

March 2010

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Wisconsin
ENERGY COOPERATIVE
MARCH 2010
news



2009
ANNUAL REPORT

ONE SMALL CHANGE X 11,114.

Imagine if everyone in our co-op made one small change. Now, stop imagining. Flip a switch. Seal some cracks. Screw in a CFL. Install a programmable thermostat and actually program it. Doesn't take a lot of energy to save energy. But it sure pays off. For all 11,114 of us. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 12, 2010

Annual Meeting and Scholarships!

Did you receive your copy of the 2009 Annual Meeting Booklet that was part of the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine? Don't miss the meeting as you will surely learn something new!

For a copy of the 2010 Scholarship Application log on to www.sre.coop.

Understanding Your Electric Bill



focus on energy™

The power is within you.

You may not realize it, but your monthly electric bill is a valuable tool. It tells you what, when and how you spend your energy dollars every month. By knowing how to “translate” these dollars and cents into energy use information, you can identify energy and cost-saving opportunities. Then, after you’ve taken steps to reduce energy use, your bill can act as a “score card” and give you monthly feedback on your progress.

Why should I worry about my electric bill?

You can reduce expenses.

Electricity costs represent a large controllable portion of your yearly budget.

You can use the savings on other projects. When you reduce electricity costs, you may be able to use those savings to pay for other facility needs.

Energy costs will continue to rise. Electricity costs will certainly increase in the years ahead; plan now to manage these cost increases.

Energy 101: How Electricity is Measured

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative measures your electricity use in two ways, energy and demand. Your electric meter measures your total electric energy consumption over time; this consumption is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. For example, if you operate a 2kW electric heater for five hours,

it consumes 2 kWX5hrs=10kWh. Your bill will include a charge for the energy used by this heater and every other electric-powered piece of equipment at your facility.

Your electric meter also registers electric demand or the maximum amount of energy you use at one specific time (typically a 15 minute period). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW) of electricity. In general, non-residential customers pay demand charges while residential customers do not.

Taking Action: Next Steps

When you understand how your facility’s electricity use is metered and billed, you can better manage your energy consumption. Then you can take steps to make operational changes to reduce these costs.



Tree Maintenance

Tree Crew Locations for March

Grant County-

Lima

Platteville

Jamestown

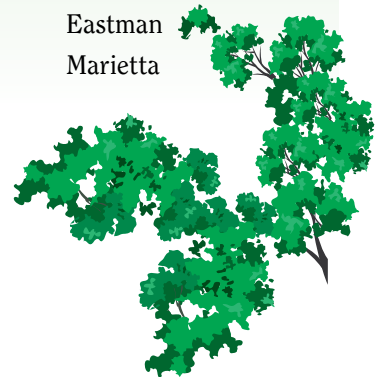
Paris

Crawford County-

Wauzeka

Eastman

Marietta



Wings Over Wisconsin- Southwest Chapter Seed Day

Wings Over Wisconsin is hosting their annual Seed Day on Friday, March 12, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Lancaster site at 231 N. Sheridan. Corn, sorghum, and sunflower seed will be available free to landowners for planting on wildlife food plots. Food plots must not be harvested, but left for wildlife food and habitat.

Representatives from various agencies such as the Grant County Farm Service Agency,

Grant County Land Conservation, and Department of Natural Resources will provide literature and will be available to answer questions from landowners during Seed Day.

Lunch will be served.



Renewable Resource Focus: Water Power

Water is an excellent natural resource for generating renewable energy.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, owns the Flambeau Hydroelectric Station, a water-powered generating facility located on the Flambeau River near Ladysmith, Wis.

The 24 MW Flambeau Hydroelectric Station has been quietly generating electricity since 1951. For nearly 60 years, it has been contributing clean, efficient electric energy to help power our member's homes and business. The station is comprised of three turbine units and is operated in the "run of the river" manner to result in the least interruption to normal river flows as possible.

In April 2004, Dairyland was awarded a new facility license for the Flambeau Hydro Station by the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC). The license will not expire until Jan. 31, 2037.

