

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Is Your AC Due for a Check-Up?

Before the first heat wave arrives (and we know it will), consider contacting a local HVAC service technician to inspect your air conditioner. An annual check-up will help ensure a cool home this summer.

If an air conditioner is having trouble properly cooling a home, it is time to contact a local professional. According to energy.gov, a technician's inspection should include:

- check refrigerant levels
- look for refrigerant leaks
- check and seal any air duct leaks
- measure airflow through the evaporator coil
- verify the electric controls are in good working order
- oil motors and check belts for tightness and wear
- check the accuracy of the thermostat

Between inspections, replacing the air filter is one of the easiest ways to keep an air conditioner running efficiently. Most filters should be replaced monthly when the air conditioner is in use (summer); follow the manufacturer's instructions. To replace a filter, locate the air filter, slide out the old and slide in the new. Air filters are commonly found in walls behind a return duct/register, in ceilings or in the air conditioner unit. Room air conditioners have a filter mounted in the grill that faces into the room. According to the Department of Energy, replacing a dirty filter can lower an air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 percent to 15 percent.

While preventative maintenance can extend the life of an air conditioner, there will come a point when it is time for

new equipment. When that happens, consult with your local electric cooperative to discuss what the best option for your needs might be. An air source heat pump or geothermal system would replace both your air conditioner and furnace with one unit.

Purchasing an ENERGY STAR certified unit will help you save energy and spend less on cooling costs. Scenic Rivers has rebates available for some HVAC units and more information is available on our web-site. If a home doesn't have ductwork or only needs to cool a small space, there are ENERGY STAR certified window air conditioning units. These might not be as efficient but may be what your home needs.

Regular HVAC system check-ups can help maximize your system's efficiency, which saves energy and money.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.





Youth Leadership Congress

UW-Stout | July 12-14, 2022

The annual **Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.



Take the opportunity to...

- See **what makes the cooperative business model different and successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

- High school students with family members who belong to a participating electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

What does it cost?

- All registration costs* are covered by the generous support of your local cooperative.
- Students should contact their cooperative to apply for a full sponsorship.

Sign up today!

Deadline is June 1, 2022

Contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to request sponsorship and registration forms to attend the Youth Leadership Congress. Complete the forms and return them to Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster, WI 53813.



Questions?

If you would like more information regarding the program or registration, please contact:

Judy Mims: 800-236-2141 ext. 554 or jmims@srec.net
OR

Tina Walden, 608-467-4599 or tina@weca.coop

Wings Over Wisconsin – Southwest Chapter Seed Day

The Southwest Chapter of Wings Over Wisconsin is hosting their annual Seed Day on Friday April 8th, 2022 from 9 a.m. until noon at **Vondra Ag Service at 7200 State Hwy 81 near Platteville.** This will be a drive-through event so you will stay in your vehicle and we will take your order and load it in your car or truck.

Corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflower seed will be available free to landowners for planting on wildlife food plots. Food plots must not be harvested, but left for wildlife food and habitat. Our chapter has a 10-foot and a 6-foot Great Plains no-till drills, and a 3-point broadcast seeder which are available for rent to members and non-members, for a fee plus delivery and pick-up charges. The seeder is also available for native prairie grass seeding. We encourage landowners to make long-term commitments to prairie grass plots.

Some seed is donated by local seed dealers; the rest is purchased by our chapter with profits from our annual banquet.

For wildflower enthusiasts, we will also have for sale small quantities of flower seed, such as Purple Coneflower, Yellow Coneflower and Black-Eyed Susan.

Membership in Wings Over Wisconsin is not required to receive seed. However, new members are always welcome. This is the only day that free seed is available, so if you plan to plant this spring, please be there or send your representative.

For more information please contact:

- Carolyn Hauptert, Secretary, Wings Over Wisconsin - Southwest Chapter
- 563-542-4416
- Chauptert01@gmail.com



2022 Member Photo Contest

"Bright and Shiny Faces"

With the new year now begun, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is kicking off our annual photo contest. We are searching for photos that show off the faces of our members, both young and old. Faces can also include those of our pets, farm animals, and the wildlife you might encounter. The winning members' photos will be featured in our 2023 calendar. Winning photos may also be used in future newsletters, on our social media pages or in other cooperative publications.



Photos must be submitted by August 15, 2022.

For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, www.sre.coop. Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.



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.

Members can register for the virtual meeting at www.sre.coop/annualmeeting2022

**Call the office for more information –
800-236-2141**



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be finishing the tree trimming work on the Gratiot Substation in Lafayette County and starting the tree trimming on the Harrison Substation in Grant County.

Badgerland Utility Solutions will be testing poles in Wayne, Wiota and Argyle Townships in Lafayette County.

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

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