



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



SunnyOak Community Solar Garden Breaks Ground

Eight golden shovels dug into the earth on Wednesday, October 26, marking the ceremonial groundbreaking for the SunnyOak Community Solar Garden. Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees and directors were in attendance, along with representatives from SoCore Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative. Construction was scheduled to begin in November, with completion estimated

for mid-January, providing the winter months are easygoing.

This past February, Dairyland Power Cooperative announced the installation of 12 utility-scale solar facilities in Wisconsin, totaling 15 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The advantages of multiple projects in separate locations include: diversified weather, distributed grid infrastructure impacts, and locally based renewable energy. These

facilities combined will produce enough renewable energy to power over 2,500 homes.

“Dairyland is a cooperative dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and sustainable energy for our members. Together, these projects far surpass current solar resources in the state,” said Barbara Nick, president and CEO.

Approximately one acre of land in Oakdale’s service territory, just south



Left: Oakdale Electric General Manager Bruce Ardel (right) chats with representatives from SoCore.

Right: Board President Robert Hess (second from right) stands ready with his shovel.



of the Whistling Wings substation in Necedah, was selected as one of the sites to host a 1.5 MW utility-scale facility. The SunnyOak Community Solar Garden, comprised of 792 solar panels, and will be built adjacent to Dairyland's solar project. SoCore Energy (Chicago, Ill.) will install, own, operate, and maintain both facilities.

"As a leader in providing solar power to rural cooperatives, we are honored to support Oakdale Electric Cooperative and Dairyland in bringing reliable, cost-effective renewable energy to their members," said Robert Scheuermann, president, SoCore Energy.

Oakdale Electric surveyed members

throughout the past year and requested feedback on their interest in the cooperative building a community solar garden, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. General Manager Bruce Ardelst stated the timing was right to include a 200 kW community solar garden with Dairyland's utility-scale solar project.

"By merging these two projects, we are able to negotiate the price and provide members with a viable and affordable solar option," Ardelst stated.

Participation in Oakdale's community solar garden is voluntary. Members are limited to subscription units capable of generating up to half of their prior

calendar year's energy usage or 10 subscription units, whichever is less. A signed solar subscription agreement, along with a one-time payment of \$700 per unit, is required for participation. Approved members will receive the energy output of their purchased subscription unit(s) for 25 years.

Interested members are encouraged to contact Oakdale Electric Cooperative at 800-241-2468 and speak with a solar representative to learn how they get involved. More information is also available online at www.oakdalerec.com.

"We are proud to offer members our first renewable project, and are excited to move forward," said Ardelst.

Here's an easy way to go solar...



SUNNYOAK COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is proud to provide members with a viable, affordable renewable energy option through the SunnyOak Community Solar Garden. If you are interested in purchasing a subscription unit (one unit is equivalent to one solar panel of electricity-producing capacity), please contact the co-op by calling 608-372-4131 or emailing info@oakdalerec.com. You can also learn more on our website, www.oakdalerec.com.

*There's
still time to
purchase!
Contact us
now!*



GIVING BACK is the co-op way

MY CO-OP



Cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Oakdale Electric Cooperative value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Through blue jean donations, holiday giving, and plain old sweat equity, co-op employees understand the value and importance of giving back to our local communities. Recently, employees volunteered their time to help “light up” a local park for the holiday season. Pairs worked together to string holiday lights around tree trunks, and some even found their inner child by climbing up the tree branches, stringing the lights even higher.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative members help us give back, too. Through the “Operation RoundUp” program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

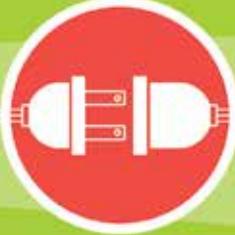
So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill, or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly, or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

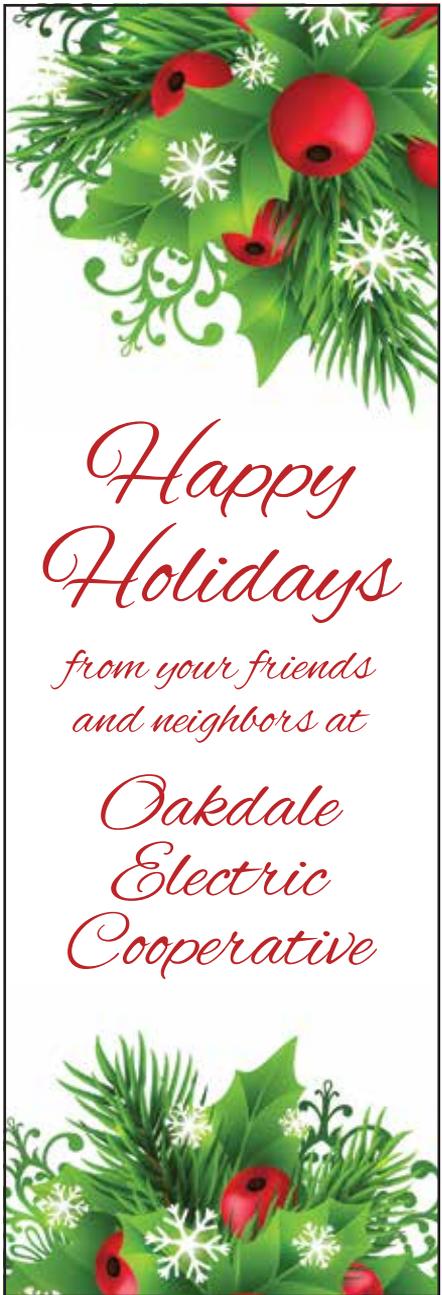
No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You’ll be glad you did.



HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS

-  Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.
-  Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.
-  Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.
-  Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.
-  Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.
-  Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
-  Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.

 AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Happy Holidays
from your friends and neighbors at
Oakdale Electric Cooperative

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Deana Protz, Editor

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
 24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
 Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.