

The Duck Curve

By Brian Callnan

What is a Duck Curve and Why Are We Talking About It?

I'm not sure who first came up with the name "Duck Curve," but it seems to fit (if you give the artist a little leeway with the duck's back). The first graph shows energy needs throughout the day for California from 2012 to 2018. You can see that the amount of energy needed in the middle of the day is a lot lower than what is needed in the morning and in the evening.

Why is this happening? California was an early adopter of solar energy. The more solar panels installed, the less the state needed to find energy from other sources — just as planned. What was harder to forecast was how this would impact two things that utilities think about a lot: high energy prices and peak demands on the grid. Before we dive into that, let's take a

Peak energy demands have been getting pushed to the nighttime. March through June of 2026 all had peak energy use between 9 and 10 PM, well after the sun had set.

look at our own nest: Vermont. The Vermont graph looks similar to California's. It shows how our energy needs have changed over the last 10 years as investment in solar resources increased. Pretty soon we may

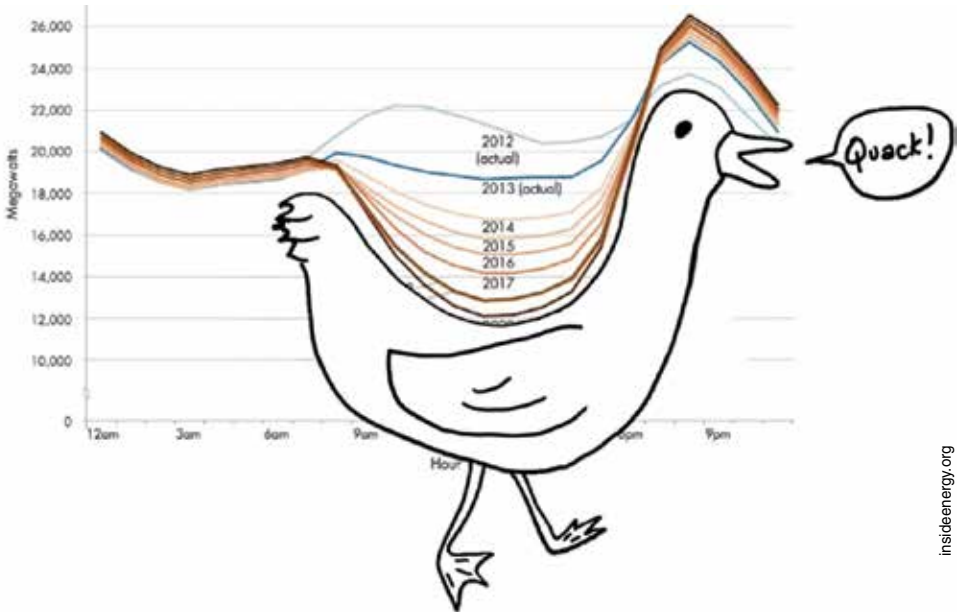
find that all of our energy needs in the daytime are met by solar energy — that Spring 2025 line is getting close to zero. When that happens, we will need to send energy to neighboring states because we can't use it.

So What Does This Do to Energy Prices?

The good news is, the abundance of solar power lowers prices regionally when solar is producing. The Spring 2025 line in the graph represents energy usage on April 8, 2025. A graph of energy prices had a similar shape that day. The highest energy costs were in the morning and early

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California Hourly Energy Need: "Duck Curve"



This classic illustration from Inside Energy shows California's duck curve. A duck curve demonstrates how investment in solar energy over time has shifted peak demand for electricity from daytime to after dark. Learn more in Director of Power Supply and Regulatory Affairs Brian Callnan's story on this page, and see Vermont's duck curve below.

COMMUNITY FUND PROFILE

Helping Dads See Their Value: Vermont Fatherhood

WEC Community Fund Supports Barre-Based Nonprofit that Strengthens Families

What I've learned in my years working with parents is, guys just don't realize how important they are to their kids," said Josh Miller, director and cofounder of Vermont Fatherhood in Barre. In both real life and fiction, the pain of growing up with an absent or unavailable father is a frequent theme in stories people tell. This summer's biggest movie blockbuster, *The*

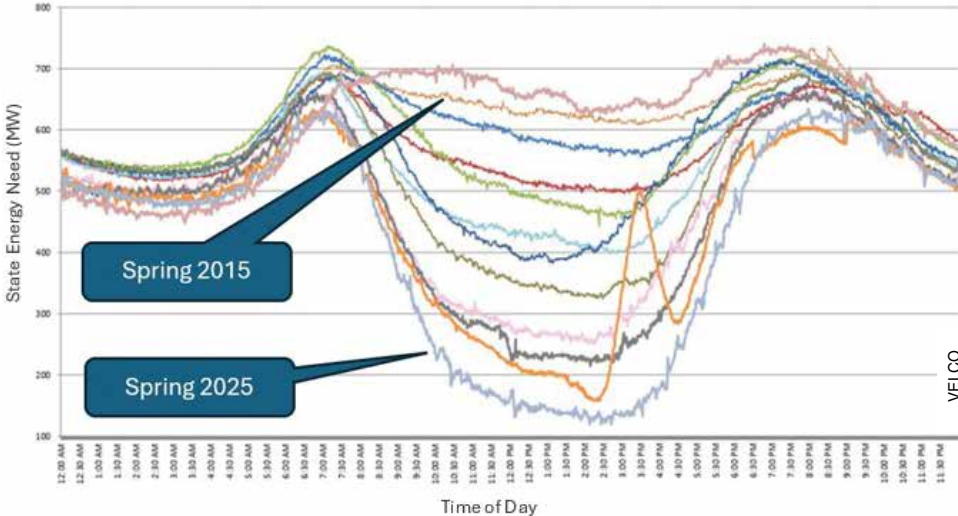
I knew what I'd done in the past was good for dads. This has been next-level. I'm trying to build a model in Barre that will be effective in other places.

