



WATT' HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Prepay Program Empowers Members

Pay your electric bill on your own schedule and without a security deposit

Want to take the stress out of due dates and late fees? Now you can take charge of your electric bill with Scenic River's Prepay Billing Program. It allows members to control when and how often they purchase electricity.

Prepay billing is as simple as it sounds: members pay for electricity and then use the electricity until the payment is depleted. A terrific analogy for prepay billing is putting gas in your car. Say your car needs gas. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and go on your way. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure you have enough gas in your car. The more you drive, the quicker you will have to make a return trip to the gas station. Literally, by checking the gauge throughout the week, you could become more prudent with your gas use and make informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Now let's transfer that analogy to your Scenic Rivers Energy account. You apply money to your electric account and your daily usage is subtracted from your balance each day. As you approach "empty," you will receive a notification that your balance is getting low and you should consider adding more money to your account. If you run out, the power goes off just like your car stops when it

runs out of gas. Over time you become more aware of how you are using electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10% less electricity than their counterparts. With the traditional billing, sometimes it comes as a shock. A whole month has passed and you question "How could I possibly have used so much electricity?" Prepay billing is designed to ease – and hopefully eliminate – that shock.

Members are able to access their account information by logging into SmartHub via their computer or mobile app every day. Members receive notifications when their balance is low via email, text or both.

Our new Prepay Billing program gives you more flexibility and control over the use of electricity. It allows you to control your budget and purchase electricity when it is convenient for you. The same rates and monthly charges apply. Contact SREC to learn more and sign up for Prepay Billing. ■

Ready to Enroll?

Qualifications for the Prepay Billing Program are as follows:

- Only single-phase services;
- Must have a SmartHub account set up;
- The agreement is for a minimum of one year;
- Account must be current in order to participate;
- Minimum \$30 starting balance; and
- Assistance funds are available for prepay members with the same criteria as the traditional billing method.

To get started, contact SREC and ask to participate in the Prepay Billing Program.

College Dorm Room Essential: Safety

Personalization is a big trend for college dorm rooms and shared housing facilities. College furnishings — from bedding and décor to kitchen supplies and electronics — are often reflective of interests and future aspirations. One essential for the college residence is safety.

“There is a tendency for college students to want to bring everything they own,” says Erin Hollinshead, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “The limited number of electric outlets in student rooms can tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards.”

Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today’s college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to the landlord or campus housing staff.

Safe Electricity offers the following safety tips for students to help prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in their student housing:

- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) publishes a list of approved testing laboratories. Some common approved safety labels include: Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and MET Laboratories (MET).
- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips, or outlets.
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled or damaged.
- Use the correct wattage light bulbs for lamps and



AVOID FIRE HAZARDS

Don't overload your outlets.

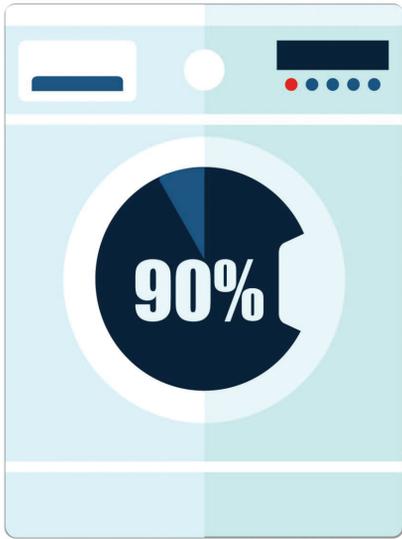
 Safe Electricity.org

fixtures. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. Use cooler, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the resident assistant, camping housing staff, or landlord.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Always use microwave-safe containers. Glass, ceramic containers, and plastics labeled “microwave-safe” should always be used. Metal and aluminum foil can damage the microwave or start a fire. If the microwave is damaged in any way, do not use it.
- Smoke detectors should never be disabled, and fire alarms should never be ignored or taken casually as a drill. Every time a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.

“Stress to students that in the event of a fire, it is important to follow safety procedures and get out of harm’s way immediately,” Hollinshead adds. “Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot.”

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org. ■



About 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

Save on energy costs by using cold or warm water.

Source: Energystar.gov



FARM SAFETY

POWER LINE AWARENESS

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around electricity. Utilize these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Know all power line locations on your farm and routes between fields.
- Always use a spotter when moving equipment near power lines.
- Don't completely rely on autosteer or GPS to detect and clear power lines or poles.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact us.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



DON'T GET LEFT
IN THE DARK



**Want the best service
and outage response?
Keep your contact
information up to date.**

Please update your information today:

Pick the method that fits you best!

1. Return this form with your electric bill payment
2. Email the information to: srec@srec.net
3. Call our office at 800-236-2141

Name _____
Account # _____
Mailing Address _____
Service Address (if different from mailing): _____
Primary Phone #: _____
Phone 2: _____
Phone 3: _____
Email: _____

**Thank you for updating your information.
We look forward to providing you with the best
customer service and outage response possible.**

We're closed!

★ **LABOR DAY** ★

September 7, 2020



Vegetation Management



Zielie's Tree Service will continue trimming on the Soldiers Grove south circuit in Crawford County along County Road X and County Road H the month of September.

Badgerland Utility Solutions will be spraying on the Gays Mills north and west circuits in Crawford County. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative employees will continue to spray on the Beetown Substation in Grant County the month of September.

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

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 LucasCEO

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