



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/CEO

SOLAR SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

Earlier this year, we announced the formation of JacksonSolar LLC. This business specializes in selling and installing 4 and 8 kW solar systems to residential members. The surveys mailed to the membership last spring showed there was interest in the cooperative selling and installing solar systems, thus

the formation of the LLC. However, the directors felt it was in the best interest of JacksonSolar LLC to start with a pilot project in 2018.

We mailed information to several members who inquired about the project. The response has been positive, but we still have more spots to fill. We would like to see this project meet its cap of 15 members agreeing to purchase and install a solar system.

If you're unsure if you want to par-

ticipate in this project, please feel free to stop by our office and view the newly installed 4 kW system. This purchase was approved at the April board meeting so that we could learn more about the installation process and the system itself. It may also give you a better idea as to the physical size and output of a system that may benefit you.

If you have questions regarding the solar project, please feel free to contact our office.



1



2



3



4

1: Six-foot-deep holes are dug and filled with concrete to support three c-piles of the 4 kW system.

2 & 3: Once the concrete is ready, the remainder of the frame is constructed.

4: After the frame is constructed, panels are installed.

5: The finished product. This system includes an inverter and is interconnected with the grid.



5

MY CO-OP



CONGRATULATIONS

graduates!

C L A S S O F 2 0 1 8

Scholarships Awarded to Area Youth

Since 1998, Jackson Electric has generously awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their education. This past spring, Jackson Electric presented \$8,500 to area graduating high school seniors.

The annual youth scholarship program encourages post-secondary education for area high school seniors by assisting them in financing their education. A \$1,000 scholarship is offered to each of the eight high schools that are in Jackson Electric's service territory, as well as those students who are

home-schooled, open-enrolled, or attend a private school. A \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a deserving senior who participates in the Jackson Electric Cooperative Youth Ambassador Program.

Jackson Electric uses Federated Youth Foundation funds to provide scholarships and monies to charitable organizations. This account is funded from Jackson Electric's unclaimed capital credits.

Scholarships were offered to Neillsville and Sparta high schools, but there were no qualified applicants.



Cassidy Huber
Alma Center-Humbird-
Merrillan High School



Elizabeth Pardoe
Black River Falls High School



Cami Subra
Blair-Taylor High School



Carissa Scholze
Osseo-Fairchild High School



Cassandra Berger
Melrose-Mindoro High School



Lorinda Schwartz
Whitehall High School



Matteson Hynek
Open-Enrolled



Abe Severson
Youth Ambassador

Youth Ambassador Applications Available

High school juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply to participate in Jackson Electric's youth ambassador program. We are looking for students who:

- 👍 Can attend monthly meetings during the day, starting in September
- 👍 Like to eat a variety of snacks
- 👍 Enjoy volunteering in the community
- 👍 Desire to see what a power plant looks like
- 👍 Want to learn more about cooperative careers, write your resumé and job/scholarship application
- 👍 Seek an opportunity to attend the Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.
- 👍 Love the challenge of writing an application to win a \$1,500 scholarship

To request an application or more information regarding this program, contact Brandi at bshramek@jackelec.com.



Justin Waughtal



Hannah Olson



McKenna Nehring

WELCOME, SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Jackson Electric Cooperative welcomed three summer employees on May 29.

Justin Waughtal of Melrose graduated from Melrose-Mindoro High School in May and will be attending Winona State University to pursue a degree in nursing.

Hannah Olson is from the Hixton area and graduated from Blair-Taylor High School in 2016. She is pursuing her medical assistant degree at Western Technical College.

McKenna Nehring of Taylor graduated from Blair-Taylor High School in May. She will be attending Western Technical College where she will begin with her general education courses.

These students will be testing load management receivers throughout the summer. If you participate in the load management program, you may see one of these summer employees testing your receiver. Each student will have a signed employee badge and will be driving a Jackson Electric identified truck. The students may alert you of their presence, but will not need to enter your home.

