

East Central Energy has a long history of “doing good business.” We make decisions that result in safety and reliability, and strive to be excellent stewards of our members’ money. By adhering to the 7 Cooperative Principles, our cooperative holds itself to a high standard and serves our communities with integrity.

An evolving business landscape and the changing expectations of our members has led us to share our voluntary Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report, because just “doing good business” is no longer enough. We have an obligation to be transparent in communicating the way ESG issues affect ECE’s ability to create long-term value. Rather than proving our worth to investors, this ESG report underscores ECE’s responsibility as a member-owned cooperative

to build a more resilient future for our members and the communities they live in.

We will continue to focus on safety and reliability, always understanding that our members are depending on us to deliver electricity in an efficient way. At the same time, moving forward with new initiatives—while maintaining a deep connection to our values—will position ECE for success in a world that calls on organizations to be good citizens. We hope our members are proud of their cooperative and we appreciate the opportunity to serve every home, farm, and business in our area.

Justin Jahnz
President/CEO

ENVIRONMENTAL

RENEWABLE ENERGY



- 2 utility-scale solar arrays totaling 2.35MW generation capacity
- 316 member-owned installations generate enough energy to power 230 homes each month
- Power supply from Great River Energy transitioning to 50% renewable sources by 2025

POLLINATOR INITIATIVES



- First utility to enter into the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement in 2020
- Applied conservation measures to over 4,000 acres of right-of-way
- Reported an average of 500 stems of milkweed per acre of right-of-way
- Converted 5 ECE-owned acres to native pollinator habitat

BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION



- Provided \$750 rebates for installing level 2 EV chargers on load management programs
- Partnered with over 30 other electric cooperatives to create a national EV charging network
- Offered \$1,250 rebates to install efficient air source heat pumps with a reduced kWh rate

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

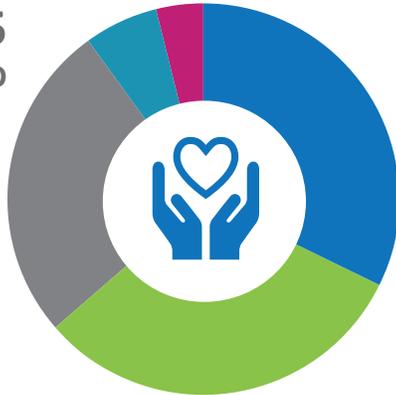


- Offered 400 trees through Arbor Day Foundation’s Energy-Saving Trees program
- Recognized as a Tree Line USA Utility by the Arbor Day Foundation
- Identified over 1,900 hazard trees to be removed for safety and reliability

SOCIAL

At ECE we're committed to community and employee development, and to establishing safety as a way of life. We hold regular safety meetings internally and continue to offer electrical safety education to the community at no charge. Additionally, the Community Engagement Committee was created in 2021 to improve member and employee engagement. ECE wanted to start going to members instead of asking them to come to us.

\$337,475
DONATED



- **\$109,200** Distributed to 26 fire departments
- **\$106,365** Operation Round Up® grants funded
- **\$89,000** Scholarships awarded
- **\$20,000** Teacher Totes school supplies
- **\$12,910** Community Partnership Committee



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

950 FAMILIES REACHED during 4 food distributions

SPONSORED a drive-in movie event in Pine City

VOLUNTEERED at Braham Pie Day and Cambridge Appreciation Day

18 HOURS of ringing bells for Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign

GOVERNANCE

ECE's board is committed to the financial integrity, strategic oversight, member representation, and the operational excellence of the cooperative. The expertise of our dedicated board members provides our members with high-quality electric service at a sustainably affordable price.

- A three-year strategic plan that focuses on our team, products and relationships was approved
- The board of directors completed over 270 hours of industry-related education in 2021
- Mindful board governance led to a clean audit
- The forward-thinking mindset of our board, combined with a robust construction work plan, has resulted in increased system reliability
- The board approved a payout of \$6.4 million in capital credits



ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.