



# Rock Energy Student Member Earns Scholarship in WECA Essay Contest



**E**mma Steinke, a Rock Energy Cooperative student member, placed second in Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's (WECA) 2022 essay contest, which was open to students who attended the 2022 Youth Leadership Congress. For the basis of the essay, students were asked to describe the Second Cooperative Principle and what it means to them and their community. For her second place finish, Emma was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Taking first place in the competition was Megan Wagner of Oconto Electric Cooperative (\$1,000 scholarship), and third place went to Cicely Kiecker of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (\$250 scholarship).

More than 60 electric cooperative teens attended the three-day Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW-Stout July 12–14. This was the first in-person event since 2019, and the



Emma Steinke

first time YLC has been held at UW-Stout. At the event, YLC members participated in activities aimed at building leadership skills, including a session with special guests.

Emma is also on the 2023 YLC Student Board as an alternate member.

"I think this experience (attending the 2022 YLC event) will open a lot of doors for me, and it will help me in my future," Emma said. "The experience provided me with opportunities to show and grow my leadership skills. I participated in many extracurricular activities, and I learned a lot about how to be a confident role model. The conference also showed me a wide variety of job opportunities that co-ops provide and widened my eyes to the types of college majors that are available."

Scan the QR code below to read Emma's essay:



Pictured above, Emma Steinke delivers her YLC Youth Board Candidate speech at the 2022 YLC summer event. (Photo by WECA)



# Electric Meter Tampering

## *What is it & why NOT to do it*

### Q&A with Rock Energy Operations Manager Chris Tullar

#### **Q:** What is meter or electricity tampering?

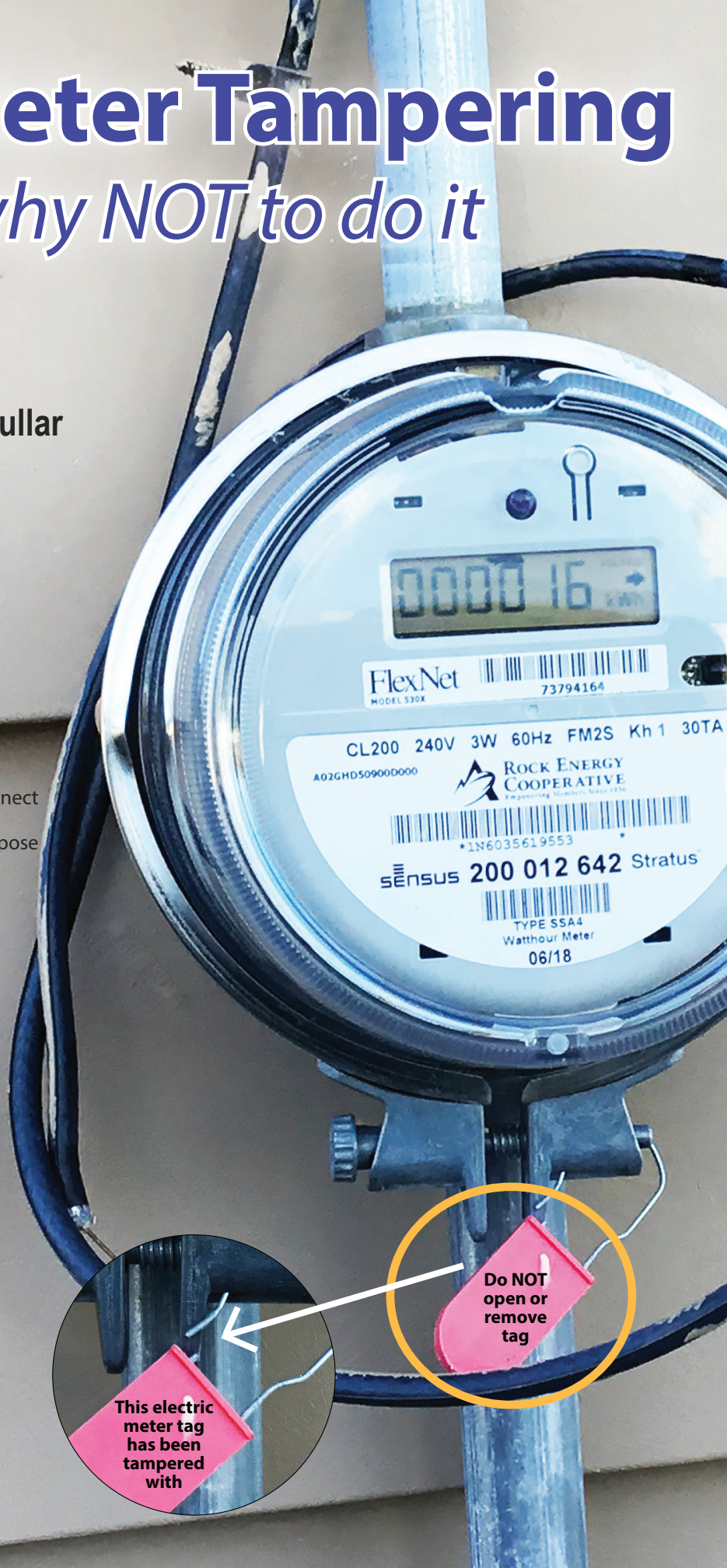
**A:** Tampering can be any of the following:

- Adjusting anything on the meter
- Obstructing the meter
- Damaging the meter pedestal
- Repositioning the meter
- Breaking the meter seal
- Cutting a meter lock
- Cutting a REC lock and turning on a solar disconnect switch without REC approval.
- Removing the meter from its mount for any purpose
- Bypassing a meter through any means
- Also see the list on the following page

#### **Q:** What are some consequences of tampering?

**A:** First of all, you, co-op employees, or others could be seriously or even fatally injured if you tamper with an electric meter. It's very dangerous. If there is tampering of a meter, Rock Energy reserves the right to:

- **Disconnect the member**
- **Issue tampering fees**
- **Contact law enforcement to investigate the incident (theft charges may occur)**







**Q: What happens after Rock Energy receives a report of tampering?**

**A:** When Rock Energy receives a report of possible tampering, we will investigate. In certain cases, we will call the authorities to make a report or potentially press charges.

**Q: What if a member is having SOLAR or other equipment installed?**

**A:** Should a solar vendor, installing contractor, or electrician need to disconnect the electrical service at any point, the installer must contact Rock Energy to schedule a time for Rock Energy crews to perform the disconnect.

**Q: Can a qualified electrician alter a meter without contacting Rock Energy first?**

**A:** No, cutting the meter seal or making alterations to the meter base or other equipment by anyone other than Rock Energy crews isn't allowed. The co-op reserves the right to issue tampering fees, disconnect a member, or report the incident to law enforcement if tampering has occurred.

**Other actions that are considered tampering include:**

- Member owned equipment cannot be installed in any cabinets or meter socket areas that are sealed by Rock Energy.
- Splices are not allowed in meter sockets, pedestals, or cabinets.
- Metering equipment cannot be used as a raceway unless designed with such provisions.
- It is not permitted to modify or install lugs in a meter socket, pedestal, or metering transformer cabinet other than what is listed on the manufacturer's drawing associated with the UL listing.

**If you suspect meter tampering, contact Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 to report it.**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### ANNUAL MEETING Monday, April 24

#### 87th Annual Meeting to be Held in April

Please join us on Monday, April 24, 2023, for the 87th Annual Meeting of Rock Energy Cooperative. The 2023 meeting is returning to spring, after the previous three annual meetings were held in the fall due to COVID-related issues.

The 2023 event will take place at the Eclipse Center in Beloit. On the day of the event, registration will open at 4:30 p.m. Members are welcome to participate in the business meeting, which will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Further details about the 2023 meeting will be released in upcoming issues of the co-op magazine, in our newsletter, and through email correspondence.

*We look forward to seeing you on April 24.*

## Visit Rock.coop Before Installing SOLAR!

If you're thinking about installing a solar generation system on your property, make sure to learn all the facts before signing a contract.

Either go to [www.rock.coop/distributed-generation](http://www.rock.coop/distributed-generation) or scan the QR code below to get started as you begin gathering information. Click on the SOLAR/WIND HOME OR BUSINESS link and from there you will find our Solar 101 video, which gives you an overview of solar power generation.

Also, if you click on the DEVELOPERS & CONTRACTORS link, you and your potential vendor will find detailed information including REC's technical requirements, a step-by-step procedural checklist, and rate information.

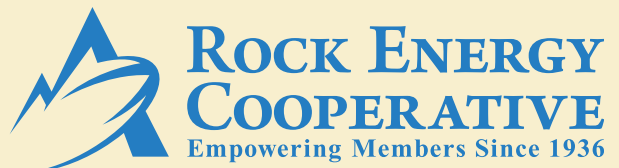
Should you have any questions after reviewing this information, you can email us at [DG@rock.coop](mailto:DG@rock.coop).



#### Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547  
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080  
866-752-4550

#### Jonas Berberich, Editor



**NEW Rock Energy Video**

# Natural Gas Safety At Home

Now Available at:

**[www.rock.coop/info-videos](http://www.rock.coop/info-videos)**



Check out  
Rock Energy's  
"Natural Gas  
Safety at Home"  
video and know  
what to do if you  
detect a natural gas  
leak at home.



*Other Rock Energy  
videos available  
to watch:*

- Solar 101
- Electric Vehicles
- Energy Vampires
- And More