— Josh Miller

Odyssey, is the 3,000-year-old tale of one of popular culture's original absentee fathers. And yet, many fathers need help seeing that they matter — and how positive it is for children to grow up with healthy fathers and father-figures in their lives. Vermont Fatherhood is just over a year old. A grant from Washington Electric Co-op's Community fund, which is funded through

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Vermont Daily Load in the Spring: "Duck Curve"



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President and General Manager's Message

Batteries and Meters; Wrightsville and Coventry: Co-op Infrastructure Updates

Co-op Plans Ahead for Electronic Voting In Time for 2027 Board Election

Plans for Batteries to Address Peak Costs

Louis: A lot of our strategic focus at Washington Electric now is to address not just how much power members need, but the time the power is used, and the time it's produced. Net metered solar power, which is such a large factor in Washington Electric territory, has basically masked increases in load for a long time. For several years we didn't see overall load growth, because power generated through net metered solar filled members' rising electricity needs. But now, peak times are no longer typically in the afternoon, when solar is producing. Peaks have moved later in the evening, sometimes early in

the morning. Most utilities have their highest peaks during summer; WEC has always been a winter peaking utility. However, more utilities in the region are seeing double peaks in the winter as well, because solar has removed that peak in the summer. The ability for solar to mask or reduce utility peaks has lessened, because peaks have shifted to when solar is not producing as much. Like other utilities, we're focusing a lot on different ways to manage how much power our members use during peaks, and also on producing power to use during peaks instead of purchasing power. One way to do that is by using batteries. Utility-scale batteries are

usually located at a substation. Home batteries can be used instead of a generator during an outage, and if members with home batteries agree to it, WEC can use that stored power during peaks as well. Other tactics include managing EV charging, which JJ [Vandette, Director of Special Projects and Innovation] has revamped to encourage EV drivers to charge outside of peak times. This saves the full membership money, and members have the incentive of a monthly bill credit for participating. That's the short version of what we're working on. WEC is learning from other utilities that are generously sharing what they've learned, especially Vermont Electric Co-op, to our members' benefit.

your system at certain times, batteries could help. This is what's happening at our Jackson Corners substation. A key part of rebuilding Jackson Corners and Mt. Knox substations includes the infrastructure itself; the wooden posts are simply old. But batteries could support future upgrades at other substations.

Steve: The possibility of pairing local batteries with local solar at any scale could resolve challenges posed by net metered rooftop solar. I've read that California installers now pair battery systems with most new solar net metering, allowing the rooftop solar owner to store and use most of the power they generate in their own home. That addresses the more complex issue of having to export the power they generate but don't use onto the grid, which creates technical problems like the one occurring at Jackson Corners, and also leads to inequitable cost-shifting to other member-ratepayers. In general, I feel that progress in the emerging uses of batteries will depend more on thoughtful regulation than on hardware. Batteries may continue to revolutionize the grid, and in particular facilitate the dependable and economic use of clean intermittent resources like wind and solar that will benefit everybody. I am happy WEC has set its foot on this path.

Advanced Meter Update

Steve: We have a vendor selected to install new meters, and we're benefiting from a total of \$4.75 million in grants. \$2.5 million comes from the federal Department of Energy.

Louis: The reason rollout has not yet started is the Trump administration's Build America Buy America requirement. If you use Department of Energy grant

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Co-op Currents

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the President through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact us, at 224-2332, or visit wec.coop/board.

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Louis: One interesting possibility is using battery storage to offset needed substation or other infrastructure updates, because they can absorb generation. So if you're concerned about solar generation overloading

Got Something to Say?

Letter to the editor, comment, or a story tip? Drop us a line at currents@wec.coop or Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651, Attn: *Co-op Currents*.



money, you have to use American-made devices. Nobody makes smart meters in America, or not entirely in America. So we need to get a waiver to that requirement to move forward with that project. We're in the same boat with many other co-ops throughout the country doing similar work with grant money, and we hope to resolve it with a waiver. We don't yet have a timeline for when that will happen.

Steve: Louis, can you elaborate? Are you talking about simple components within a meter, or the entire meter?

Louis: The rules are complicated. Basically, there's a share of the components that have to be made in the US, and no major US manufacturer makes a meter that meets the requirement. As far as the waiver goes, we've seen similar waivers approved, so that gives us hope. You can't sign the vendor contract until the waiver's approved. But here's the important part. The pause is due to a great reason, which is that the project is paid for by grant money and not members' bills. I don't mind some red tape if we're doing a project that costs close to \$6 million, and grant money is paying for almost \$5 million of it.

