



## October is National Cooperative Month

### LET'S CELEBRATE!

**What are we celebrating?** Cooperatives were formed to gain access to goods and services that were otherwise not easily accessible. Rural electric cooperatives were formed by farmers in the 1930s when big utility companies weren't interested in supplying electricity to rural areas.

The same idea of joining together to better our lives still exists in co-ops today. In addition to the direct benefits they provide to members, co-ops strengthen the communities in which they operate. This is true with Bayfield Electric, as we have educational hotline demonstrations, patronage refunds, student scholarships, and Youth Leadership Congress opportunities.

Also for our members is the newly established

community solar garden. Solar energy is becoming more and more popular, but it's not always achievable due to the cost and set up. Our members showed interest in a community solar garden, and we made it happen! Now you can be a part of easy,

affordable, renewable solar energy.

Bayfield Electric is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses. This is why BEC is partnering with Norvado once again for our fourth annual cooperative celebration to show our appreciation to you, the members. Join us this year on Friday, October 20, at Norvado's headquarters building in Cable for lunch, demonstrations, giveaways, and more! Watch your mailbox for a postcard with more information. Hope to see you there!



Join us Friday, October 20, at the Norvado headquarters in Cable for the fourth annual Member Appreciation Celebration, sponsored by Bayfield Electric Cooperative and Norvado.



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# What is that Facility Charge on my bill?

*Members ask, so we answer!*

Some of you may be wondering, “What is the facility charge on my bill and why do I have to pay it every month?” Every service we use in our home or business—whether it’s electricity, satellite television, natural gas, or

telephone—has some form of a monthly charge to cover the cost of providing the service. It might be called a service charge, base charge, or fixed charge. For Bayfield Electric members, this monthly charge is called the facility charge. It is

an average cost investment that assures there is power when you need it.

Although investment costs are similar among utilities, operations and maintenance costs are higher in rural settings like ours because of the distance between members and the rolling hills, valleys, and trees. In high-density urban areas, there are more consumers per mile of line, and multiple accounts are typically served by one transformer. For this reason, urban accounts require a lower monthly facility charge than rural accounts.

When you need electricity, all you have to do is flip a switch. What happens before that flip of the switch is a commitment of time, equipment, facilities, and people that your cooperative already has in place to ensure that the power is there when you need it most.

The expenses that BEC has for equipment and line maintenance (substations, poles, wires, transformers, meters) and metering and billing services are relatively fixed. These costs do not vary with your electricity use. By recovering a portion of these costs through the facility charge, the costs are distributed fairly among members. This means that whether you use zero kilowatts or 1,000 kilowatts, you pay the same fixed facility charge. This is because it costs the same to provide and maintain power to a cabin that allows electricity when you need it as it does to provide to a residence using electricity daily.

The facility charge ensures that our members’ expectations for reliable, affordable power are met. BEC offers programs to help you better manage your electricity costs, such as energy audits for homes and businesses, energy conservation tips, and rebates. If you would like more information on any of these programs, contact Larry at 715-372-4287.

PRESENTED BY YOUR LOCAL ONLINE ENERGY RESOURCE  
**cheqbayrenewables.org**

# SOLAR Energy Tour

Solar Energy Tour of **local homes and businesses** featuring the full range of solar systems—from utility-scale to cabin-size. See photovoltaic and electric vehicle (EV) charging station, passive solar, and more. The **self-guided tour** will include unique stops centered on **Iron River, WI**. Learn something new at each location.

**October 1 — Noon-4:00 p.m.**  
**No charge. You may visit in any order.**

- 1 Peter Martin**  
13695 East Koski Rd., Brule
- 2 Twin Gables Restaurant**  
13992 E. US Hwy. 2, Brule
- 3 Bayfield Electric Cooperative Headquarters**  
68460 District Ave., Iron River
- 4 Paul Alkire**  
7635 West Spider Lake Rd., Iron River
- 5 Ben & Shawndel Spader**  
5510 Kelly Lake Rd, Barnes
- 6 Robert Owen**  
64385 Petras Rd. (Motel Rd.), Ino

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **cheqbayrenewables.org**

# Keep Electrical Spooks from HAUNTING YOUR HALLOWEEN



More and more people decorate their yards for Halloween with elaborate lighting displays. Decorative lights, fog machines, strobe and black lights, and animatronics all add to the ambiance of Halloween. But if they're improperly used, they can create added dangers of fire, shock, and other potentially disastrous accidents.

"These decorations have been

packed away since last year in basements, garages, and sheds," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. "Weather, time, and even mice can damage cords and insulation on electric decorations, making them unsafe."

Safe Electricity offers these tips:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracking, fraying, or bare wires may cause a shock or start a fire. Replace damaged products.

- Before using any light strings, animated displays, or other electrical products outdoors, make sure the product is approved by a nationally recognized certification organization such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and marked for outdoor use.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground. Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most. Make sure the extension cord is rated for its intended use.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outdoor outlets don't have them, contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs.
- When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet away from overhead power lines. When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place.

Avoid real scares this Halloween, and decorate safely. Get more safety tips at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Congratulations to two Michigan members, William Lafond and Mark Kerkes, who were randomly selected to win an Energy Saving Gift Pack from Bayfield Electric and Efficiency United. Visit [efficiencyunited.com](http://efficiencyunited.com) to learn more about saving-energy and money with rebates on high-efficiency products.

## Halloween Safety

- H** Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Make sure you walk and not run from house to house.
- A** Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- L** Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks.
- L** Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** Only walk on sidewalks. If not possible, walk along the far edge of the road facing traffic.
- W** Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- E** Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.
- N** Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame resistant costumes.



**A Fall Classic You Won't Want to Miss!**

**October 14**  
**20th Anniversary of the Memorial Medical Center Whistlestop Marathon and Half-Marathon**

What better way to see the start of fall colors and leaves changing than to participate in the Whistlestop Marathon or Half-Marathon? The course begins in Iron River and finishes in Ashland on Lake Superior's South Shore. Other festival events include live music, pasta feed, and Lake Superior Fish Boil.

Visit [www.whistlestopmarathon.com](http://www.whistlestopmarathon.com) for more information.

**Month of October**

Billing date: October 10, 2017  
 September usage  
 Bills due upon receipt  
 Gross due after October 30, 2017  
 Disconnect date: November 15, 2017

**Get Ready for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual BAYFIELD APPLE FESTIVAL**

Marked as one of the "10 Best Fall Harvest Festivals in the Nation" in 2015 by *USA TODAY*, the annual Bayfield Apple Festival is filled with fall colors, Bayfield's agricultural heritage, and of course, apples! Enjoy the famous grand parade through town, carnival rides, craft vendors, and food booths selling apple-flavored everything!



Visit [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org) for a schedule of events and more information.

**CONGRATULATIONS, STEVEN CORDES**

Jonathan Hamilton (account no. 200607011) is this month's winner of a \$50 credit. Please clip the coupon below and send it in with your payment or call the office by the payment due date. The \$50 will then be credited to your account.

		ACCOUNT NO. 1100402010	
CHECK NUMBER	DATE		
332	10/01/2017		
<b>P</b> AY TO THE ORDER OF		AMOUNT	
Steven Cordes		\$50	00
Mason, WI 54856			
NON-TRANSFERABLE			

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