

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Costs Increasing for Electricity in 2009

As we begin a new year, many Americans are very concerned about the economy, as well as health care, environmental and energy issues. The utility sector is not immune from our national recession and its impacts on access to credit and falling energy consumption.

Helping to address energy concerns, our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is working hard to ensure members have a long-term, reliable and affordable electricity supply. In doing so, Dairyland is facing a number of challenges that are increasing the cost of energy for cooperative members.

As we enter 2009, Dairyland's wholesale power cost, which accounts for 60 percent of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's operating budget, is facing tremendous upward pressure. The most significant increases are due to:

- A general tightening of coal markets with increases in prices for both the fuel and its shipping, coinciding with large global demand for U.S. coal exports.
- Scheduled major periodic maintenance outages at two large generators in 2009.
- Significant investments in environmental controls, renewable energy resources and conservation programs.

These factors, combined with other essential projects, will cause Dairyland's 2009 average wholesale rate to increase by double digits, inevitably forcing SREC to implement a rate increase. At the time of press, the rate increase is estimated to be between 11 and 12%. The new rate structure will be available on February 16, 2009. Log on to www.sre.coop, call the office, or read the March Watt's Happening for details.

While Dairyland is facing financial obstacles in the coming year, it is essential that our wholesale power provider continues to maintain a strong financial position and invests in projects to meet our future energy needs. Dairyland's 30 percent ownership of the new 525 MW Weston 4 power plant is a very good investment that will help meet the long-term energy needs of Dairyland's members. However, the first full year of ownership costs for this new facility in 2009 is also putting upward pressure on rates in the coming year.

Dairyland continues to expand its renewable energy portfolio with ongoing additions, such as the recent 20 MW of wind generation in Winnebago County, Iowa, as well as its commitment to purchase 40 MW of biomass-produced energy at

the DTE Energy Services' Cassville plant beginning in 2010. Dairyland is working to develop additional biomass projects, enhance landfill gas operations, buy wind energy and work with farmers on manure digesters. Dairyland is also taking a leadership role in a new national cooperative to develop renewable resources for all electric cooperatives across the nation. These expansions of Dairyland's renewable resources, as well as investments in energy conservation programs, are good for our environment and will help Dairyland meet future regulatory requirements. However, they also increase the overall cost to provide members with electricity.

A number of additional beneficial projects are planned to meet the long-term energy needs of Dairyland's members. However, Dairyland has undertaken a major effort to prioritize construction projects and is delaying some work to minimize the impact of rate increases on members during this difficult economic period.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and Dairyland will continue to work hard to stabilize costs and provide members with a reliable, competitively priced energy supply.



Funding Available for Farm and Small Business Energy Projects

Program Focuses on Energy Conservation, Energy Independence, and Strengthening Rural Economies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development will, in the near future, publish a notice inviting applications for the Rural Energy For America Program. This program, authorized through the 2008 Farm Bill which established the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements loan and grant program. Eligible applicants include agricultural producers and small rural businesses. (Residential applications are not eligible.)

Since implementation of the program in 2003, Wisconsin Rural Development has awarded over \$17 million of grant and guaranteed loan funding to assist more than 60 agricultural producers and/or small businesses with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Program funds can assist projects that improve energy efficiencies of existing agricultural, commercial, or industrial buildings; replacing equipment, such as pumps, motors, and processing equipment; or replacing systems such as heating, cooling, lighting, heat exchange systems, etc. Recipients may also apply for renewable fuels. Grants may fund up to 25 percent of the project costs and loans finance up to 75 percent of the total cost. Projects combining loan and grant financing cannot exceed 75 percent of the total project costs. Projects must be located in an eligible rural area, which are

2009 Incentives

ENERGY STAR

	Rebate	List Price
Room Air Conditioner	\$ 25	
Clothes Washer	\$ 50	
Refrigerator	\$ 25	
Freezer	\$ 25	
Dish Washer	\$ 25	
Dehumidifier	\$ 25	
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling	\$ 25	