Wrightsville Hydro Sale Update

Louis: The Board has given its support for a sale of the Wrightsville hydro generation plant with conditions. The sale would involve us purchasing the power back from the new owner-operators under a long-term power contract. Basically, Washington Electric members would still be getting power produced from Wrightsville, while somebody else owns and operates the plant.

Steve: When the Board previously pursued selling the plant, some members raised the concern that, regardless of its current challenges,



The goal of our first foray is to achieve cost savings by peak shaving, but as batteries continue to get cheaper and different battery chemistries become commercially available, the economical uses for this technology abound, particularly in reducing the traditional need of fossil fuel generators for regional capacity and reserve.
– Stephen Knowlton

we were losing a source of renewable power. Wrightsville power is a very small fraction of WEC's total portfolio and has proven to be among the most expensive, but it is a valid point. If WEC is able to continue taking the power from Wrightsville, I expect it may alleviate any misgivings about WEC's future needs. If the new operational plan works as intended, the plant would be operated by more experienced hydro operators who could operate the plant more efficiently.

Louis: This has twofold benefits for us: first, it allows our staff to focus on other aspects of what Washington Electric does outside operation of the hydro plant, and second, it would be operated by somebody with a long history of operating hydroelectric dams and maximizing the power produced by them.

Wrightsville produces 3% of our power needs in a good year. Recently, it's been much less than that due to weather, equipment breakdowns, and changes in regulations. We'd like to get as much renewable power from that plant as we can for members, and someone else operating the plant is the best option.

Steve: Regarding the sale, the Board expects to review the final purchase and sale agreement to ensure our members' former asset could continue to be used for their needs going forward. The priority of this transaction is achieving the best net benefits for WEC members, not who owns the plant.

Louis: The Washington Electric employees who operate the plant have done a great job with the resources and time they have, but they each have several other jobs that are a priority. For instance, if there's a major outage, folks are focused on restoring power and not getting the dam back online right away, because restoring

members' power is a priority for us. If the plant was somebody's primary job it would be run more efficiently and effectively. We also operate the Coventry landfill gas-to-electricity plant, which is not 3% of our load, but closer to 70% of our load. That's run by contractors, but it's a generating facility we need to spend more time on.

Coventry Plant Equipment Update

Louis: At Coventry, we're replacing a chiller that cools and de-waters landfill gas as it comes into the plant. The one there is the original, and like any piece of equipment, it's been worn out from years of use. We have a replacement ready, but we're going to delay installation until at least September to lessen the chance that the plant is closed when power prices are at their summer peak.

Steve: Coventry's value to WEC's members is its reliability as well as the amount of power produced at the plant. Putting in a new chiller proactively, instead of waiting for the old one to break for good, is paramount to the plant operating continuously and efficiently.

Louis: This bears repeating, a larger and larger share of members' electric bills is peak costs: transmission costs and capacity charges that vary based on when power is used. Peak costs are different from the cost of making or buying electricity, or even our distribution system, because it's about timing. Coventry is immensely valuable to



I don't mind some red tape if we're doing a project [advanced meter infrastructure rollout] that costs close to \$6 million, and grant money is paying for almost \$5 million of it.
– Louis Porter

members because it's behind the meter. [What does "behind the meter" mean? See more below.] It has peak benefits as well as raw transmission and REC [renewable energy credits] benefits. Coventry shut down during peak can cost WEC tens of thousands; on the other hand, Coventry operating during peak benefits members by tens of thousands. Either way, keeping fingers crossed, the current chiller continues to work.

To give credit: Brian Callnan [Director of Power Supply and Regulatory Affairs], when he worked at VPPSA [Vermont Public Power Supply Authority], and Patty [Richards, former WEC General Manager] set us on the path to put Coventry behind the meter, and it's been a tremendous benefit to members.

Electronic Voting

Louis: The Board directed Washington Electric to make it so that by the 2027 Board election, members can vote electronically as well as by mail and in person at Annual Meeting. The goal is to make it as easy as possible for members to vote.

Steve: In this move to electronic voting, the Board envisions this procedure may evolve based on how members react to the change. For now, we're looking at a hybrid system that will allow for a transition period over the next few years to let people become familiar with electronic voting. This means retaining a background system for voting by mail and at in-person at the Annual Meeting. We typically have around 30 to 50 votes cast at the Annual Meeting, and as the last meeting showed, a lot of our Board positions are won by one, two, or three votes. I hope to get member feedback as we go along to see how the process works out for members who are more paper-oriented as well as the growing number who conduct business and communication through electronic means. After some discussion over the last couple of years, the Board as a whole thought it was time to start the process.

What Does "Behind the Meter" Mean?

WEC's member-owned Coventry land-fill-gas-to-electricity plant is "behind the meter," which means it is used privately and avoids the open market. Coventry generates around 70% of the power WEC members use. This significantly reduces peak costs, because even though peak costs are rising, WEC must only buy the peak power it needs that is not covered by Coventry and other behind the meter assets. It's a little like if you own and operate a greenhouse, your food budget is likely to be smaller than your food needs, because you can grow so much of your own food.

