

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Check your mail.

Starting with your August 1st billing statement, your bill will come in a **WHITE** envelope.

You will have a separate enclosed yellow return envelope to mail your payment back to us. If you are on auto pay, you won't receive the return envelope. Members with bill groups will continue to receive their statement in the yellow envelope.

Want to save time and money?

We offer several convenient ways to automatically pay your bill. Contact our office @1-800-236-2141 or visit our web site www.sre.coop for more information.



Youth Leadership Congress

UW-River Falls · July 13-15, 2016

The WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills and to learn about the purpose, operation and scope of cooperative business.

Who should apply?

Students that will be going into 10th, 11th or 12th grade next fall and have parents or grandparents that are members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.



What does it cost?

All registration costs, including food, lodging, speaker fees, conference t-shirt, education materials and transportation are covered by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

The purpose of this conference is to:

- Introduce the structure of cooperative business.
- Examine the scope of electric cooperatives and how they affect everyday life.
- Demonstrate the power and value of cooperation.
- Help identify and develop leadership skills.
- Provide a forum for teenagers to discuss issues and solutions important to them.
- Bring together youth leaders from across Wisconsin.
- Provide an opportunity for students to experience college life.

Application deadline is June 15, 2016.

We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems



are handled first – like damage to transmission lines, which serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. In case of an outage, please call our office at 1-800-236-2141.

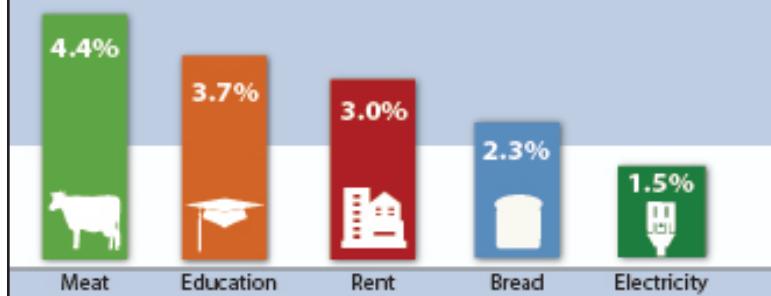
Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.



Average Annual Price Increase
2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Retrofitting your manufactured home for energy efficiency

If you live in a manufactured home, chances are you may have a disproportionately higher energy bill than a family living in a modular or traditional wood-frame home. The good news is there are many ways you can improve your home's energy efficiency.

Manufactured home or mobile home?

First, a clarification. Some use the term manufactured home and mobile home interchangeably. A mobile home is a factory built home constructed before 1976 when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) set national standards that nearly every manufactured home must meet. Thereafter, factory-built homes were called manufactured homes and are engineered and constructed in accordance with the 1976 federal code administered by HUD.

Manufactured homes come in all shapes and sizes. They may be single- or multi-sectioned and are available in various sizes and floor plan configurations. There are many differences between manufactured homes built before the U.S. HUD Code took effect in 1976 and those built afterward. One of the major differences is energy efficiency. Those built before federal standards were put in place were generally not as energy efficient as later models, even though thermal standards were changed in 1994. And while your manufactured home may have been built to the energy standards of the time, significant progress has been made over the past decades with high-efficiency mechanical equipment, windows, insulation, siding and roofing materials.

In short, whether your home is less than five years old or more than 50, most homes can benefit from energy efficiency measures simply due to wear and tear. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind can increase air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooling and heating energy.

If your home was built before 1976, the Dept. of Energy rec-

ommends the following steps to retrofit your manufactured home and improve energy efficiency:

1. Install energy-efficient windows and doors
2. Replace insulation in the belly
3. Make general repairs (seal bottom board, caulk windows, doors, ducts, etc.)
4. Add insulation to your walls
5. Install or seal belly wrap
6. Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap.

Additional energy saving tips

In addition to the measures listed above, consider caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors, particularly if you are not able to replace them with more energy-efficient ones. Properly seal any openings around ducts and plumbing fixtures. Replace any incandescent light bulbs with LEDs – both indoors and outside. Reduce “phantom” loads by unplugging electronic devices such as computers, printers and gaming systems when not in use. If you are planning to move to a new manufactured home, look for the Energy Star rated model.

For more information about energy efficiency improvements for manufactured homes, contact the energy experts at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

RETROFITTING YOUR MANUFACTURED HOME FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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Original artwork provided by Tricounty Energy® Cooperative

Recipe

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Strawberry Rhubarb Jam and Homemade Potato Soup!

Strawberry Rhubarb Jam

- 5 c. Rhubarb
- 1 (3 oz.) package Strawberry Jello
- 3 c. Sugar

Cut up rhubarb in 1 inch pieces. Add rhubarb and sugar in a saucepan. Mix to bring up a little juice. Bring to a boil and cook and stir until rhubarb is tender. Remove from heat. Add jello and stir to mix. Put in plastic containers. Keeps well in refrigerator and freezer. Very easy and very good. You can also substitute cherry or raspberry jello. Enjoy!



Homemade Potato Soup

- 6 - 8 potatoes, diced and peeled
- 3 - 4 carrots, sliced
- 2 - 3 stalks celery, sliced
- onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups milk
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- salt and pepper to taste



Place potatoes, carrots and celery in a saucepan. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover and simmer 7 to 10 minutes until done. Drain and set aside. Saute onion in butter until tender. Put all ingredients in big stock pot and warm at medium heat. DO NOT boil as it may scorch. Nice and slow on medium heat. I like to add ham or bacon sometimes.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Inc. will be trimming on the Lamont Substation in Lafayette County and Eastman Substation in Crawford County. SREC Employee (Jay), Badgerland Utility Solutions and Zielie's will be spraying on the Mt Hope Substation in Grant County and Prairie du Chien Substation in Crawford 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. We appreciate your cooperation. 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*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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