

Barron Electric Cooperative  
April 2023  
Photo by Celeste Rouse

# News FOR YOU

## Invest in Our Planet

**E**arth Day, set for April 22, is considered one of the world's largest civic events. By working together, we can all help the environment. Check out [www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023](http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023) to view events in your area.

### Community Rays

Barron Electric Cooperative has launched several green initiatives, including Community Rays, which allows our members to access energy from renewable sources. Community Rays was developed for those members interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy. Over 80 members are receiving credits from the sun.

### Butterfly Garden

Barron Electric and Nuto Farms teamed up to create gardens to attract Monarch butterflies at three different locations in Barron Electric's service territory. These gardens also help maintain reliability in our Rights-of-Way and help our environment.

### Electric Vehicle Chargers

Barron Electric has installed electric vehicle charging stations in our service territory at the Prime Bar & Family Dining in Trego and at Barron Electric's offices in Spooner and Barron to give those



*Community Rays was installed in 2014 at Barron Electric's headquarters and provides an affordable option for those members interested in purchasing renewable solar energy.*



*Butterfly gardens were created to attract the Monarch butterfly, which is on the endangered list.*

.....continued on page 4



# Volunteering is a Way of Life

Gail Gifford wins the Megawatt Community Service Award



Congratulations to Gail Gifford for winning the Megawatt Community Service Award. Gail has been volunteering with the Red Barn Theatre for 25 years. She previously handled their publicity and has served on their board of directors for seven years. The Red Barn Theatre will kick off their season on May 31 with *"The Lilies of the Field,"* a play about a traveling handyman who helps out a group of nuns. Their 2023 season also includes *It Runs in the Family*, *Curtains*, *The Wild Women of Winedale*, and *Forbidden Broadway*. Visit [redbarntheatre-ricelake.com](http://redbarntheatre-ricelake.com) for more information. Gail is also a volunteer for Marshfield Medical Center in Rice Lake, where she has worked in the gift shop and has helped clients to their destinations within the facility.



## Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit

Barron Electric is led by members like you who understand and listen to the community. Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Application forms can be found at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) in the community area.

## Take a Vacation with Auto Pay

Save time and money when you sign up for Auto Pay at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com). Your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.



## \*Condensed Board Minutes

January 31, 2023



Richard Bol represents District 9 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the following townships: Chetek, Dallas, Sioux Creek, Dovre, Sampson, and Sand Creek.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #101269 thru #101422 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$664,661 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$22,908. Total receipts in the office - \$3,330,221; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$4,816,593; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$7,073,606; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$368,791 and the power bill was paid on 01/25/2023 in the amount of \$2,305,377.
- A membership list of 58 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of December in the amount of \$839,952.19 was presented for approval and included new services - \$33,428.45; change jobs - \$7,510.65; Other Work Order Projects - \$799,013.09 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

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

# New Electric Rates Will Be Reflected on the May 1 Electric Bill

Barron Electric's new rates will be reflected on the May 1 electric bill, which will include usage from March 18 - April 18. The new rates are shown in the table. The board of directors approved a 2.7% rate increase to help cover the rising costs to deliver safe, reliable power. Barron Electric works hard to keep rates stable and affordable. The cooperative's last rate increase was in 2018.

## How will this affect members?

The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see an increase of \$4.80 per month. Barron Electric will be evaluating future rates and rate options to help members save money.

Residential Rates	Previous Rates	New Rates to be Reflected May 1, 2023
Fixed Charge	\$34.50 per month	\$34.50 per month no change
Summer Energy Charge (June-September)	\$0.1057 per kWh	\$0.10970 per kWh
Other Energy (October-May)	\$0.09570 per kWh	\$0.09970 per kWh
Heat Storage Energy Charge	\$0.550 per kWh	\$0.550 per kWh no change
Dual Fuel Energy Charge	\$0.0740 per kWh	\$0.0740 per kWh no change
Off-Peak Meter Charge	\$5.75 per month	\$5.75 per month no change

# Barron Electric Compared to Municipals and Investor-owned Utilities (IOU) in Wisconsin

What sets electric cooperatives apart is that the cooperative business model keeps the focus on the member and the communities they serve. Electric cooperatives serve the rural areas, since the

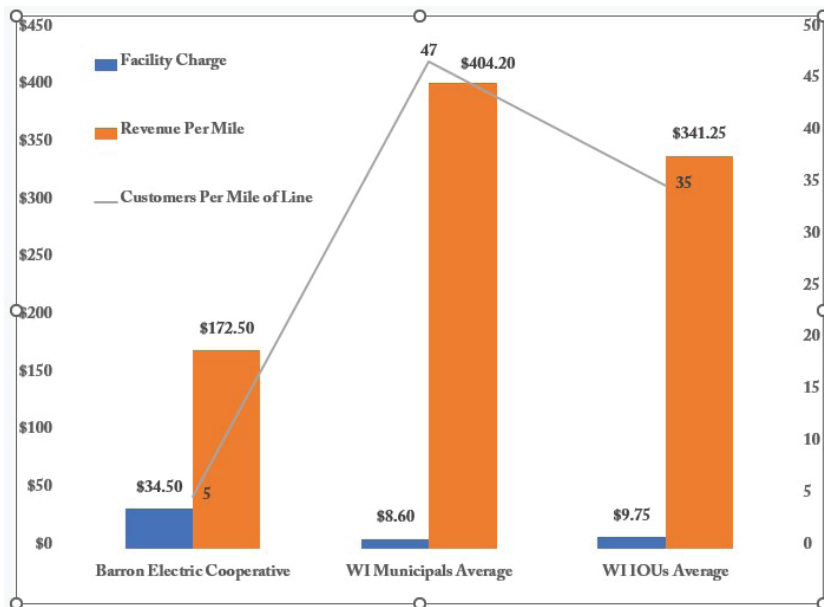
return on investment was not high enough to attract the investor-owned utilities (IOUs). When utilities started serving the more densely populated areas, rural citizens formed a cooperative to

supply their electric needs.

Barron Electric's staff and board of directors work on behalf of our members to keep rates affordable. Since Barron Electric Cooperative only serves the rural areas, the cooperative serves 5 members per mile of line, compared with 47 customers per mile by Wisconsin municipals and 35 customers by Wisconsin IOUs.

Barron Electric's facilities charge includes all fixed expenses such as Right-of-Way maintenance, metering, equipment, accounting, and taxes. As shown in the graph, municipals and IOUs collect a smaller facility charge, but receive more revenue.

Electric cooperatives are leading the way in developing new, cleaner coal plants along with alternatives to fossil fuels, which can also be more expensive.





# Happy Easter

Our office will be closed on Friday, April 7 in observance of Good Friday. Have a safe and healthy holiday weekend.

# Invest in Our Planet

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travelling with an electric vehicle a place to charge.

### What can you do to help the environment?

- Swap out your incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs to help reduce your energy bill.
- Maintain your HVAC system by replacing your home air filters which helps your system run more efficiently.
- Purchase a smart or programmable thermostat.
- Seal windows and doors to increase efficiency.
- Go paperless at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com). Log in or create a sign-in to SmartHub. You can also view your usage, pay your bill, and contact our office.

## Monthly Photo Contest Winner Receives a \$50 Credit

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

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must 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 April 10, 2023. 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 a variety of publications and on our website.

## News FOR YOU...

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