Don's Chronicles

Country wisdom from Don Douglas, Editorial Committee Chair

When my city friends come to visit, they find that the towels that we dry on the clothes line in the sun are not very soft. I put the line-dried towels in the clothes dryer (which we almost never use ourselves), set it on air-dry for just a few minutes, and the problem is solved. My city friends get soft, fluffy towels, and we get happy visitors.



Duck Curve

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evening, and the lowest energy costs were in the middle of the day, when solar was producing.

If you need to buy energy, this is great: it's a buyer's market. These days, WEC doesn't need to buy much energy during the middle of the day, because a lot of our members are producing energy with solar panels they own privately. Sometimes we have so much solar energy flowing onto our grid, we need to sell it to the regional market at low prices, creating a loss for WEC that needs to be absorbed in electric rates.

What About Peak Demands on the Grid?

This is a little more complicated. Three major things have changed since the first year in the graph "Vermont Daily Load in the Spring" (page 1).

First is that our transmission costs have gone up significantly. It takes infrastructure and capacity for regional generators to transmit electricity to distribution utilities' substations, including WEC's. Our transmission costs are based on how much energy we use when statewide energy use is at its highest, or peak, each month. If statewide energy use was a bird's nest, the less room we take up in the nest during peak periods, the lower our transmission costs.

We now rarely see monthly peaks when solar is generating. Peak energy demands have been getting pushed to the nighttime. March through June of 2026 all had peak energy use between 9 and 10 PM, well after the sun had set. New solar installations no longer help reduce our peak demands during most of the year.

A second major change has been to the operation of our substations. WEC's substations were originally built to import the amount of energy members needed. Now, with about

10% of our members owning solar, we export more and more energy out of our distribution system during the middle of the day.

All of our substations are now seeing "reverse flow" on their equipment. It's called "reverse flow" because the energy is going a different way than originally designed. Sometimes this "reverse flow" approaches the total capacity of the substation. When this happens, we need to limit new uncontrolled solar installations. This is happening at our Jackson Corners substation in Williamstown: the substation is being upgraded to handle all the energy being exported, and can't absorb energy from new solar installations until this is complete. We are committed to upgrading many of our substations, but it's not necessarily because WEC members need more energy; it's because we need to make sure we can export all the energy from the solar being installed.

Third, we have seen New England regional grid operators develop new tools to meet all regional power customers' changing energy needs. The steep demand for energy as the sun starts to set is new, and means that it's become important to have generators that are able to start quickly in reserve. In some cases, the amount of generation supplying energy to the grid needs to double in just a couple of hours. Demand also increases on cloudy days, so there has been an increased focus on improving forecasting. Better forecasting means units in reserve don't need to ramp online as quickly.

We've gone over how solar production lowers market prices mid-day. Sometimes regional energy prices actually go negative. When this happens, WEC gets paid to use energy, not produce it, and generators have to pay for excess energy they produce. If a generator can, they will stop producing energy as quickly as possible to minimize their losses.

Members Write

Larry Rogacki: On-Site Solar

I just finished reading the April-May issue and the importance to the Coop of moving demand from peak to off-peak times. This would be a good time to thank all the members who have on-site solar. Power from on-site systems flows to the user first, then excess is added to the grid, reducing daytime demand. During night time hours when system demand is low, users get less expensive power from the grid. It would seem to me that encouraging on-site solar is an effective way to help reduce power costs in the future.

Thank you,
Larry Rogacki, Barre Town

Overall, the region is adding new markets and processes to help manage the "Duck Curve" and other changes to energy demands.

How is WEC Responding to These Changes?

Your Co-op is not just sitting around preening its feathers while the energy landscape changes. We are actively working to minimize the costs to members from these changes, and increase the benefits.

- Stay tuned for WEC updates regarding utility-scale and home battery programs. Batteries are very flexible, giving WEC the ability to meet new energy demand needs quickly.
- We have modernized our PowerShift program to shift participating members' EV charging to daytime and late evening times to avoid high cost periods. More and more members are choosing electric vehicles, and PowerShift helps to incentivize this choice while minimizing the power costs to meet increased demand.
- We are installing advanced meters. This infrastructure will give us the ability to set time of use rates to help lower members' bills as well as reduce energy costs during the day and late in the evening. This will help lower overall costs for everyone.

- We continue to stay active on the regulatory front. Providing help to regulators when designing price signals (like net metering) ensures that we are encouraging energy to be used when costs are low and produced when costs are high.

It's a changing world out there and your Co-op is changing right along with it — a solution that really fits the bill. 

Brian Callnan is WEC's Director of Power Supply and Regulatory Affairs

For a Closer Look at Duck Curve Graphs:

- **California Duck Curve graph:** [InsideEnergy.org](https://insideenergy.org), illustrated by Jordan Wirfs-Brock. insideenergy.org/2014/10/02/ie-questions-why-is-california-trying-to-behead-the-duck/
- **Vermont Daily Load in the Spring graph:** VELCO, featured in the Department of Public Service's 2026 Annual Report. publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/2026_Annual_Energy_Report_1-15-2026.pdf

Efficiency Vermont Seeks WEC EV Owners for Pilot Program

Participants Will Receive up to \$17,000 In Charger Purchase and Installation

Efficiency Vermont is offering a pilot program to test bidirectional EV charging technology, covering up to \$17,000 for the purchase and installation of a charger (such as the dcbel Ara Home Energy Station). Bidirectional charging provides fast Level 2 charging, powers critical home loads during outages, and allows participants to send power back to the grid during peak demand.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Vehicle:** Must own (not lease) a V2X-compatible model (2018+ Nissan Leaf, 2025+ Polestar 3,

or 2025+ Volvo EX90).

