

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Serve Up Energy Savings Along With Your Feast

There are many ways to save money in the kitchen. Follow these tips from the Department of Energy to gobble up savings along with your turkey.

Turkey Talk – Don't buy a turkey that's bigger than you need for your group. A smaller turkey takes less time to cook and can save energy. It's also not necessary to preheat the oven when slow roasting a turkey for several hours. You can also turn down the thermostat a few degrees while the turkey is cooking, because the oven will add heat to your home, especially in the kitchen area.

Overdone Appliances – Many side dishes can be prepared in smaller kitchen appliances, like air-fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens, which use less energy than a large stove or oven. In addition, some side dishes can be cooked right along with the turkey, reducing oven use.

Dish-up Savings – Take advantage of your dishwasher. An Energy-Star-certified dishwasher uses less than half as much energy as washing dishes by hand, and uses less water. Even an older model can be used more efficiently if you are mindful of washing only full loads and letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.



Fight the Phantoms – Halloween may be over, but you should still be alert for any 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. 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. ■



Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

I don't know about you, but I consider my four-legged companions' part of the family. I know others feel this way, too. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big “bite” out of our budget.

This month, I'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be “ruff”, so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs—not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.



During the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big “bite” out of our budget. Photo Credit: Adrian Grover, Pixabay



Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up. Photo Credit: Gabriele Reinhardt, Pixabay

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Scenic Rivers Energy Co-op, we want to help you save energy and money. Follow up on Facebook for energy saving tips or visit our website at www.sre.coop for additional links to our energy saving partners.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season. ■



Get Help With Overdue Home Bills

How It Helps

The pandemic has financially impacted thousands of Wisconsin families.

If you're finding it hard to make ends meet, Wisconsin Help for Homeowners is a new statewide program that can help with overdue bills like your mortgage payment, property taxes, and utilities, including internet.

You can apply even if you haven't been sick with COVID-19.

Who Can Apply

If You Are A Home Owner:

- Single-Family Home
- Duplex
- Condo
- Manufactured Home

If You Have Been Financially Impacted by COVID-19:

- Fewer Paid Hours at Work
- Loss of Wages
- Job Loss
- Increased Household Costs


DEADLINE EXTENDED

**NEW DEADLINE
DECEMBER
30, 2022**



**Visit HomeownerHelp.WI.gov or
call 1-855-2HOMEWI to learn more**

Wisconsin Help for Homeowners is a program administered by the state of Wisconsin funded by the American Rescue Plan Act



UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign!

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

*Their jobs are dangerous enough –
help us keep them safe!*



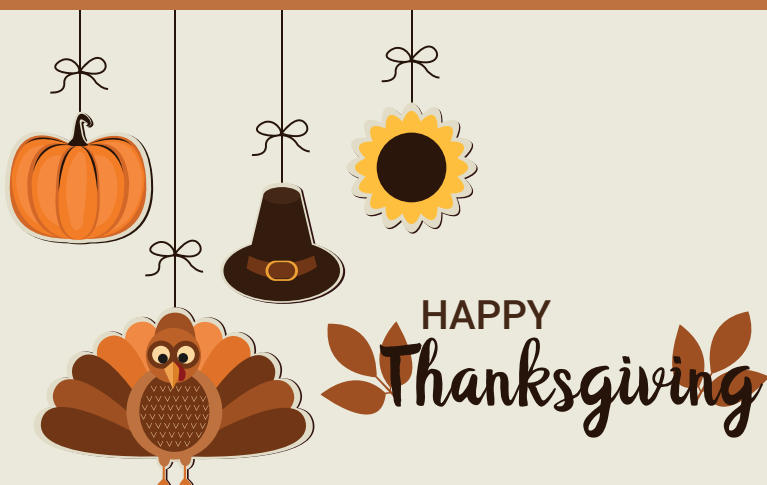
NOV. 16 Dual Fuel TESTING

Dual Fuel Program Members

Load Management Test,

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

2022 Winter Preparedness Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) accounts is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 16th**. 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.



WE WILL BE
Closed

Thanksgiving day and
the Friday following
November 24th & 25th



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be finishing up trimming on the Prairie du Chien Substation in Crawford County and starting to trim on the Glen Haven Substation in Grant County.

Badgerland Utility Solutions has completed the pole testing for 2022. They are working on inspecting underground transformers and cabinets on the Hurricane, Beetown and Glen Haven Substations in Grant 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. 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, 206 County Road K, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve Lucas CEO

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