Marathon Electric Water Heaters

85 gallon .92 Efficiency	\$ 250	\$ 770
105 gallon .91 Efficiency	\$ 330	\$ 855

Lighting Programs-

Retrofit and New Construction

Electronic Ballast Fluorescent Fixtures	up to	\$ 6.50 per ballast
Metal Halide Fixtures		\$10 per fixture
Sodium Vapor Fixtures		\$10 per fixture
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)		\$ 2 per CFL
Large (60 watts or larger) CFLs		\$ 5 per CFL
Hard-wired CFL (electronic ballast)		\$ 5 per ballast
Cold cathode CFL		\$ 2 per lamp
Light emitting diode (LED) lamps		\$ 2 per bulb
LED Holiday lights (limit 12 per account)		\$ 2 per string
LED EXIT sign		\$ 5 per sign

Rebate List Price

Air Source Heat Pumps	14 SEER or greater	\$120 per ton
Air Conditioners	14 SEER or greater	\$ 60 per ton
All Earth-Coupled Heat Pumps		\$200 per ton
Electric Plenum Heaters	15 kW	\$225 \$ 850
	20 kW	\$300 \$ 950
Electric Boiler		
	9 kW EMB-W-9	\$150 \$870
	15 kW EB-MO-15	\$225 \$1500
	20 kW EB-MO-20	\$300 \$1600
	23 kW EB-WA-23	\$350 \$1825
	27 kW EB-WA-27	\$400 \$1900

Electric Thermal Storage Units (ETS)

2102 series	(2.4, 3.0, 3.6 kW)	\$50	\$1020
2103 series	(3.6, 4.5, 5.4 kW)	\$75	\$1175
2104 series	(4.8, 6.0, 7.2 kW)	\$100	\$1345
2105 series	(6.0, 7.5, 9.0 kW)	\$125	\$1585
2106 series	(7.2, 9.0, 10.8 kW)	\$150	\$1775

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

REBATES MAY REQUIRE MEMBER TO MEET CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

PLEASE CONTACT SREC AT 800-236-2141 EXT. 105 OR 130 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

areas other than cities with greater than 50,000 population.

Don't wait to apply! Call USDA Rural Development State Office at 715-345-7610 for more information and to get started on your application.

Additional information on Rural Development programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi>.

Environmental Update- Heating and Cooling Efficiently with Heat Pumps

By Scott Gates

Managing the temperature in a home or business has the hands-down biggest impact on energy costs. In trying to keep warm in winter and cool during summer, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$1,400 annually, accounting for 56 percent of all home energy expenses.

While this outlay can be trimmed by tweaking efficiency, some folks have taken it a step further and installed heat pumps, highly efficient devices that can provide both heating and cooling comfort.

As the name implies, heat pumps simply move heat from one place to another. During winter months, they collect and consolidate heat from outside sources and move it inside; during summer months, they reverse the flow and send warm, indoor air out.

The most common type is an air-source heat pump that resembles an air-conditioning unit and uses the air around it to transfer heat. Geothermal heat pumps, also known as ground-source heat pumps, use the earth itself or groundwater as a means of transferring heat.

When replacing an electric heating system, air-source heat pumps can trim the amount of electricity

needed for heating by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent. Although a typical high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR-qualified air-source heat pump comes with a substantial \$6,000 price tag, it's estimated that energy savings will offset the purchase price within five years.

Geothermal heat pumps come in two types: a groundwater (open-loop) system uses well water; an earth-coupled (closed-loop) model moves a water and antifreeze solution through underground pipes. They can cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$40,000 for an average home—excavation, installation of underground pipes, and (with a groundwater heat pump) well drilling accounts for much of the price tag. But annual geothermal energy savings average between 30 percent and 71 percent, according to the Geo-Heat Center, a part of the Oregon Institute of Technology, provide fairly rapid payback. Even better, ENERGY STAR versions use up to 60 percent less energy than their standard air-source counterparts.

"Heat pumps—whether they're geothermal or air-source—can be tricky to put in," explains Brian Sloboda, senior adviser with the Cooperative Research Network, an arm of

Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "A good rule of thumb is to get a North American Technician Excellence [NATE]-certified installer. They've passed a comprehensive test and will know what they're doing."