Lake Flambeau

The 2,000 acre Lake Flambeau, surrounded by 24 miles of shoreline, offers the public a variety of recreational opportunities for every season and every interest. Nature enthusiasts can enjoy three recreational parks with boat ramps, one primitive recreational area and many acres of publicly accessible land bordering the shoreline for non-motorized recreation such as hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, hiking and bird watching.

Water from Lake Flambeau, formed by the construction of a 5,200-foot earthen dike and concrete dam, supplies the energy to the power plant's three turbine



generators. The dam, which rises 90 feet above bedrock, includes three large gates that permit the passage of lake water over the concrete barrier for continuation down the Flambeau River.

Being a good steward of the lake and river is important to Dairyland and the cooperative community. Dairyland has made major environmental enhancements to the lake over the years, including improving fish and natural resource habitat, upgrading the lake's boat landing and providing a handicap-accessible fishing area.

**Jeff Farrey
(R), District
Supervisor,
congratulates
Joe Ihm, (L)**



The graduates of the Apprentice Lineman Program were honored at the annual Superintendent's Conference held in Stevens Point on January 10, 2010. Our lineman, Joe Ihm completed his apprenticeship.

The apprenticeship program is a four year program consisting of 7,720 hours, included in these hours, 640 hours (160 hours/year) are spent in the classroom at the Vocational School. The remaining 7,080 hours are on-the-job training administered by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Congratulations Joe!

Non-discrimination Statement

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Wisconsin's Climate Change Legislation- Energy legislation will impact Wisconsin consumers

Written by Brian Rude, Vice President, External and Member Relations

What is the future of electric rates and reliability in Wisconsin?

That's a question under consideration in the Wisconsin legislature, as our state lawmakers analyze a comprehensive bill resulting from Governor Jim Doyle's Global Warming Task Force.

The Task Force met for many months and came up with dozens of recommendations relating to energy across several sectors of the economy. Legislative leaders have distilled many of these recommendations into a bill which is now dubbed the "Clean Energy Jobs Act." The bill's authors hope to reduce Wisconsin's carbon footprint, while encouraging the growth of "green jobs" in the private sector.

There are three "major" points to the bill: expanding the state's renewable energy mandate to 25% by 2025; requiring all utilities to adopt programs to achieve energy efficiency savings of 2% a year by 2015, and a lifting of the state's nuclear moratorium. Buried in the bill, however, are many details on related issues, some of which are of

great concern to cooperatives.

Wisconsin's electric cooperatives support renewable energy development: our energy provider Dairyland Power Cooperative has a goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025 and is making steady gains in this area. The new proposed mandate language causes us concerns, however, because of a requirement that we must buy certain types of renewable energy or purchase it from certain locations. Electric cooperatives need the flexibility to buy the most affordable and reliable renewable resources. Therefore, we are opposed to state bureaucrats telling cooperatives which sources of energy to buy or ordering us to pay a rate above the market for renewable energy resources.

As for energy efficiency, we need to be practical about how much we can achieve and how much we can afford to pay for those programs. Every cooperative in the state currently has an energy efficiency program: our democratically elected boards have established solid programs to help our members make wise energy choices. We are

concerned that the bill before the legislature will result in new regulatory pressures that might drive rates higher while not delivering programs needed in rural areas.

On the lifting of the nuclear moratorium, we very much support ending this law and allowing nuclear energy to compete with other fuel choices. However, we believe the state needs a clean repeal of the outdated moratorium, and this bill unnecessarily complicates the issue. Some supporters of new nuclear energy facilities say the original bill draft would throw the entire issue into the courts, perhaps for years, never giving Wisconsin an opportunity to consider this clean, carbon free form of energy.

We are working with our elected officials to express our concerns about this bill on behalf of our members. We appreciate the good intentions of our legislators who are seeking ways for Wisconsin to be more independent and to grow "green jobs." However, we need to keep in mind the goals of reliability and affordability on your behalf.

If you have questions about the bill or our position, please feel free to contact us.

Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

Eric VanNatta

**Title- Member Service
Assistant**

Family-

- **Wife:** Linda
- **Children:** Jami (Mike) Hocking
Andrew (finance- Kayla)
Hannah

Hobbies-

Hunting, Fishing, Camping,
and Cutting Firewood



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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