

WATT' HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Don't Miss Out! - College Scholarships Available

The Board of Directors will award scholarships at our 2022 Annual Meeting. At the time of the meeting, applicants will be eligible to receive a scholarship by being either a:

- A senior in high school; or
- A senior in a home-schooled program; or
- A non-traditional student entering their freshmen year in a post-secondary accredited program.

The application can be mailed or emailed to the addresses listed below and must be received on or before **Monday, April 4, 2022**, to qualify:

Mailing Address:

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative
Attn: 2022 Scholarships
231 N. Sheridan St.
Lancaster, WI 53813

Email Address: csolmstead@srec.net

The student ***must*** be present at the SREC Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 9, 2022 to win.

After successful completion of their first semester (Fall 2022) of post-secondary education AND receiving least 12 credits at a minimum "C" average, a \$1,000 check will be made out to the school and the student for their second semester tuition. If the student fails to meet these qualifications, the scholarship will be award to the alternate, provided they have met the same requirements.

If you have questions regarding the 2022 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Scholarship, please contact Carrie Olmstead at 608-723-2121 or 800-236-2141 ext. 556. More information is also available on our web-site, www.sre.coop/scholarship-article. ■

Save the
DATE!

Save the Date
85th Annual
Meeting

April 9, 2022

Youth and Ag Building, Lancaster, WI
Registration at 9 a.m.

Meeting starts at 9:30 am.

The meeting will be both virtual and in person.

Scholarships, director elections, door prizes, box lunch, and more!
Join us!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Email address

Parent Name (or legal guardian)

Address of Parent (if different from student)

Cooperative Billing Account Number

Name of High School

Energy-Saving, Budget-Friendly Tips

Q: I don't have a big budget for energy-efficiency upgrades. Can you share any budget-friendly, energy-saving tips?

A: You don't need a lot of money to save on your energy bills. We have some suggestions that are low-cost, simple adjustments you can make in your home, whether you rent or own.

We all want to afford being comfortable in our homes. If you're having trouble paying your energy bills, you are not alone. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports one in three households face challenges meeting their energy needs.

Decreasing monthly bills and being more efficient at home is something we all should practice. Here are some budget-friendly energy efficiency tips targeting one of the biggest energy users in the home: the heating system. Heating and cooling account for nearly half of a U.S. home's energy consumption.

Add Coziness to Your Home

One way you can feel warmer in your home without turning up the thermostat is by making your home cozy.

The way our bodies perceive the temperature of a room is based more on the surfaces in the room than the air temperature. In general, harder surfaces feel colder. For example, your tile floor will feel cooler than your fabric sofa.

Photo Source, for all article photos: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources



Make sure your windows are closed and locked to reduce gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts.



If you can see light around the edges or underneath the door, you are losing energy. Adding weatherstripping is an easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project.

Cold floors in a room make us feel colder. Adding an area rug to a hard-surface floor can make us feel warmer, even with the same setting on the thermostat.

The same goes for windows. Windows are typically the least-insulated surface in a room and can feel cold in winter months. Adding or closing curtains can help the room feel warmer.

Check Your Windows

Make sure your windows are closed and locked. Locking windows pulls the sashes tighter together, reducing gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts. If your sash locks don't form a tight fit, adjust them or add weatherstripping.

There's a variety of window weatherstripping products available for less than \$20. Most are simple to install and only require tools you most

likely already have around the house, such as scissors and a tape measure.

Some are more permanent solutions, and some are intended to be used for one heating season and then removed. Temporary solutions such as caulk strips, putty, pull-and-peel caulking or window insulation films can be used if you rent your home and can't make permanent changes.

Seal Your Doors

Weatherstripping doors is an easy do-it-yourself project. Make sure your doors seal tightly and don't allow drafts to pass through around the edges or under the door.

Make sure any doors leading to an unheated space—outside or into a garage—are sealed tightly. If you can see light around the edges or underneath the door, or feel air movement when the door is closed, you know you are losing energy.



Weatherstripping around windows is a low-cost, easy-to-install solution to ensure warm air does not escape from your home.



Adding an area rug to a hard-surface floor can make your home feel warmer. Your pets will enjoy the coziness, too.

Because doors need to open and close easily, expect to do a bit of adjusting after installing weatherstripping. If weatherstripping isn't installed correctly, it can make the door hard to close. Making it too loose defeats the purpose. You need to get it just right.

Close the Damper

If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is completely closed when not using it. Leaving the damper open is like leaving a window open—it's just harder to see. The air you just paid to heat your home will go right out the chimney.

The only exception is some gas fireplaces need to remain open for gas fumes to exit the home. If you have a gas fireplace, check the owner's manual for more information on the damper position.

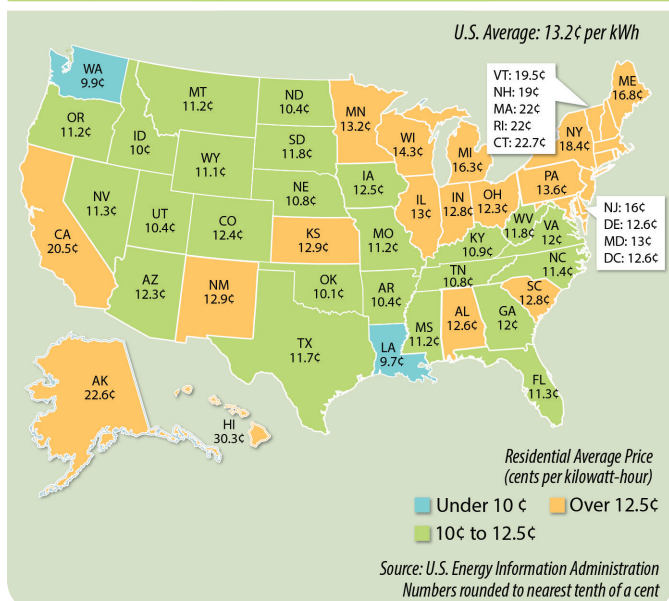
Layer Up

Dressing for the season prevents going overboard on your energy use. It can be tempting to adjust the thermostat to increase your comfort. Putting on a sweater or comfy sweatshirt can have the same comfort impact without increasing your energy use. Slippers can be a big help, too, especially when your feet touch a cold floor.

The next time you consider turning up the thermostat a few degrees, try some of these tips first to stay warm and leave increased energy bills out in the cold. ■

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2020 figures, in cents per kWh



SREC price per kWh
is just 10.9 cents



What's your guess?
Shadow or no shadow?

Will Punxsutawney Phil
be right this year?
Here's hoping for an early spring!



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be working on the Gratiot Substation, east circuit, in Lafayette County during the month of February.

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 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 Lucas CEO

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



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