

WATT' HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Large Meals Coming Your Way - Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.



Use smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens when possible. These smaller appliances use less energy than a full-size oven. Photo Source: Scott Van Osdol



When it's time to do the dishes, remember to run full loads. You can also save energy by allowing your dishes to air dry. Photo Source: Scott Van Osdol

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. (See page 4 for a great suggestion using dairy products.) Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Contact us to learn about additional ways you can save energy and money at home. ■

It's Time to be Thankful for Electricity.

What time do you put the turkey in the oven? For many dedicated cooks it will be still be dark outside when they begin their Thanksgiving ritual.

Can you imagine trying to get that holiday dinner started by candlelight?

As children we learned from our history books all about Benjamin Franklin's famous 1752 kite experiment that began the road to harnessing electric power. But it wasn't until the 1870s that Thomas Edison was able to produce the first incandescent light bulb. While the world had been existing quite nicely by candle and gas lights, or so it thought, the electric light bulb was destined to become the future!

In today's electronic age, electricity has become even more relied on. Think back to the last time you had a power outage at your home, remember what it was like? If you were lucky it was not on a cold dark evening with a house of wide-awake young family members.



Now that we've come to depend on all that electricity can offer us in our homes, there is no looking back. Electricity truly is a wonder that has added comfort and safety to our lives.

We at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative would like to thank our members for their confidence in us. We would like to wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Holiday! ■



Dual Fuel Program Members Load Management Test, Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Please be advised that the Winter Preparedness Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 18th**. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. Electric heat will be turned off around 5:00 p.m. and will be turned back on starting at 8:30 p.m., with everyone's electric heat scheduled to be back on by 10:00 p.m. This test is done to make sure your backup system and the Cooperative's load management system are working properly.

Please contact us at 800-236-2141 ext. 563, the following day if you experience any problems during this test.



National Child Safety and Prevention Month

November is National Child Safety and Protection Month. Now is an excellent time to review some smart tips to help make sure your home and your vehicles remain safe places for your loved ones.

Keep cleaning materials and medication safely out of range

Accidental poisoning through the ingestion of medicines or chemicals is a common household hazard. Young children, in particular, have a hard time resisting the lure of spray bottles, and often mistake medication for candy.

To help ensure this doesn't occur, place plastic locks on all storage cabinets containing cleaning materials and other common household maintenance items. Ensure all medication is kept in childproof bottles stored out of the reach of children.

Secure your bathroom

With its combination of hot water and wet floors, the bathroom is often a dangerous place for young children. To help minimize the risk for injury, parents should turn the water heater temperature down, safely secure all razors and other medicine cabinet items and install slip-resistant mats and a toilet lock.

Cover electrical outlets

As they begin to navigate the world, children rely on their sense of touch to learn about new things. In the case of electrical outlets or frayed wires, this naturally inquisitive behavior can lead to life-threatening injuries.

Be sure to cover all outlets with childproof covers and make sure the cords attached to appliances and other devices are in good condition. Teach your children to avoid touching these items and to never mix electricity with water.

Make sure all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functional

When it comes to fires and carbon monoxide poisoning, early detection is absolutely essential. Without a functional alarm system, parents may not become

aware of the presence of fires or carbon monoxide leaks until it's too late.

This means it's imperative to install detectors throughout the house and check batteries regularly. Don't wait for low battery signals to start beeping — check detectors on a regular basis to ensure they still work.

Follow the safety rules governing use of a car seat

Car seats have been instrumental in saving the lives of countless children. Make sure the seat is installed correctly and that all belts are in place.

It's also important to replace your child's car seat if you've been in a collision, as this may have damaged the seat.

Never leave a child in a car

Even if you're only stepping out momentarily, never leave your children inside a warm vehicle. Kids cannot cool down with the same efficiency as adults, making them particularly susceptible to high temperatures.

It's also important to always check your backseat to ensure your child hasn't been left behind. While this might sound obvious, busy parents sometimes forget.

The takeaway

For parents, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of their children. Follow these tips to help keep your loved ones safe and secure. ■



No Bake Pumpkin Toffee Icebox Cake

Ingredients

- Vanilla wafers graham crackers, or Golden Oreo's
- 2 3.4 oz pkgs. pumpkin spice pudding If you can't find it you could use vanilla
- 2 c. milk
- 1 1/2 c. pumpkin puree
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese softened
- 1/4 c. whipping cream
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 8 oz. container whipped topping divided
- 1 cup toffee chips

Instructions

1. I used a 9" x 9" square pan. It was almost too much. You could certainly make this in a little bigger pan, even a 9" x 13" pan. It would just be a little shorter.
2. Whisk pudding, pumpkin pie spice, and milk together. Fold in pumpkin. Set aside.
3. Beat softened cream cheese until smooth. Add whipping cream and vanilla and beat until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and beat to combine. Fold in one cup of whipped topping. Set aside.
4. Line the bottom of your pan with Vanilla Wafers (or whatever you are using). You might have to break them to make them fit. Don't worry if it's not super pretty!
5. Cover cracker layer with a third of the pumpkin mixture. Spread.
6. Spread half of the cream cheese mixture over the pumpkin layer. Spread carefully so you don't mix the layers together.
7. Sprinkle toffee chips over cream cheese layer. I used a generous sprinkling!
8. Repeat again beginning with crackers, then a third of the pumpkin, then remaining cream cheese, then toffee chips.
9. Add one more layer of crackers, then remaining pumpkin.
10. Spread reserved whipped topping over the final pumpkin layer. Sprinkle more toffee chips.
11. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight! I like it better after it's had lots of time to sit!



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will finish trimming on the Soldiers Grove south circuit in Crawford County along County Road X, County Road H and along State Road 61 and will begin trimming in the Jo King sub area during the month of November.

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 jjgardner@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

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