings.

WELCOME, EMMA!



Practically born and raised in Blair, Emma Robertson is the newest addition to Jackson Electric’s team, bringing with her five years of combined experience in human resources and talent development for her role as our new executive assistant/human resources representative.

Emma holds an associate degree in human resources from Western Technical College and aspires to eventually continue her education to pursue her bachelor’s degree. In her previous

employment, she spent most of her time in talent development, which involved facilitating new employee orientation every week. “I also helped new hires complete their paperwork, register for benefits, and access the employee portal,” says Emma.

In addition to a wide variety of HR responsibilities at Jackson Electric, Emma will be preparing materials for the monthly board meetings along with many other administrative responsibilities. “I came in not knowing a lot about cooperatives,” shares Emma. “I’ve already learned so much about the business model. I also went to a job site to observe the line crew to see what they do.”

When Emma’s not updating a policy or recruiting new employees, you’ll find her reading or catching a movie. “A couple friends and I started a book club,” says Emma. “We picked out books that we’re going to read and discuss, which will help me branch away from my normal genres (true crime, mystery, fantasy).”

Some people are either a dog person or a cat person, but Emma says she loves both. Her parents have a mini golden retriever/cocker spaniel/poodle, Charlie, that she still sometimes considers to be hers because they got him when Emma lived with them during COVID. “I have a cat named Oliver,” Emma says. “He’s orange and white.”

If Emma could meet any historical figure, she says it would be Gloria Steinem. Steinem is an American journalist and social-political activist who is known for her leadership in advocating for women’s rights and equality. “I admire her boldness and courage to fight for what she believes in,” Emma says.

We’re glad to have Emma on board. If you see her at the office or around the community, be sure to say hello and give her a warm welcome!



**YOUTH
AMBASSADOR
PROGRAM**

**2023 - 2024
SCHOOL YEAR**

We are looking for high school juniors and seniors for the 2023-24 Jackson Electric’s youth ambassador program.

◆ **Go to www.jackelec.com/youth-ambassador-program to complete an application.**

◆ **Contact info@jackelec.com**

HEAT PUMPS ARE GAINING IN POPULARITY

The federal government is offering a 30% tax credit for the purchase and installation of qualified heat pumps. If you qualify for a tax credit, and you couple it with a Jackson Electric rebate, a heat pump is very affordable and may cost less than investing in a new central air conditioning unit.

A heat pump unit heats and cools your home. The unit “moves” the heat rather than generates it; therefore, the unit provides up to four times more heat energy than the amount of electrical energy it consumes, making it very efficient to heat and cool your home.

Check out one of these energy efficient heat pump units for your next heating or cooling replacement, remodel, or new build.

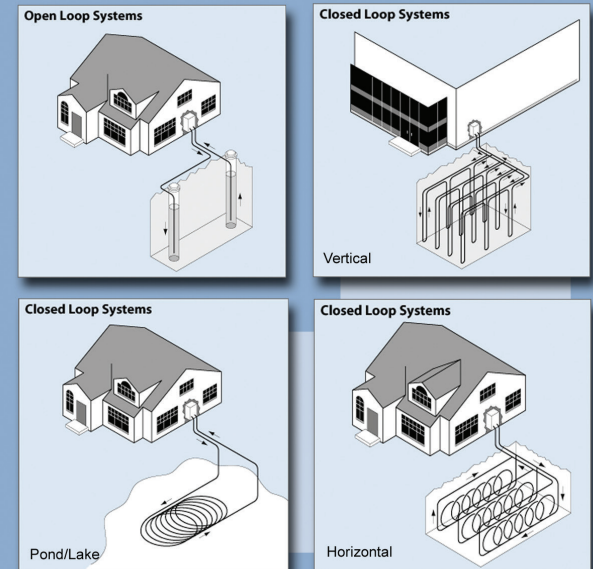
Air Source Heat Pump

- Transfers heat between your home and the outside air.
- Delivers 2-1/2 to 3-3/4 times more heat energy than the electrical energy it consumes, making it efficient and economical to operate.
- During the summer, the unit cools your home like a central air conditioning system.
- During the winter, the unit provides heat.
 - When outdoor temperatures dip low enough, these units reach their balance point. This is the temperature at which supplemental heat kicks in to maintain the thermostat setting in your home.
 - A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating on Jackson Electric’s lines in 2023. Qualifications do apply.



Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. Three are “closed-loop systems,” where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes; the fourth is an “open-loop system,” where groundwater or well water is used.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Geothermal Heat Pump

- Uses the constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool your home.
- Moves heat through pipes buried underground.
- Even on the coldest winter nights, the earth’s temperature allows the system to reach efficiencies of 400% or higher.
- Typically, the system is sized to meet all a home’s heating and cooling needs.
- A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating in 2023. Qualifications do apply.

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size.
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces.
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30% of a home’s energy use for space heating/cooling. (Source: energy.gov)
- Two main components: An outdoor compressor/condenser and an indoor air-handling unit. A conduit links the outdoor and indoor units.
- A \$500 per ton rebate is available from Jackson Electric if the unit is purchased, installed, and operating in 2023. Qualifications do apply.



MAINTAINING YOUR WATER HEATER WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Soon the seasonal cabins in our service territory will be closed for the winter months, and members will start to think about time away from the cold Wisconsin winters.

When you close up your cabin for the winter and plans don't include many fall and winter visits, don't forget to flip your water heater breaker off, shut off your water supply, and drain the water out of your water heater. When turning your water heater back on in the spring, you will want to prevent "dry-firing" an element. Most dry-fired elements occur after one of the two events:

1. A replacement water heater has been installed and air is trapped in the water heater tank because the hot water faucet has not been opened to bleed air from the tank.
2. A water heater has been drained in a seasonal residence and the power to the water heater has either not been switched off or the power is inadvertently switched back on before the tank is filled and bled.

When an element is dry-fired, it loses its shape and becomes flexible to the touch as compared to a standard operational element that holds its firm shape. Service calls and replacement elements for a dry-fired element are not covered under Jackson Electric's water heater program, and we know when an element has been dry-fired.

Winter Travelers If you're planning to turn off your water heater for a winter getaway, that doesn't guarantee that you will save money on your water heating. Generally, if you have a high efficiency water heater, there is little benefit in turning off the water heater for a duration of less than one week.

If you plan to be gone for longer than one week, timing is the key to saving money. If the water in your heater is completely heated at the time you turn it off, there will be little, if any, savings by doing so because you have already paid to heat the water that will cool down while you are away. The money-saving trick is to turn the water heater off early enough so most of the water you paid to heat is used before you leave. Cold water entering the water heater as you use the hot water will remain cold, using no energy, until you return and turn the water heater back on.



Members are invited to attend the Annual Member Picnic

Thursday, August 24
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Jackson Electric Cooperative Building
N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls

Serving brats and hotdogs with the traditional picnic sides.

Did You Know?

Jackson Electric tests between 2,500 and 3,000 power poles annually. We hire a contractor to test our poles and they use sonic testing to determine the pole strength, decay, insect or animal damage, and the diameter of the wooden pole.

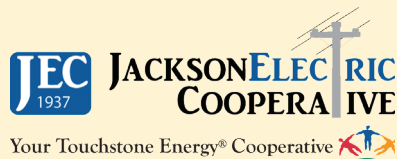
Depending on the outside elements, wooden utility

poles can potentially maintain their structure for up to 60 years.

You'll see Jackson Electric's crews changing out poles when it fits into the construction schedule. They can also change poles during the winter months. They typically change out the pole when the line is energized, so a planned outage isn't necessary.



The pole in the photo background will be replaced with the pole that is being prepped for installation.



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607

Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)

Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511

Card Payments 844.759.3984

www.jackelec.com

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner