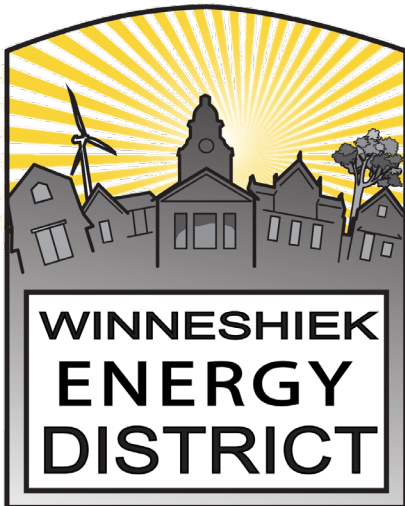


Round UP

FOR WINNESHIEK ENERGY DISTRICT BEGINS NOVEMBER 13



Oneota Co-op shoppers are invited to “Round Up at the Register” for Winneshiek Energy District (WED) Monday, Nov. 13 through Monday, Nov. 27. Shoppers may “round up” at purchase to the next dollar, or place an additional donation as desired.

The mission of Winneshiek Energy District, notes WED Energy Planner Paul Cutting, “is to lead, implement, and accelerate the locally-owned, inclusive, clean energy transition in Winneshiek County. Our key strategies together build an unstoppable flywheel of momentum, and include energy planning, market transformation, public engagement, policy advocacy, and readiness. As the founding “energy district,” our mission also includes the demonstration of the energy district model viability, and the growth of an energy district network throughout Iowa and beyond. <https://energydistrict.org/about/leading-the-energy-district-movement/>

We offered WED the opportunity to share details regarding recent events, developments and organizational efforts. Below is Winneshiek Energy District’s report courtesy of Paul Cutting, whom the Co-op thanks for his efforts:

“Winneshiek Energy District hosts an annual solar fair. This past year we expanded the solar fair to incorporate everything relating to electrification, including solar, heat pumps and EVs. We partnered with Winneshiek County Conservation and their Earth Day celebration. We invited contractors and hosted information sessions on solar basics, heat pump basics, financing and more. Approximately 600 people attended this event.”

Our summer public energy home tour event showcased local homes utilizing solar, wind, air source heat pumps, geothermal, EVs, passive house design principles, battery storage and more. Participants were conveniently able to come and go and do as many (or few) tours as their schedule(s) permitted. We plan to do this event again in 2024 with a fresh group of homes. The focus of this past summer’s tour was “easy, simple and cheap” - our goal was to showcase projects that may be accessible (affordable) to many homeowners.

Clean Energy Districts of Iowa: WED is one of about a dozen other energy districts scattered throughout Iowa and southwest Wisconsin.



Learn more about Good Shepherd Lutheran Church’s building electrification project here:

<https://energydistrict.org/2023/08/moving-the-needle-how-one-rural-congregation-electrified-its-building-and-secured-its-future/>

We're more effective as a collective group; together we work to advance state-level energy policy. We are determining the execution of two recently awarded, federally-funded grant programs. The first program helps rural farmers and businesses apply for Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants. These cost-share grants help pay for solar, renewable energy and energy efficient projects. We will help those eligible navigate the application process by providing steerage, technical and/or grant writing assistance. The second grant is designed to serve local governments and schools in eight eastern Iowa counties. We will help them evaluate and plan for solar and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings and local households. We're really excited for both grant projects and anticipate they may both begin late this year or during the first quarter of 2024.

Energy planning and technical assistance: This is my line of work. I engage with homeowners, farmers and small businesses by helping them implement renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. I'm really interested in building electrification, namely heat pumps for both space and water heating, and I work with homeowners who are looking to transition away from fossil fuels. There's significant work to be done in this area. The "built environment" consists of structures created, or modified, by humans for their use. The built environment represents a very large source of carbon emissions. Yet the tools to solve this exist today; it's simply a matter of doing the work to lay the groundwork for market transformation.

Winneshiek Energy District is committed to involvement in state-level energy policy via the Iowa Utilities Board. This past winter we were involved in the planning process large scale utilities must undergo when crafting their consumer-focused energy efficiency rebate programs. We advocated for programs that are equitable, aligned with federal climate goals, and ones that promote building electrification. We advocated for bills that assist consumers and promote environmental goals. Our advocacy work is ongoing; WED continually seeks ways to contribute toward policy that represents the majority of ratepayers. We remain committed to assisting local organizations and efforts with guidance and technical assistance where/when we are able.

Green Iowa Americorps: After 13 years as a Green Iowa Americorps site, we decided earlier this year to discontinue the program once our current team's service terms are completed. We do this with a heavy heart but remain open to potential opportunities of something we may create in its place. Over the last decade, WED has provided energy audits and weatherization work to roughly 1,200 households throughout northeast Iowa, most of which are low-income or elderly folks. We've had a huge impact in helping people make their utility bills more manageable, while also helping our environment. Look for more from us in the coming months via <https://energydistrict.org/> or via Facebook, YouTube @myEnergyDistrict or Instagram @winneshiekenergydistrict. Inquiries regarding WED services may be directed to paul@energydistrict.org.

Oneota Co-op round up campaigns are intrinsically tied to the Co-op's community service commitment as outlined in the Co-op Missions and Ends statement. Co-op shoppers are provided the opportunity to round up to the nearest dollar to support this organizational end, which reads as follows:

Oneota Community Co-op Organizational End number seven: *"Our members are diverse and engaged, working together and sharing time, energy, and resources to build a resilient and thriving local community."*



Winneshiek Energy District annually hosts events such as Solar Fair, local home tours and participation in Decorah's annual Earth Day celebration in partnership with Winneshiek County Conservation.