

# Light Notes

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative

OCTOBER 2025

*"A Simple Tree at Dawn", courtesy of Craig Grau of Livingston, Wis.*



## BEWARE OF ENERGY VAMPIRES THIS HALLOWEEN

They are lurking around your house in unexpected places: the television, the computer and the microwave. Many electronic devices that are plugged in continuously use energy even when you are not using them. These energy vampires are using up energy and sucking money from your wallet.

These energy vampires include televisions, computers, DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cell phone chargers, printers, and game consoles. Depending how many appliances are used, costs can quickly add up to \$100-\$200 a year.

Here are a few money-saving tips from Safe Electricity to help put a stop to energy vampires in your home:

- Unplug all electronics that are not in use. Or plug electronics into a power strip and turn the power strip off when items are not in use.
- Avoid electronics with extra features that you do not need as these might use more energy.
- Make sure to check the label of a product before purchasing. Most Energy Star endorsed products draw smaller than average amounts of electricity when turned off.

### Power down with a power strip

A power strip can be used to plug in multiple electronic devices, and the power can be cut off from these devices with a simple flip of a switch.

Power strips can be efficiently put to use in a spare room where electronics are not used very often or in an area where there are a large concentration of electronics like in an office.

Similar to power strips, smart strips offer energy efficiency to your home, but are set apart from power strips because of the ways they conserve energy.

According to EnergyStar.gov, there are three main types of smart power strips:

- Timer-equipped power strips are controlled by programmable timers, so all electronics plugged into the strip can be shut off at a designated time.
- Occupancy sensing power strips detect active use of a device and shut down after a specific period of time if unused.
- Current sensing power strips have the ability to cut or add power to a device as it senses when a device is powered off or on.

Learn how to stop energy vampires at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## Energy Vampires



can add up to **10%** to electric bills.

Safe  
Electricity.org

research collected from Energy.gov

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

### Katie Thor

Operations Assistant

**Years of Service** - 4 yrs

**Family** - Corey (Husband);  
Kaylee & Colton (Children);  
Duke (Fur Child)



**Hobbies** - Adventures with kiddos, farming with my family, playing sand volleyball, and drinking a coffee in peace.



## RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE NOTES



Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming the Steuben Substation, east circuit in Crawford County during the month of October.

Zielie's Tree Service and Scenic Rivers Energy employees will continue spraying the Steuben Substation in Crawford County in October.

Badgerland Utility Solutions will continue painting underground cabinets as weather allows.

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors may be working throughout the area, and at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-way.

If you have questions, please contact us at 800-236-2141.



## CO-OP MONTH GIVEAWAYS

As a thank-you to our members, we're giving away bill credits all month long in celebration of Co-op Month!

### Three Chances to Win

- ★ All members will have a chance to win a \$20 bill credit.
- ★ Those enrolled in paperless billing by Oct. 20 will have a chance to win a \$25 bill credit. Log in to SmartHub to enroll today.
- ★ Members enrolled in auto pay by Oct. 20 will have a chance to win a \$25 bill credit. Fill out and return the form on the back of your bill or enroll through SmartHub.

Winners will be announced on our Facebook page (facebook.com/srecoop). More details can be found in the October WEC News magazine.



### Safety Tip

Never bring your electronics to bed with you. Charging your phone or laptop while it's on or under a pillow or blanket—where airflow is blocked—can cause it to overheat and catch fire. Charge it on a hard, flat surface instead.



Safe  
Electricity.org

## Light Notes

Light Notes is a monthly newsletter for members of SREC. Please contact us with questions or comments at 206 County Road K, Lancaster, WI 53813, via email at [srec@srec.net](mailto:srec@srec.net), via phone at (608) 723-2121 or (800) 236-2141.



[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

Steve Lucas, ..... CEO



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