

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Five Ways to Stay Cozy this Winter

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.



*Electric blankets deliver quick warmth and include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings.
Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA*

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to **keep your feet warm**. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.



Adding humidity inside your home can make the air feel a little warmer. Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA

3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and **harness natural warmth from sunlight**. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to **use a humidifier**. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter *without* turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate! ■

Final Call - Director Candidate Paperwork Due January 10, 2021.

If you reside in Districts, 3, 4, or 8 and you are interested in running for a seat on the SREC Board of Directors, you must act quickly. The deadline for turning in the necessary paperwork is Sunday, January 10.

Our 2021 Annual Meeting and election will be held on Saturday, April 10 and is tentatively scheduled to be held in person at the Grant County Youth

& Ag Building in Lancaster. Petition forms are available on our web-site or by calling our offices.

For additional information about the petition process or qualifications for directors, please refer to the Bylaws, the sample petition form, and the director district map which are available on the cooperative's website at www.sre.coop. Please feel free to contact us at 800-236-2141 x554. ■

WINTER WEATHER

CAN BRING POWER LINES DOWN



DID YOU KNOW:

STAY WHERE YOU ARE

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.



- That downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly?
- The current could spread throughout the ground and anything touching the ground?
- Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond?
- If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another you could be electrocuted?
- Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?

Learn more at:

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Stay Safe as You Go Over the River and Through the Woods This Holiday Season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual: shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to deenergize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms

across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it

ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.

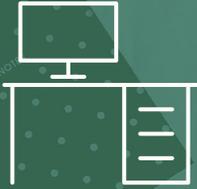
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org. ■



HELPFUL HINTS FOR
**WORKING
FROM HOME**

TO HELP WITH WORK-LIFE BALANCE



CREATE A DEDICATED SPACE

Not everyone can do this, but it helps if you can have a separate space to keep your work area (and your workday—mindset) separate from other areas of the home.

SET A SCHEDULE

Try to set a workday schedule and stick to it as much as possible so that work and home do not constantly intertwine.



CREATE BOUNDARIES

Just as a workspace serves as a physical work boundary, try to set other at-work boundaries: discuss work hours, deadlines and interruption ground rules with others under your roof.

BE REALISTIC

Creating boundaries is more difficult with children and teens around. If you can, try to create a work schedule around their most demanding hours or juggle coverage with another adult.



TAKE A STAND

Researchers at Columbia University found that adults who sit for one to two hours at a time without moving have a higher risk of early death than those who get up more often. Aim to get up and move every 30 minutes.

TAKE BREAKS

Working nonstop might make you feel heroic, but it actually decreases productivity. Consider scheduling brief breaks and taking them – outdoors if possible.



**Vegetation
Management**

Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming in the Argyle substation area during the month of January.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. During this time, we especially appreciate your cooperation as we maintain social distancing between our essential staff and our members. **If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.**

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Watt's Happening, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve LucasCEO

Our board of directors consists of Chuck Simmons, Don Schaefer, Sandra Davidson, Ellen Conley, Jack Larson, Larry Butson, Delbert Reuter, Steve Carpenter and Marcus Saegrove.