

# News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative  
October 2025  
Captured by the lens of  
Celeste Rouse

## Celebrating the Principles that Define Us

October is National Cooperative Month and time to reflect on the seven cooperative principles that make member-owned electric cooperatives different.

### 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can use its service. Barron Electric Cooperative provides electricity to nearly 20,000 members in eight counties.

### 2. Democratic Member Control:

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. Barron Electric's nine-member board of directors actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

### 3. Members' Economic Participation:

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. This year, Barron Electric will return more than \$1.2 million in cashback credits to over 16,000 current and former members.

### 4. Autonomy and Independence:

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations and controlled by their members. Members are elected at the cooperative's annual meeting and make decisions focused on the member-driven mission.

### 5. Education, Training, and Information:

Directors and employees participate in training, so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperative.

### 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:

ROPE, Restoration of Power in an Emergency, is a great example of cooperation among cooperatives. ROPE is used by cooperatives during large outages to help restore power more quickly.

### 7. Concern for Community:

Barron Electric provides a variety of donations to organizations that help improve the quality of life in the rural area.



### Concern for Community:

*Barron Electric and CoBank gave \$10,000 to the Pioneer Village Museum.*



### Education:

*Lineman Aaron Holtz showed students his gear and taught them about electric safety.*



### Member Economic Participation:

*This year, \$1.2 million in cashback credits will be returned to members.*

## Cooperative Month Events

**Tuesday, October 7**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Barron Electric's Spooner Location

1550 Paulson Drive, Spooner, WI

**Thursday, October 9**

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Barron Electric Cooperative

1434 State Hwy 25 N, Barron, WI





Save time, money and trees by going paperless. Sign up for paperless billing; it only takes a few minutes via SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or on your mobile device. With SmartHub, you can:

- View your electric bill
- Receive an automated e-mail notification when your monthly electric bill is ready
- Review your electric use, payment, and billing history



## GMS Collecting Equipment Data

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS), contracted by Barron Electric, is actively gathering data on our system. This work may take place during weekends and any daylight hours. GMS representatives may be present on your property, traveling on foot, ATV, or UTV. They will be taking photographs of Barron Electric equipment, posting signs, or locating cables.

GMS employees will carry a badge, a letter of contract with Barron Electric's letterhead, and their equipment will include a sign indicating they are contracted by Barron Electric Cooperative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or [operations@barronelectric.com](mailto:operations@barronelectric.com).

## Do You Need Help Paying Your Electric Bill?

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills. This program is funded by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Public Benefits (PB) program. If you need help paying your electric bill, please contact the following agencies:

Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Washburn, and Polk Counties:

Call WestCap at .....715-598-4750

Rusk County .....715-532-2299

Sawyer County .....715-634-4806

## Receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card When You Donate Blood

Barron Electric Cooperative is hosting a blood drive on Friday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at our Barron office located at 1434 State Hwy 25, Barron. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), and enter Barron Electric to schedule an appointment.

## \*Condensed Board Minutes July 30, 2025

*Randy Cook is President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 7 which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner, Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.*



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104460 through #104578 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$359,567 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$12,892. Total receipts in the office \$2,931,679; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,501,883; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,995,764; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$232,580 and the power bill was paid on 07/30/2025 in the amount of \$2,434,145.
- A membership list of 87 was presented and approved without objection.
- Reports listed in the board packet were available for review for the month of June including the power bill, department statistics, fleet management and budget month-to-date.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of June in the amount of \$165,387.93 was presented for approval and included new services \$19,284.88; change jobs \$25,532.56; Other Work Order Projects \$120,570.49 and 5 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 55,900.17 consumer hours off, which is 51.75% above 2024 hours of 36,836.79. Overtime year-to-date is 1,756.25 hours, which is 10.25% below 2024 hours of 1,956.75.

*\* View full board minutes on SmartHub at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com).*

## Wisconsin Residential Energy Sales Tax Exemption to Save Members Money



We are excited to share an important update concerning residential electric service. As a result of a recent law change in 2025, Wis. Act 15, electricity sold for residential use is now exempt from Wisconsin state and county sales tax year-round. This exemption applies to residential electricity billed on, or after, October 1, 2025. Barron Electric will automatically update your account and remove the sales tax from your bills. Prior to this legislation, Barron Electric

residential members paid taxes on their electric bills six months of the year, while seasonal members paid taxes twelve months a year. This change is anticipated to save Wisconsin residents nearly \$180 million over two years.

## Energy Saving Rebates

Are you buying an Energy Star appliance or energy efficient heating and cooling system? Visit [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) or scan the QR code for more information on rebates.



## Yoder Meat Processing: A Response to Local Demand

Yoder Meat Processing was founded in 2020 in response to the increased demand for local meat during the COVID-19 pandemic. With local butcher shops busy processing local meat, some had to decline customers seeking wild game processing. Drawing on his background in wild game processing, Glendon Yoder turned his passion into a business. Today, this venture serves 300 customers, handling numerous deer, as well as bear. Glendon guarantees that the deer or bear you bring in is the exact one you receive back.

During deer season, Glendon, his wife, and one additional employee stay busy. At any given time, you might see up to eighty deer in the cooler awaiting processing. Recognizing the importance of cooler space, Glendon is planning to expand in the future. When asked about his hours, Glendon mentioned that deer arrive at all hours of the day, emphasizing the need to get them into a cooler promptly. Visit Yoder Meat Processing on Facebook or call 715-222-4911 for more information.



*Yoder Meat Processing provides excellent customer service.*



**5 Star Dumpsters LLC**  
In addition to Yoder Meat Processing, Glendon owns 5 Star Dumpsters LLC, a business focused on assisting customers with their residential and commercial dumpster rental needs. They will guide you in selecting the appropriate size and answer any questions about what can or cannot be disposed of in the container. Offering affordable roll-off dumpster rental rates, they cater to a variety of needs, including construction debris, concrete, shingles, roofing, dirt, brush, yard waste, junk removal, and more. For more information, visit [fivestardumpstersllc.com](http://fivestardumpstersllc.com).



*Call 5 Star Dumpsters with any residential and commercial dumpster rental needs.*





## E-mail Your Wildlife Photos

E-mail your wildlife photo to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to [memberservices@barronelectric.com](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by October 15, 2025. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in publications and on our website.

## News FOR YOU...

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*Published for the members of Barron Electric.  
If you have any comments regarding the  
newsletter, please e-mail  
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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.



## ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

# TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES

Safe Electricity.org® **LEARN MORE:**

## Don't Let Your Power Bill Haunt You: Spooky Smart Energy Tips

- Don't be haunted by your energy bill. Check out these tips to save:
- Eliminate air leaks by sealing any gaps and holes in the floors, walls or ceiling. Small gaps can be filled with caulk, while large holes can be repaired with insulating spray foam.
  - Lighting improvements may help reduce energy bills. LED light bulbs are known to deliver a higher quality of light, which could last 25 times as long as old incandescent bulbs, and use even less energy than CFLs.
  - Consider scheduling a home performance assessment to pinpoint areas of inefficiency and receive tailored recommendations for energy-savings. Even better, members may be eligible for multiple rebates to help offset the cost of the assessment. Barron Electric offers members up to \$150 towards the cost of the assessment and up to \$500 toward recommended improvements. Additionally, the IRA HOMES/HEAR rebates programs are designed to lessen the expenses associated with energy-saving whole-home improvements.

To learn more about energy saving rebates, visit [barronelectric.com/2025-energy-rebates](http://barronelectric.com/2025-energy-rebates).

