

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency

**E**lectronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

### **The Why**

But before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, "what's in it for me?" As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it's important to save energy and how it benefits the child - otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that's something children can relate to!).

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

### **Learning by Doing**

Because "saving energy" is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don't say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn't have to

*continued on page 2 . . .*



## 2019 Photo Calendar Contest

**Deadline August 21st**

Members must take pictures within SREC service area that captures life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.). Photos must be landscape orientation with at least 300 dpi and emailed to [hpierce@srec.net](mailto:hpierce@srec.net). The deadline is August 21st. The entry form and additional photo contest details are on our website [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop) under News & Community.



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## **Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency**

be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

### **5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING**

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



#### **1. NOTIFY**

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

#### **2. WAIT**

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



#### **3. CONFIRM**

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



#### **4. RESPECT**

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



#### **5. DIG CAREFULLY**

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

### **Rewards**

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*

## **Beat the Extreme Heat**

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- STAY INFORMED:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.
- STAY COOL:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours.
- STAY HYDRATED/DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Drink fluids regularly, regardless of activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- DON'T** leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
- DO** check on elderly friends and neighbors.

Source: call811.com

# 32nd Annual Tonnage Fishing Tournament

Saturday, August 4th  
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Riverside Park, Cassville

# SMART HOME TECH APPS

Smart home technologies are continuously improving, but their companion mobile apps are taking convenience to a whole new level. Let's take a look at some of the latest app functionalities.



## 1. Smart Thermostat Apps:

Geofencing is great enhancement for smart thermostat apps. Set a boundary with your smartphone and when you leave the boundary, the thermostat switches to away or return mode.

## 2. Smart Security Apps:

Video doorbells are becoming increasingly popular, allowing consumers to keep a watchful eye from anywhere. Smart security apps send alerts to signal activity outside your home, giving you peace of mind.

## 3. Smart Smoke and CO Sensor Apps:

These apps have the ability to send alerts, conduct status checks and silence alarms - even when you're away.

## 4. Smart Appliance Apps:

App functionality depends on the appliance. Refrigerator cameras allow you to see what needs to be stocked (while grocery shopping!), and smart dryers can sense when electric use is high and turn off.

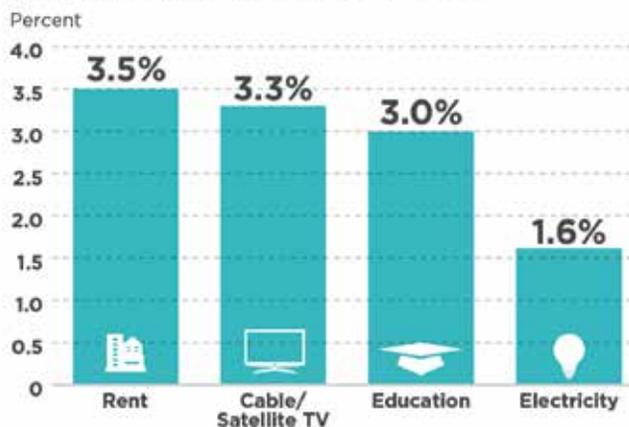
## 5. Smart Lighting Apps:

Control lighting options for individual rooms, adjust brightness and color, create lighting scenes based on mood -all from the convenience of your smartphone.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2012-2017



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

## Recipes

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Glazed Baby Carrots recipe!

### Glazed Baby Carrots

- 2 lbs. Baby Carrots
- 1/4 c. French Dressing
- 1/4 c. Maple Pancake Syrup
- 1 tbsp. Butter
- 1/2 c. Pecan Pieces

Cook carrots in boiling water, 12 to 14 minutes until tender. Drain. Set aside. Mix dressing and syrup in saucepan. Cook on medium heat until mixture is bubbly, stirring occasionally. Add carrots, cook until glaze is thickened to desired consistency. Stir frequently. Add butter. Stir until melted. Stir in pecans.



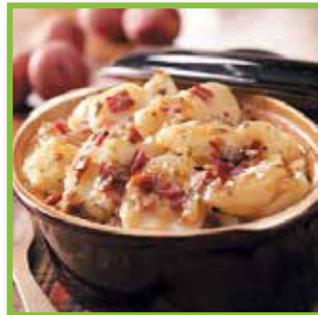
Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your Baked German Potato Salad recipe! "This is very good with a ham dinner."

### Baked German Potato Salad

- 12 Medium Red Potatoes (about 3 lbs)
- 8 Bacon Strips
- 2 Medium Onions, chopped
- 3/4 c. Brown Sugar, packed
- 1/3 c. Vinegar
- 1/3 c. Sweet Pickle Juice
- 2/3 c. Water, divided
- 2 tsp. Dried Parsley Flakes
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 to 3/4 tsp. Celery Seed
- 4-1/2 tsp. Flour

In a saucepan, cook potatoes until tender; drain. Peel and slice into an ungreased 2 quart baking dish; set aside.

In a skillet, cook bacon until crisp; drain, reserving 2 tbsp. drippings. Crumble bacon and set aside. Sauté onions in drippings until tender. Stir in brown sugar, vinegar, pickle juice, 1/2 cup water, parsley, salt and celery seed. Simmer uncovered for 5-10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine flour and remaining water and stir until smooth and then add to the onion mixture. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Pour over potatoes, add bacon and gently stir to coat. Bake uncovered at 350 for 30 minutes or until heated through.



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be finishing up tree trimming on the Jerrett Substation in Grant County and will start trimming on the Beetown Substation also in Grant County.

Mi-Tech Services Inc will be inspecting poles in Franklin, Kickapoo, Utica and Clayton Townships in Crawford County.

DJB Inspections will start underground inspections on the Castle Rock and King Substations in Grant County and the Argyle, Gratiot and Lamont Substations in Lafayette County the month of August.

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

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