WELCOME, BRANDI

Brandi Shramek began her executive coordinator duties at Jackson Electric Cooperative on May 14. Brandi will provide administrative support to the cooperative's general manager/CEO, members of the executive leadership team, and the board of directors. She will also coordinate cooperative events and youth programs, as well as assist in cooperative communications and marketing.



Brandi was a summer employee at the cooperative in 2016, and a communications intern in 2017. She also held a grant writing/development internship for four semesters at a non-profit agency in La Crosse.

Brandi graduated with honors from Viterbo University in La Crosse this spring, receiving her bachelor of science degree in English (writing emphasis) and a minor in biology. She enjoys writing creative nonfiction and poetry. She has been published in *Touchstone*, Viterbo University's art and literary journal, and was recently selected for publication in *Periphery*, Drake University's art and literary journal, which was open to undergraduate students in the Midwest. She plans to pursue future opportunities for publication. Brandi also enjoys photographing natural scenery and plant/animal life. A native of the Hixton/Alma Center area, Brandi shares, "I'm very appreciative of this opportunity, and I look forward to becoming more involved in the community."

SUMMER ENERGY CHARGE

Starting with your July billing statement, June usage, you will notice the regular residential energy charge will switch to the summer energy charge. This charge will be in effect with the June, July, and August usage.

The summer energy charge is a bit higher than the rest of the year because the wholesale cost of energy is higher during the summer months of June, July, and August. High electric demand related to air conditioning is the main driver in the summer. Those costs are passed on to the members in the form of a higher summer rate. All electric utilities in our area experience this summer cost increase; however, some utilities blend this increase over 12 months. Jackson Electric uses a higher summer rate to recover these increased energy costs as they occur.

Limiting electrical usage between the hours of 2 and 8 p.m. is especially critical on peak load control days, typically on the hottest days of the summer, because Jackson Electric pays peak demand charges in addition to the higher rate.



Hazy Wood (left) and Dalton Berg

APPRENTICE LINEMEN EARN JOURNEYMAN STATUS

Congratulations to Hazy Wood and Dalton Berg on receiving their journeyman linemen certification this spring after the completion of their apprenticeship program. Before becoming an apprentice, Hazy and Dalton each completed an electrical power distribution program, which is preferred but not required for employment at Jackson Electric. Hazy completed his program in Wisconsin at CVTC (Chippewa Valley Technical College), and Dalton at NLC (Northwest Lineman College) in Idaho. The length of the program varies by school and state, but usually lasts between four to nine months. During that time, the student is learning and applying electrical theory, as well as proper use of equipment and how to perform the tasks required of a line worker.

After being hired at Jackson Electric, Hazy and Dalton each completed the state-recognized electric line worker apprenticeship, which combines structured on-the-job training with related classroom instruction. The four-year program requires 7,360 hours of on-the-job training and four weeks of related instruction per year for each of the four years. Each year, there is an exam required in order to move on to the next level of the program. The exam at the end of the program is cumulative. The safety program at Jackson Electric provides linemen with additional monthly safety meetings that help them stay up-to-date on what they learned during their training. Asked what they like most about the job, Hazy and Dalton both share, "We like the outdoor work and the variety. There's something different every day."

APPLIANCE REBATE ADJUSTED

As of July 1, 2018, all qualified Energy Star appliance rebates will be \$25 per unit. Jackson Electric offers a rebate to its members for the purchase of the following qualified Energy Star rated appliances:

- Clothes washer
- Dishwasher
- Clothes dryer
- Refrigerator
- Heat pump clothes dryer
- Dehumidifier

Qualified geothermal and air source heat pumps, electric boilers, and LED lighting rebates are also available. For a complete list of available rebates, contact our office or go to www.jackelec.com.



Jackson Electric's July office hours:

- July 4 Closed for the holiday
- July 31 Closed from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for employee training
- Outages can be reported to 855.222.3275.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607

Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)

Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511

Credit Card Payments 844.759.3984

www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
Black River Falls, WI 54615

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

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

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