- **Home Setup:** Must own the home and have internet service, a 200-amp panel with three available breakers, and installation must be within 50 feet of the panel. Homes with solar panels or battery backups are ineligible.
- **Utility and Participation:** Must be a residential customer of Washington Electric Co-op (or Vermont Electric Co-op), want backup power, and agree to keep your EV plugged in for up to 10

two-to-three-hour grid export events (with opt-out flexibility). Fill out the interest form to be considered. Submitting the form does

not commit you to the program; a team member will reach out within a week to review eligibility and next steps: EfficiencyVermont.com/charger 

Have Your Finances Taken a Hit?

Don't let your WEC bill go past due, or grow beyond what you can manage. **Help is available:** A Member Services Representative will help you put together a budget that works for you. Plus, there are state programs that may help pay down your bill.

Call us today, and we'll help you put together a plan: 802-223-5245 or toll free at 1-800-WEC-5245.



Fatherhood

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voluntary donations of capital credits from Co-op members, provided important early financial support, as well as a vote of community confidence. Last year, the Community Fund distributed grants to 70 small nonprofits working in WEC’s service area.

Miller, himself a father of four, lives in Berlin. He has worked for 20 years to strengthen families and fathers, including helping incarcerated fathers re-entering the community and convening fatherhood summits. Most recently, he was director of the Family Room in Burlington, a parent-child center with numerous programs supporting healthy families in a culturally rich and economically varied community. In May 2025, he hung the bright yellow Vermont Fatherhood sign above Wobby Jewelers on Main Street. “I knew what I’d done in the past was good for dads. This has been next-level,” he said. “I’m trying to build a model in Barre that will be effective in other places. So far, so good, one year in.”

Miller offers low-barrier, supportive programs: most require no registration, all are free. These include a drop-in dads group on Tuesday evenings with dinner and childcare; drop-in mornings every weekday for coffee and conversation; playgroups for dads with children under three; and courses for new dads. He offers a safe and fun place for fathers involved in Vermont’s justice system to have supervised visits with their children. Building community among fathers — with healthy norms within that community — is the key.

Fathers and father-figures come to Vermont Fatherhood for different reasons: some are required to as a condition of parole or restorative justice. Some are working to be a different kind of father than the one they did, or didn’t, grow up with. Some are seeking community, or a place where it feels ok to ask questions. Some are intrigued by the sign. Any dad or near-dad willing to participate is welcome, Miller said.

Critically, Miller has a system-wide view of fatherhood. He advises organizations and state agencies that families already engage with — from the Department of Children and Families



Vermont Fatherhood hosts a Dads Night in Barre.

to parent-child centers and other early childhood education programs — how to be more inclusive of fathers. “It’s a shift,” he explained. “Creating space where dads feel welcomed. Working with state agencies to support the dad. Not, ‘how can this dad prove he’s a good enough dad.’”

For now, Miller is Vermont Fatherhood’s only employee. He said he’s always had to add fatherhood programming to a portfolio of other programs and is happy to focus on working directly with fathers and building father outreach into systems. For example, Vermont offers home visiting services for families with young children that meet eligibility requirements. In Central Vermont, these are facilitated through Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice. Miller rides along on some visits, introduces himself to fathers, and recruits them to get involved with

Vermont Fatherhood. It’s all about meeting dads where they are: Miller said he’s even driven down Main Street and, spotting a dad pushing a stroller, he pulled a U-turn and jumped out to introduce himself.

If Vermont Fatherhood grows, it will take the right people, and it will take funding, Miller said. The nonprofit launched with a \$5,000 donation and a \$15,000 loan from Community Capital of Vermont, followed by a grant for \$60,000 from the Vermont Early Childhood Fund. Since then, Miller has worked to reach donors and foundations mainly in Washington County, and held a successful fundraiser at the Barre Social Club. For a new, effective, and ambitious nonprofit in its first year, support from Washington Electric Co-op’s Community Fund had a substantial impact.

The community is supportive of

fatherhood programming in Barre, Miller emphasized, and WEC’s commitment to funding nonprofits that serve Central Vermont is part of that. “There are a lot of people who want to support good stuff in this area,” Miller said. “The return on investment on this work is great. I’ve had guys come out of prison, and they’ve got jobs, they see their kids, they’re staying out of trouble, they’re staying sober. I have the nimbleness to meet guys at their house, on the basketball court, help them change their tires, shop with their kids.”

Building a healthier male culture requires building a community that believes dads really matter to their families, Miller continued. “Guys tell themselves a story, and it isn’t the truth. When you tell them the truth and hold them accountable, lives change.”



Last year, Vermont Fatherhood opened its doors on Barre’s Main Street. A ribbon cutting marked the arrival of the new nonprofit that helps strengthen local families.

**Access Services,
Learn More, or Support
Vermont Fatherhood:**
Visit office: 124 North Main Street,
Suite 3, Barre, 05641
Visit website: VermontFatherhood.org
Email: josh@vermontfatherhood.org
Phone: (802) 380-4752

**Learn More and Support
WEC Community Fund:**
Visit website: wec.coop/Community-Fund
Call WEC office: 802-223-5245



WEC Seeks Former Members from 2001 for Capital Credit Refunds

WEC Retires \$265,760 in 2026, Returning A Total of Over \$10.6 Million To Members

Cooperatives Give Back Excess Revenue to Members

The main distinction between for-profit businesses and not-for-profit cooperative businesses is whether the point is to make a profit for investors.

Both for-profits and not-for-profits try to bring in more revenue than they need to operate. For a for-profit utility, excess revenue is profit. For-profit utilities require investors to put up the money to build infrastructure. Vermont regulates the profits they are allowed to make through their electric rates.

When for-profit utility customers pay electric bills, they don't get back any money that is more than the company needs to operate. That profit goes to investors.

Cooperatives are created and owned by a community to provide services required by that community.

When a cooperative takes in more revenue than it requires, its member-owners eventually get that money back. Rural electric cooperatives like WEC can access low-interest loans from the Rural Utilities Service to maintain and expand infrastructure. The reason cooperative utilities collect excess revenue is that they are required to show lenders that they can pay the interest on their loans. It's like if you're a homeowner with a mortgage, and you want a home improvement loan, you need to show you can pay back both the loan and interest over time.

When WEC members pay electric

bills, any money they pay that is more than the Co-op needs is given back over time. That excess revenue is not profit, so it's returned to the community members who own the utility. It doesn't leave the state to enrich investors.

Over the years, the total amount WEC has returned to members is \$10,612,760. At a for-profit utility, all that money would go to investors — not ratepayers.

How Capital Credits Work

Members of cooperative utilities get excess revenue back over time in the form of capital credit refunds. For every year the Co-op collects excess revenue, it allocates a pool for that year's funds.

Every year the Board decides how much the Co-op can afford to return, and from which year or years. Generally, the Co-op closes the books on its oldest allocation pools (a first-in, first-out model). It can take many years for excess revenue to be returned, because the Co-op needs to maintain a significant cash buffer to meet lender requirements. However, year by year, WEC returns all the excess revenue collected from a member back to that member.

In 2026, the Co-op will return all excess revenue collected in 2001. Members who were on WEC lines in 2001 will receive a bill credit in November.

The Co-op also contacts former members who are no longer on WEC lines to send them a check for

Capital Credits are Nice to Have, but Hard to Understand. Here Are Some Terms:

Excess revenue: The amount of money collected by a business over a given time period that is more than the business needs to operate reliably and responsibly.

Profit: Excess revenue that enriches a for-profit business's investors.

Margin: Not-for-profit term for excess revenue in a given time period.

Capital credits: Cooperative term for excess revenue that is allocated and returned to members over time. A member's capital credits for a given year depend on how much excess revenue they paid into the Co-op that year.

their share. This requires sending an authorization form to each former member's last known address.

Seeking Former WEC Members from 2001

Listed below are the names of former members or accounts from 2001 whose authorization forms were returned as undeliverable. Now for the details: Refunds to some individuals may be reduced by any uncollected or delinquent amounts owed to the Co-op. To be eligible, former members must have a minimum \$50 capital credit distribution and submit an authorization form to the Co-op. For this reason, it's important to keep WEC informed of your current address even after you're no longer a member. The Co-op has recently begun offering conditional early retirements to the estates of deceased members or their heirs. Contact Dawn Johnson for more information at 802-224-2332.

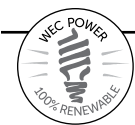
If you know anyone on this list or their rightful heirs, please have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly at 802-223-5245 or 1-800-WEC-5245.

WEC's Community Fund

Approximately 14% of WEC members currently choose to donate their refunds to WEC's Community Fund. Any current or former member may direct their capital credit refund to the Community Fund as a one-time or ongoing gift. The Community Fund supports small not-for-profits serving Central Vermont communities. The people served by these organizations are often WEC members. The full recipient list is published on page 7. A report on 2026 Community Fund activities will be published in *Co-op Currents* in 2027.



Glenn Ailes	Cheryl Couillard	Lisa Hodgson	Meg Melluzzo	Randolph P Smoren
Barbara Ailes	David R Coutu	Shane Holbrook	Mark C Milazzo	Ramona Spivey
Rhonda Atkinson	Benjamin Day	Peggy Holbrook	Alicia Milo	Richard A Stokes
Laurie Austin	Donna Deflorio	Andy Holmes	Krista Moore	Tracy Straub
Charron Barney	Brian B Deforge	Theresa Holmes	Jeffrey J Moreno	Matthew A Sylvester
Michael Bashaw	Graham Dewyea	Ronald S Holmquist	Julie Morin	John H Taylor Jr
Paul Beede Jr	Harold Drury	Leslie Howard	Linda D Pastelnick	T D Banknorth
Christoper Bianchi	Harold Duff/Exec	Phyllis S Howe Estate	Julia Paulin	Jeffrey Tobin
Brenda Bianchi	Sandra J Dufresne	Thomas Keene Sr	Walter O Peatman III	Julie Tower
Mary Bissonward	Shirley Eastman	Iona Kemp	Kimberly Pelkey	Michael Tragakiss
Clifton Bissonward	Jeff Evans	William Kernan	Jeffrey L Perry Sr	M Lindsay Wade
Pamela Boyce	Lily Fair	Dawn C Koloski	Jesse Perry	Kevin Wedge
Wilda Bresett	Cathy Fleury	Marina Kozlov	Lori Pickett	Rhonda Welch
Thomas Brophy	Joanna Fowler	Orvil Lasell	Hugh Pierce	West Topsham Country Store
Mildred Bulow	Narcis J Gosselin	Margery F Lashua Estate	Christopher Pierson	Jacqueline E Willey
Curtis Burr	William Graham	Gertrude E Leclair	Judith Prive	Anthony Willey
Joseph Carrigan	Peter R Gray	Harry Lilley	Larry Quinn	Maryann S Williams
Brian Chaffee	Lisa Greene	Roch Lockyer	Alan Rattee	Elizabeth Williams
Mary Etta Chase	Marcella Griffith	Elyse H Long	Tyler Sabin	Lisa Woodard
Alberta Cochran	James P Griffith	Tonya Lunge	Cheryl Sabin	Michael Woodard
Michael Colgan	Liesi Hebert	Richard Manning	Haviland Smith	Nat Woodward
Anne Colgan	Kathryn W Henry	Linda J Marsh	Kimberley Smith	Linda Workman
Agnes C Collins	Stephen Hill	Jennifer McCann	Michael L Smith	
Sandra L Combs	Mary Hill	Michael McCann	David M Smith	
Amy Comolli	David Hodgson	Elizabeth K McTigue		



WEC Community Fund: 2025 Recipients

Adult & Teen Challenge	East Montpelier Trails	Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging	Twinfield Together Mentoring
American Red Cross	Elevate Youth Services	Northfield Senior Center	U32 Model United Nations
Aware, Inc	Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium	NRECA International	Upper Valley Haven
Barre Community Justice Center	Family Center of Washington County	Number Nine Schoolhouse	Vermont Center for Independent Living
Bradford Public Library	First Branch Ambulance	Orange County Parent Child Center	Vermont Council on Rural Development
Brookfield Community Partnership	Friends of the Mad River	Peacham Library	Vermont Farm & Forest School
Cabot Mentoring	Friends of Topsham	People's Health & Wellness Clinic	Vermont Fatherhood
Calais Historical Society	Good Beginnings	Plainfield Historical Society	Vermont Foodbank
Capstone	Green Mountain Council Boy Scouts of America	Prevent Child Abuse	Vermont Granite Museum
Center Agricultural Economy	Hardwick Food Pantry	Recovery Partners of Vermont	Vermont Historical Society
Central Vermont Basic Adult Education (CVAE)	Jaquith Public Library	Re-Treasured Community Closet	Vershare
Central Vermont Council on Aging	Maple Roots Music Festival — Catamount Arts	Roxbury Free Library	Washington County Mental Health
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	Montpelier Alive	Rural Vermont	WGDR
Central Vermont Career Center	MOSAIC	Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	Window Dressers
Central Vermont Humane Society	MRPS PIE Fall Festival	The Veterans Place	Worcester Historical Society Arts Festival
Cutler Memorial Library	Neighbors in Action	Tunbridge Public Library	
Danville Vermont Chamber of Commerce	North Branch Nature Center	TW Wood Gallery	
		Twin Valley Senior Center	

Where's WEC?

Right-of-way maintenance, field work, and pole inspections are necessary to keep your power safe and reliable. Washington Electric Co-op or its designee is working on trimming the right-of-way around power lines in these areas:

- North Fayston Road in Moretown
- West Shore Road in Cabot
- US-302 in Topsham
- VT-12 in Northfield
- Crossett Hill Road in Duxbury
- Hampshire Hill Road in Worcester
- Willey Hill Road in Topsham

Hazard tree removal and trimming work has been completed on:

- Kimball Hill Road and Crossroad in Topsham
- Geer Orchard Lane in Corinth
- Chatot Road and Barre Ave in Cabot

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Davis at 802-224-2339.

Visit wec.coop/right-of-way for the most recent notices.



2026 Rebates for Your Home

Efficiency Vermont

If you're planning on **improving the efficiency of your home** this year, take a look at Efficiency Vermont's offers, including:



Air Sealing and Insulation

- Up to \$9,500 off weatherization projects with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor (depending on household income)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on a qualifying do-it-yourself project



Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-to-water heat pumps: up to \$6,500 rebate + \$500 income bonus
- Ducted / ductless heat pumps: \$375-\$2,200 discount + \$200 income bonus
- Ground source heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton rebate + \$500 income bonus
- Integrated controls for ductless heat pumps: \$600 rebate
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$400 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$150 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and pellet stoves: \$400 discount at select retailers



Electric Vehicles

- \$500-\$3,200 electric utility incentives



ENERGY STAR® Appliances

- \$25-\$90 rebate for dehumidifiers
- \$200-\$400 rebate on heat pump clothes dryers
- \$400 rebate for heat pump dryer/washer combination units



Lighting and Electrical

- \$500-\$3,200 utility incentives
- \$100 rebate for qualifying LED fixtures for indoor growing



Income-based Assistance

- Free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, weatherization, and more — visit efficiencyvermont.com/free-products to see if you are eligible

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility.



Not sure where to start?

Sign up for a **FREE** Virtual Home Energy Visit!
Call **888-921-5990** to learn more
(Translation services are available)

All rebates are subject to availability and eligibility.
For the most up-to-date information, visit:
www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates



Safety Minute: A Perfect Accident Response

By David Young

Last issue, I shared how to stay safe if you ever find yourself in a car-utility pole accident (Do the Bunny Hop, June-July 2026). While I was preparing that piece, an incident happened that could have been extremely dangerous — but wasn't. My sincere congratulations and appreciation to the Calais highway department for doing everything exactly right in an emergency situation, and for permission to tell the story.

During mud season this spring, the Calais crew was using the town dump truck to spread crushed stone on Moscow Woods Road. In the process, the body of the truck caught the phone line. As the truck moved and pulled the phone line, the resistance broke a utility pole, and the wires came down over the top of the truck. Road foreman John Stafford was driving the truck. He didn't realize the wires were there, but he felt the truck slow down, and he realized what had happened.

John didn't have cell coverage, so he radioed road crew member Drew Lasick to go to an area with cell coverage and call 911. While Drew did just that, assistant foreman Tyler Stecker, who was operating the grader, heard the communication over the radio. He had cell coverage, so he called Washington Electric Co-op.

Two parties taking the initiative to call both 911 and the electric co-op right away meant we got to the scene very quickly.

When I arrived, Drew and fellow road crew member Ogden Hersey had already blocked off Moscow Woods Road on one end. The East Montpelier fire department responded to the 911 call, and blocked off the other



David Young, Safety and Environmental Compliance Specialist

access point. John had the wherewithal to stay calmly in the truck and wait. The fire department set a perimeter about 500 feet from the dump truck. Four lineworkers from WEC shut off the power, made sure the fuse was down, and then told John, the driver, that it was safe to get out of the truck. Our crew moved the wires and released the truck. After the truck was released, with no harm to either

truck or driver, the road crew could move the truck away. Our line crew then reset the pole and restored power.

Here's What Worked:

- John stayed in the truck and called for help.
- Fellow road crew members took the initiative to call WEC as well as 911.
- The crew kept the public well over 50 feet away until help arrived.

I've been working in utility safety for more than 14 years. I've been to dozens of situations like this, and this was the best-case scenario. John is a 20-year highway department veteran, and he and each one of his colleagues knew exactly what they needed to do. I'm still astounded by how well this went. Accidents happen to everyone. The real test is being prepared, being responsible, and doing the right thing when it counts. Congratulations to the Calais highway department on passing this test with flying colors. 🦃

Members can recommend Safety Minute topics and request safety presentations from David Young for their school, organization, or community group. Contact him at 802-224-2340 or david.young@wec.coop.



A Calais truck caught in an emergency situation. The town crews followed safety protocol exactly right.

Puzzle

Duck Curve

R E G U L A T I O N S P L A N S Q G Q M
S R B Z T I C M I L N I N X W Q M F G M
I Y E U B A T G S B P S G K M C S N R S
E D A V D G D R E N U O E B T O O J I W
P N H L E E R P A N F L W V R G H I D U
W R E L S R M X E N E A A E J R S V R W
X X J R X N S A C A S R D M R R M M Q W
O Z M G G N E E N G K M A V E S J P T O
D W L R Q Y V G F D C K I T L Q H Z I M
T C F A A S U P P L Y N A S I U R I H A
T K V P Q M O H O Q O N H J S O P G F C
E H U H E I R X S V A W V S N I N I I T
B C N F G W H B M B K N K V N Y O U Y A
P S U B S T A T I O N K V T Y M W N I S
R V S V J D Z Z H C N Z P P M A R K E T
I W E L T Y X U N C U G G E E B N V V L
C E T S R M Z Q K Z W H J Y D X W E C N
I U Q X D Z H X D E Y F F U O X N A S H
N F F D T J Y S E J P U P N F A K X J J
G K C B G H A W F S M O U G L M L C T D

transmission	regulations	reverse flow
generation	substation	powershift
pricing	demand	energy
market	supply	solar
graph	peak	grid

Emergency Resources

Financial and energy coaching

Contact your local Community Action Agency: Capstone at capstonevt.org or Northeast Kingdom Community Action at nekcavt.org.

Fuel

Running out of fuel? No matter where in Vermont you live, if you are in danger of running out of fuel this winter, call the toll-free Emergency Fuel Assistance number: 1-800-479-6151

Mental health: call 988

If you are in distress or crisis, call 988. If you prefer to text, text VT to 741741 to reach a crisis counselor

quickly. For peer support, call/text 833-888-2557. More resources are at mentalhealth.vermont.gov

Food

Vermont Foodbank:
800-585-2265.

Capstone Community Action:
capstonevt.org

Northeast Kingdom Community Action: nekcavt.org

3SquaresVT: 855-855-6181,
vermontfoodhelp.com

211

Call 211 to find any emergency resource you need: food, mental health, fuel, shelter, and anything else.

