

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Makes Commitment to Wisconsin's Energy Future

A commitment to clean, abundant renewable energy is a commitment to building a better future. To help make that commitment, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has joined Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative.

Focus provides information, assistance and financial incentives to encourage Wisconsin residents to implement renewable energy options—such as solar, wind and biomass—at their homes and businesses.

Getting Started with Renewable Energy

Taking advantage of renewable energy is easier than you might think. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and Focus on Energy can show you how, step by step.

### 1. LEARN YOUR OPTIONS

Be an educated consumer. Gather as much information as you need to feel comfortable with your renewable energy decision. In particular, Focus recommends that prospective buyers learn more about:

**Energy Efficiency.** Before investing in any renewable energy system, it's important to make your home, farm or business as energy efficient as possible. To learn about energy efficiency for your home, visit the Focus on Energy Residential section ([focusonenergy.com/Residential](http://focusonenergy.com/Residential)). For your farm or business, visit the

Focus on Energy Business section ([focusonenergy.com/Business](http://focusonenergy.com/Business)).

### Renewable Energy Systems.

Solar electric, solar hot water, wind, biomass... Which technology is right for you? To learn more about these renewable energy systems, visit Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Information Center ([focusonenergy.com/Information-Center/Renewables](http://focusonenergy.com/Information-Center/Renewables)) where you'll find a wide selection of informative fact sheets and case studies.

### 2. GET A SITE ASSESSMENT

The best way to determine whether your site is suitable for renewable energy is to have your site assessed by a renewable energy expert. In order to fully evaluate your site, the assessor may need to inspect the roof, attic, utility room, garage or basement. Make sure these areas are accessible to facilitate the process. The assessor will also need information about your energy use and may request records of past usage. This information can usually be obtained from Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. Having this information available will assist the asses-

sor in accurately evaluating your energy needs. To learn more about site assessments, visit the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy page ([focusonenergy.com/Renewable](http://focusonenergy.com/Renewable)) and click on Renewable Energy Site Assessments.

### 3. FIND AN INSTALLER

Finding a reputable installer is as easy as viewing the Focus on Energy Full Service Installer lists or the Renewable Energy Yellow Pages, by visiting the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy page ([focusonenergy.com/Renewable](http://focusonenergy.com/Renewable)). These resources allow you to find a contractor near you who provides a whole package of design, equipment, installation and maintenance services for renewable energy systems. Focus suggests obtaining bids from two to three installers.

### 4. CHECK ZONING

Your renewable energy system installation will need to comply with the zoning and building codes of the county, city, village or town where the installation will be located. If you choose to connect your renewable energy system to the utility grid, contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative for an interconnection application at the early stages of the project. Your installer should be able to assist you with many of these items.

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**Mark Your Calendar for April 10th! Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's Annual Meeting!**



## Questions on the line



### Is a tankless on-demand water heater right for you?

Small, compact, convenient: tankless electric water heaters may seem like a good idea.

However, you should consider:

1. You'll pay for the convenience. The size may be small, but the wiring requirements are large.
2. The energy needed to instantly heat water is significant. The unit often draws power from other appliances in your home and can lead to brownout conditions in your home and/or neighborhood.
3. On-demand heaters may one day require a more costly demand meter from your electric co-op.

In summary, tankless water heaters require high installation costs and high energy demand. We recommend efficient storage water heaters on our off-peak rates for those who want both energy efficiency and a cost-effective solution to water heating.

For information, call: 800-236-2141 ext. 105.

We recommend the 80 gallon A.O. Smith Residential Water Heater.



## Myths and facts

As energy costs continue to rise, consumers are looking ways to reduce their energy use. Although there are a lot of good ideas out there, there are a lot of misconceptions as well about what is really effective. Here are some of the most common myths and the facts to set you on the right path.

### Myth

Computers, monitors and other office equipment will use less energy and last longer if they are left running all of the time.

### Fact:

Turning equipment off overnight does not shorten its life, and the small surge of power that occurs when some devices are turned on is much smaller than the energy used by running equipment when it is not needed. In fact, leaving computers and other office equipment on overnight and on weekends wastes a significant amount of energy and also adds to the wear and tear of the equipment. In general, turn off equipment you are not using or make sure that energy-saving feature on networks or individual machines are enabled. Some office equipment, including printers and scanners, features small transformers that

use energy even when the equipment is turned off. Plug all such devices into a power strip so that they can be shut down completely with one flick of the switch.

### Myth

I should run my HVAC 24/7 to avoid an increased demand charge from the "spike" that occurs when the equipment starts.

### Fact:

Although turning on HVAC equipment will cause a power spike on the order of fractions of a second, this period is not long enough to have any impact on demand charges. Demand charges are based on the average power used in a facility during 15-minute periods. The spike from turning on such equipment does not last long enough to significantly affect this average. Not only are there no significant demand savings from running HVAC equipment continuously, but there is a significant downside as well. Equipment life can be considerably shortened, and unless the equipment is designed to operate at continuous variable capacities, it likely will not be able to properly match the cooling load and will waste energy and decrease comfort.

Source: Copyright- 2007 E Source Companies LLC

## Joke-

[www.jokes4all.net](http://www.jokes4all.net)

A vacuum salesman appeared at the door of an old lady's cottage and, without allowing the woman to speak, rushed into the living room and threw a large bag of dirt all over her clean carpet. He said, "If this new vacuum doesn't pick up every bit of dirt then I'll eat all the dirt."

The woman, who by this time was losing her patience, said, "Sir, if I had enough money to buy that thing, I would have paid my electricity bill before they cut it off. Now, what would you prefer, a spoon or a knife and fork?"



## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR



**focus on energy**<sup>sm</sup>  
*The power is within you.*

Recently, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative teamed up with a Home Performance with Energy consultant to offer a demonstration/training for Board of Directors, staff and members. The Home Performance program is offered through Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative. The consultant provided a free Home Performance evaluation on one house per county in Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's service territory. The consultant was able to perform tests to investigate the possibility of window condensation, heating system red flags, high energy bills, roof damage and much more. Below John Viner, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Consultant, looks through the infra-red camera. To the right is a blower door test.



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## Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Makes Commitment to Wisconsin's Energy Future

### 5. SECURE FINANCING & FOCUS ON ENERGY INCENTIVES

You can obtain funding for your renewable energy system from a variety of sources: a home equity loan, a capital improvement loan, federal tax incentives and/or depreciation—and of course, Focus on Energy incentives.

Focus offers Cash-Back Rewards and grants to help eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses install renewable energy systems. Incentives typically cover 20 percent to 25 percent of the installed cost of the system. To learn more about Focus on Energy's financial incentives for renewable energy system installations, visit the Renewable Energy Financial Incentives page ([focusonenergy.com/Incentives/Renewable](http://focusonenergy.com/Incentives/Renewable)).

### 6. MAINTENANCE

Ask your installer for detailed, written instructions on how to maintain your system properly and safely. Be sure to learn basic safety requirements and procedures, such as how to shut down your system in an emergency and how to power up the system after it has been shut down.

Questions? We're here to help!

Call Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 800-236-2141 for more information about interconnection requirements, rates, and other details of installing a renewable energy system at your home or business.

Together, we can build a better future!

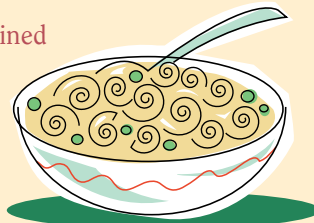
## Currently Cooking

*If you have a favorite recipe that you are willing to share please send it to SREC!  
This recipe was taken from [www.copykat.com](http://www.copykat.com).*

### Macaroni Casserole

- 1 (8 oz) box Macaroni cooked and drained
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- ¼ C. chopped Pimento
- ¼ C. chopped Green Pepper
- ¼ C. chopped onion
- ½ C. Mayonnaise
- ½ lb. Cheddar Cheese (grated)

Heat mushroom soup, add pimento, green pepper, onion, and mayonnaise. Mix well. In casserole dish layer macaroni, sauce then cheese until all is used up. Top with grated cheese. Bake at 350-degree oven for 25 minutes.



# Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

## Larry Butson

District 7

### Representing-

Clifton, Ellenboro, Hazel Green, Liberty, Lima, Platteville, Smelser

### Family-

My wife and I live on our family farm 3 miles north of Platteville. We both were born and raised in the Platteville area. We have two children:

- Dan, an Electrical Engineer in Portage, Wisconsin
- Jennifer, an Electrical Engineer in Franklin, Wisconsin
- We also have four beautiful Grandchildren.

### Occupation-

I worked for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 24 years as a Project Engineer with 15 of those years as an Engineering Supervisor, responsible for the Design and Construction of highways in Central Wisconsin. I spent the 2003 Construction season supervising the contract administration of the relocation of US Hwy 151 around Platteville and Belmont.

### Hobbies-

I suppose you could call my beef cows a hobby. It is tough to classify cattle as a money making business. I enjoy hunting; especially bow deer and turkey hunting. I also try to get in a little fishing each year. I really love spending time outdoors with my kids and grandkids. I also like to help my wife with her little shop that she has on our farm, "The Country Shed". I try to support her as much as I can by making a few items for the shop.

### Why did you choose to become a Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Director?

I have a great neighbor Herb Hottenstein. He cornered me one day and said he was on the nominating committee for SREC and wanted me to run for a Director seat. Well, after he twisted my arm enough and I made a couple phone calls to better understand what was involved, I agreed to give it a go. I ended up filling the position that Dale Bevan had for 41



years. He is the best mentor that a Director could ever ask for. I am very impressed with the complexity and the commitment of this organization. I have a lot to learn but I have been welcomed with open arms and folks are more than willing to take the time to bring me up to speed.

### What do you enjoy most about serving as a director?

I enjoy representing the members of my district. I enjoy the constantly changing agendas that must be addressed. It is great to see the diversity amongst the Directors. Each Director brings such a wealth of experience and expertise to the table. I enjoy the challenge of learning about the Coop and the workings of the board.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

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.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

## 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](http://www.sre.coop)

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