

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## *Stay Back and Stay Safe*

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

### ***Distractions can be deadly.***

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews-- and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while

lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative employees by our logo and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

### ***Slow down and move over.***

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

We're Proud  
to Power YOU.

Local, Safe, Reliable Electricity.  
For all the ways  
you live.

## Small steps to significant savings

Life costs money, and the more life your income supports—like kids, pets, dependent parents, tutors, hobbies, vacations—the harder it can be to save. Fortunately, small steps can lead to significant savings. Here are a few tricks you can use to help you save your pennies now, turning them into dollars later.

### **Banking and insurance**

#### *Pay yourself*

*first:* If you receive your pay through direct deposit, deposit a workable amount of each paycheck into a savings account.

*Value yourself as a customer:* Move your money into accounts at a bank or credit union that offers higher interest on your savings account. Shop around for ways to save money on auto and home owner's or renter's insurance; insurers often offer discounts if you have multiple policies or based on safe driving, a student driver's good grades, being a veteran and other qualifiers. If you ever carry a balance, call all your credit card companies and ask for an interest rate reduction.

*Pennies per purchase:* Round up each and every purchase to the next dollar, and save that change. Some banks provide this service for their checking account customers, but you can easily do it yourself for cash purchases (toss your change into a jar each day) and debit and credit card purchases (track your purchases, add the "round up" amounts and transfer the total into your savings account).

*Make do:* If you get a raise, "forget about it" by putting the difference in each paycheck directly into your 401(k). If you pay off a loan or credit card, start paying yourself that amount, either by increasing your 401(k) contribution or depositing it to your savings account.

### **At home**

*Cut the cord:* Television has two purposes. One is to entertain, and the other is to sell you things. Discontinuing your cable subscription or reduc-

ing it to the bare minimum will save you money on your cable package and by reducing the effects of advertising on your budget. And just think of all the things you can accomplish in your spare time!

*Do It Yourself (DIY):* Thanks to the internet and

your local library, information about almost everything is at your fingertips. Whether it's mending a ripped shirt seam, making the perfect cup of coffee instead of buying it, creating activities for your kids or adding extra insulation to your home (to save on your heating and cooling bills), abundant resources exist to make your money-saving DIY project a success.

### **An ounce of prevention**

*Remove credit cards from online accounts:* It's a simple psychological trick, but having to find your wallet, dig out your card and enter the information is often just enough to keep you from making an impulse purchase.

*Wait a moment:* Enact a mandatory waiting period before making purchases. Whether it's 30 seconds for items you're adding to your grocery cart, 30 minutes for less expensive items you want to buy or 30 days for large purchases, living without and having time to contemplate the necessity of an item will often keep you from purchasing it.

There are many more useful tips and tricks to be found from your favorite financial news sites and magazines. Your Certified Financial Planner™, bank or credit union may also have resources or seminars to help you learn more about personal finance.



## ***Crawford County Farm Safety Program***

On Friday, May 17th the Crawford County Safety Day Camp took place at the fairgrounds in Gays Mills. The program has been held annually for many years and is attended by 5th grade students from many surrounding schools.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has been educating these students about electrical safety and many of our employees have led these sessions. Safety is our #1 priority and we want to share our electrical knowledge with our community. We want safety to be your priority as well. By sharing our knowledge through these 'hot line demonstrations' we hope the students have a greater respect for electricity and remember to call for help during emergencies.

This year's demonstration was handled by Andy Kilcoyne and Dan Welsh. Throughout the presentation the students learned about the following:

- Appliance and extension cord safety;
- How power lines operate and function;
- The danger of power lines and the importance of staying away;
- Underground power line safety;
- Demonstrations on tree/animal problems and electrocution hazards.



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative offers these demonstrations throughout Crawford, Grant and Lafayette counties. Members can also see the demonstration at our annual Member Appreciation Events coming up in October. Watch for the dates and be sure to attend!



## **Happy Fourth of July**

Our office will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day



## "Rural Wisconsin"

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2020 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area and should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.).

Photos must be submitted via email to [jmartin@srec.net](mailto:jmartin@srec.net).

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

- Badgerland Utility Solutions LLC will be finishing up the spraying on the Castle Rock Substation in Grant County and working on the Kaiser Substation in Grant County and Steuben Substation in Crawford County the month of July.
- Badgerland Utility Solutions LLC has completed all underground inspections in Crawford County.
- Mi-Tech Services Inc will begin testing poles in July. Affected members will receive notification via postcards. However, members in the following townships will be affected:
  - Crawford County-Clayton Township
  - Grant County-Clifton, Liberty & North Lancaster Townships
  - Lafayette County-Benton, New Diggings, Shullsburg, White Oak Springs, Monticello, and Seymour Townships

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service continues to trim on the Gays Mills Substation west circuit in Crawford County, specifically Buck Creek Road, North Buck Creek Road, South Buck Creek Road and Hwy 171. They will begin to permit the Gays Mills Substation south circuit.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.sre.coop)

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