Sloboda adds that air-source heat pumps work at maximum efficiency in moderate climates where the outside temperature rarely drops below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. "Although cold-climate heat pumps are under development, if you live anywhere in the U.S. north of St. Louis, you might want to consider other options. A dual fuel system could do the trick, for example, where an oil, natural gas, or propane furnace supplements the heat pump during the coldest months."

Homeowners considering a heat pump should discuss their options with Ron Jentz at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. It is important to learn the ins and outs of available technology. State and federal rebates may be available for some systems.

Sources: *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; Cooperative Research Network; OIT Geo-Heat Center; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

Fennimore to Host Southwest WI Power and Energy Fair

Members of the Fennimore Fun Fest committee are pleased to host the first ever SW Wisconsin Power and Energy Fair. The event will be held on Saturday, February 7th at the Fennimore Memorial Building between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Fair is intended to inform and educate the public on the multiple choices available to conserve, be more energy efficient as well as provide renewable energy information.

Sponsors for Fennimore's first ever Southwest Wisconsin Power and Energy Fair include Scenic

Rivers Energy Cooperative, Alliant Energy, Fennimore Industrial and Economic Development Corp., Fennimore Utilities, GEN-SYS Energy, Grant County Economic Development Corp and Southwest Technical College. Other sponsors are being confirmed. All sponsors will be recognized in print and radio advertisements along with a booth at the Power and Energy Fair.

Business that would like to have a booth to showcase their energy saving products and services or interactive displays is encouraged to register for vendor space. Examples of

possible vendors include such things as electric cars, solar panels, energy efficient appliances, maintenance of appliances, lighting, insulation and other building options and much more. Many of the displays and vendors will show how investing money in energy saving products can, over a period of time, help pay for improvements to businesses and homes.

The Power and Energy Fair is being coordinated by the Fennimore Fun Fest Committee. There will be a \$2 admission fee for the event, door prizes will be awarded. A food stand will be available.

Stay warm & conserve energy

Brrr! These frigid winter months keep us going back to nudge the thermostat up a little more... and a little more. How can we be mindful of energy consumption, and still stay warm? It's easier than you think. Read on for tips from the Department of Energy to help you save money and preserve the environment by lessening the need for power generation.

- Keep the draperies and shades on your south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home.
- By resetting your programmable thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one

is home or while everyone is tucked in bed) you can cut your heating bill by up to 10 percent.

- Weatherize your home—caulk and weatherstrip any doors and windows that leak air.
- Replace furnace filters regularly.
- Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in place of comparable incandescent bulbs to save about 50 percent on your lighting costs. CFLs use only one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times longer.
- Always look for the Energy Star and Energy Guide labels when shopping for home appliances. The Energy Star label is the government's seal of energy efficiency.

- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; they use much less energy than desktop computers.
- There is a common misconception that screen savers reduce energy use by monitors; they do not. Automatic switching to sleep mode or manually turning monitors off is always the better energy-saving strategy.
- If you didn't try Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights this season instead of traditional incandescent light strings, make a pledge to do so next year. LED holiday lights use up to 90 percent less energy and last seven times longer than conventional holiday lighting.
- In cold climates like ours, ENERGY STAR windows can reduce your heating bills by 30 to 40 percent compared to uncoated, single-pane windows.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use. A chimney is designed for smoke to escape, so until you close it, warm air escapes.

Currently Cooking:

Violet's Peanut Cookies-



Mix together 2 cups butter, 2 cups of brown sugar (packed), and 2 cups of white sugar. Mix well. Add 4 eggs, mix well. Sift together and add 4 cups flour, 2 tps baking powder, 1 tsp soda. Stir in 2 cups oatmeal, 2 cups corn flakes and 2 cups whole peanuts. Drop by teaspoon on buttered cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Thank you Violet for sharing your recipes with our members!

Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

Jerry Becwar

Lineman

Family-

- Wife: Lee
- Sons: Steve and Aaron

Hobbies-

- Hunting and Fishing

Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?

I wanted to work in Crawford County.



What do you enjoy most about your job at SREC?

I really enjoy helping our members.

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 Megan Graney, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

www.sre.coop

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