

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2023 NEWS

PIERCE PEPIN
COOPERATIVE SERVICES



**AT THE HEIGHT OF FALL
TOWER WILL ELEVATE YOUR AUTUMN**

RISK TO RELIABILITY

ENERGY EFFICIENT DOORS

**PPCS CO-OP MONTH MEMBER APPRECIATION
BREAKFAST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Nate Boettcher,
President and CEO

WILL THE SUN COME OUT TOMORROW?

Is PPCS pro- or anti-solar? Some say pro, some say anti. Your opinion may be shaped by the articles we have published over the past couple of years. You might be inclined to say we are pro-solar since we are partnering to build a 2 MW solar array alongside County Road K and Highway 35 in Trenton Township. You might say we are anti-solar if you were one of our members who adopted residential solar early on. Based on our recent survey, it seemingly felt like most respondents who commented specifically on solar stated that we were anti-solar.

We believe solar will be an integral part of our future generation...

This answer might surprise you, but our position on solar is it depends. It's a complex topic and I am not

sure there is a "one-size-fits-all" answer. So, let's get into it.

We believe that solar is a valuable part of our energy future. Harnessing the sun to generate electricity is a good thing. We recognize the manufacturing and materials that go into creating panels are not without their own challenges. For instance, I for one would love to see more of the manufacturing done on U.S. soil. The materials used in solar panels are becoming more advanced, and innovation is occurring rapidly that will make the panels of today look like dinosaurs tomorrow.

Since my arrival in 2019, we have never treated solar as a threat to our business. In fact, we see it as an opportunity. Members generating their own electricity is a good thing. But as we all know, it's not sunny 365 days a year and once the sun sets, the cooperative steps in to provide critical energy to those members who may have supplied their own power

during the daylight hours. The cost of infrastructure doesn't go away and our approach to ratemaking for the over-generation of solar is market-aligned. In the future, batteries may aid in changing this narrative, but the cost of batteries combined with a solar array doesn't pencil out.

The solar array being built along Highway 35 will produce enough energy to power 525 homes. Our partnership with One Energy allows us to purchase the output at a fixed price. One Energy will be responsible for maintaining and managing the solar array. This type of

agreement is called a purchase power agreement, or PPA. PPAs are becoming more popular to contract energy and limit volatility. We have begun to see this occur in the residential market as well. These arrangements face legal challenges in Wisconsin. If a solar developer or residential installer shows up on your doorstep and promises you that you'll never have to pay another electricity bill, I urge you to be careful. Often these door-to-door salespeople are not up to speed on how electric rates work, especially as it relates to the

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ELECTRIC CO-OPS GROW FOR THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including PPCS, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.



Co-op Month Scavenger Hunt

Searching for some fun during National Co-op Month? Find the answers to these questions at www.piercepepin.coop. Return your completed sheet to PPCS by Monday, October 30. You could win a \$50 MasterCard gift card. Two prizes will be awarded.

Name two PPCS programs for kids.



What is the rebate PPCS offers for EV chargers?



What is the name of PPCS' broadband subsidiary?



PPCS has provided electricity since what year?



What PPCS program supports renewable energy?



What times should PPCS members SHIFT for Savings?



What number can you call to report a power outage?



PPCS has returned how much in capital credits?



Name and PPCS account number

Co-op Month Member Appreciation Breakfast

Fun for the whole family!

- Attendance gift for adults
- Bring donations for the food shelf and/or winter clothing for Basics for Local Kids & be entered in prize drawings for \$50 gift cards
- Flu shot clinic (*Medicare, WI Medicaid accepted*)

Kids

- Wear your Halloween costume to be entered in a prize drawing for Amazon Fire Kids' tablets
- Plus, have fun with a bounce house, crafts, and more!

Saturday, October 28th
9 - 11:30 a.m.

W7725 US Highway 10, Ellsworth

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cooperative. We are here to help; our team can help you with your questions before you sign any agreement.

We believe solar will be an integral part of our future generation, but we also are not ruling out the possibilities around nuclear, wind, and even natural gas. Electrification of fossil-burning items such as cars, water heaters, furnaces, stoves, and generators will require more power generation. We can't decarbonize our entire electric generation while also encouraging the use of electricity for every appliance in our home without creating a near-term issue. In the short term, we will continue to focus our energy on ensuring reliability for our members. We have extreme ends of the weather spectrum, and we will work to ensure that our members can cool their homes in the summer and heat them in the winter.

Solar generation will be here and will continue to grow. Your cooperative will continue to focus on ensuring we integrate this renewable generation into our distribution grid. As a member-owned cooperative, we continue to focus on serving our members. Serving our members means supporting your needs. October is National Cooperative Month where we celebrate member-ownership. Without you, our members, we don't have a cooperative. Thank you for being part of the cooperative and continuing to support our community. Look for updates on our first solar array on our social media accounts. Have a great start to fall!

Candidate information session
YOU should be a DIRECTOR



WHO: Cooperative members interested in running for a seat on the board of directors.

WHAT: Director candidates: nomination process, qualifications, duties, terms & compensation, and expectation of directors.


WHEN: **Thursday, October 19, at 6:00 p.m.**

WHERE: W7725 US Highway 10, Ellsworth

RSVP: Call Laure at 715-273-4355, ext. 113 or email landrle@piercepelin.coop by October 13 to reserve your seat.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN US.

OUR FIBER NETWORK PROVIDES INTERNET SPEEDS UP TO 1 GIGABIT PER SECOND. WE'RE PRETTY SURE THAT MAKES US FAST FRIENDS.






PIERCE PEPIN COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram   

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Power Outages and Emergencies: 800-927-5705

Nate Boettcher, President & CEO

Board of Directors

- District 1.....Gerald Drier
- District 2.....Edward Hass
- District 3.....Brian Berg
- District 4.....John Parkes
- District 5.....Ann Young
- District 6.....Ginny Huber, secretary/treasurer
- District 7.....Roger Wiff, chairman
- District 8.....Brian Bergsens, vice chairman
- District 9.....Daniel Reis