

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Keep Electricity from Going down the Drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10° F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140° F, most households usually only require them set at 120° F.

However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of 130° F to 140° F for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Sources: *U.S. Department of Energy, H2O Conserve.org*

Capital Credit Refunds

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's Board of Directors approved a payout of just over \$1,000,000 in capital credits this year. Current members had the credit applied to their energy bill on April 1, 2009. This payout includes all credit accumulated up through 1985 and 3% of the years 1986 - 2006.



Thank you Congressman Kind!

Congressman Ron Kind has asked President Obama to have the Federal Government make accommodations to accept the Dairyland Power Cooperative nuclear fuel. This would save Dairyland about \$5 million per year. Please join us in expressing gratitude to Congressman Kind for his vision to keep energy prices down.

Shocking? May is National Electrical Safety Month

Protect your home and family from fires and electrocution

Electrical problems in older homes account for nearly 55,000 fires every year. These blazes cause more than 500 deaths, injure more than 1,400, and rack up \$1.4 billion in property damage.

The risk of such fires is significant since half of all homes in the United States were constructed and wired prior to 1973, according to the U.S. Census Bureau—before the advent of garage door openers or home computers. Even more telling, one-third of U.S. homes were built before hair dryers or electric can openers were even invented!

“As each year goes by Americans consume more energy in their homes,” remarks Brett Brenner, president of Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). “Many homes and electrical systems are simply being overburdened, which

leads to fires, injuries, and deaths.”

ESFI has created a checklist that lets consumers identify electrical dangers commonly found in each room of their home. Owners of older homes can upgrade their electric systems with newer fire prevention technology, such as arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home’s wiring and cut off power before a fire develops.

Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, although they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Use of tamper-resistant receptacles would prevent most of the 2,400 burns suffered by children each year from outlets.

More information and resources relating to National Electrical

Safety Month can be found at www.electricalsafety.org.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) exclusively promotes electrical safety. Established in 1994, ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month activities each May, which focus on reducing electricity-related deaths, injuries, and property loss.

Contact: Brett Brenner, ESFI, for more information: (703) 841-3296, Brett.Brenner@esfi.org



Stay Safe in Every Season

Stay safe in every season

Summer brings the promise of long, sunny days—as well as the chance for some wicked storms. Bad weather in any season can knock down electric power lines. Knowing the following will help you stay safe around this electrical hazard.

If you see a downed power line—

- Stay at least 10 feet away from the line, since electricity can arc to anyone who gets close.
- Electricity can move from a high voltage to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body. To avoid this, shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.

- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911.
- Do not move a downed power line or anything in contact with it by using another object such as a broom.

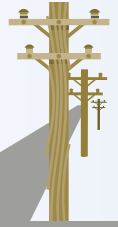


Car accidents & power lines

- If you are in your car and it is in contact with a downed power line, **stay in your car**. Call 911 if possible, or honk your horn for help.
- In the event your car is on fire, jump out with both feet together to avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the car.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.

—Electrical Safety Foundation International

Questions on the line



Why does Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative purchase power from Dairyland Power Cooperative? Why not WE Energies, Alliant, etc.?

The electric cooperatives in Wisconsin had to purchase all of their power needs from investor owned utilities when they first started. The price being paid was very high so the cooperatives decided to form Dairyland Power Cooperative in 1941. The federal government would lend money to Dairyland Power Cooperative to build power plants and transmission lines conditioned upon the distribution cooperatives (as SREC is today) signing long term contracts to exclusively buy all of their power from Dairyland. Each time Dairyland builds a new power plant, the contract must be extended and renewed before Dairyland can borrow money. Our exclusive contract with Dairyland Power Cooperative for our energy needs currently expires in 2055. This date is based upon the expected life of the most recent loans that must be repaid by Dairyland over the next 35 years with a little left over to spare.



After 28 years of service as a Board of Director, Don Walters officially retired at the 71st Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting. Don, pictured here with his family, accepted a gift of appreciation from SREC.

Chuck Simmons, Wauzeka, was voted by the members of District 3 to replace Don Walters' seat on the board of directors.



District 4 and 8 members re-elected Ellen Conley, Fennimore, and Norman Gordon, Darlington, respectively to serve another 3 year term on the SREC Board of Directors.

Currently Cooking:

Butterscotch Sauce from Violet

1 ½ cup brown sugar, packed	1 ½ cup whipping cream
½ cup corn syrup	1 tsp. vanilla
¼ cup butter	

Put brown sugar, butter & corn syrup in a saucepan. Heat on low until it starts to boil. Remove from heat. Add whipping cream and vanilla. Let cool. Serve on ice cream. Store the leftovers in the refrigerator.

Thank you Violet for sharing your recipes with our members!

Youth Leadership Congress

If you'll be a sophomore, junior, or senior in the fall but don't want to wait until then to begin identifying and developing your leadership skills, we have an opportunity for you. The Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association's 46th Annual Youth Leadership Congress will be held July 15-17, 2009, at UW-River Falls. The three-day program is jammed with fun, hands-on activities and seminars led by top-notch professionals. If you're interested in being a sponsored representative of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative this year, please call Megan at 800-236-2141 ext. 105 or email mgraney@srec.net.

Members With Three-Phase Service – Protect Your Equipment!

Because of storms, vehicles hitting our poles, and other reasons, partial outages may occur which can result in an electrical condition known as “single phasing”. For equipment that relies on three phase power, these partial outages may result in less than three phase service being delivered, and can cause expensive damage to your motors and electrical equipment. Members with three phase service should have this equipment protected to prevent single phasing from causing damages. A qualified electrician can help you with your evaluation and installation of

needed protection. Even if you believe that you have the proper protection devices in place, it is a good idea to have an electrician check everything out periodically.

We at Scenic Rivers always try our best to provide you with uninterrupted service but sometimes that is just not possible. These single phasing events are outside of our control and consequently, we are not liable for damages that may happen because of single phasing or voltage fluctuations. We recommend that you act now to insure that your electrical equipment is properly protected.

Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

Karan Knutson

Title- Billing Clerk

Family-

- Husband: Lauren
- Kids: Amy & Travis

Hobbies-

I enjoy camping, fishing, gardening, reading, and spending time with the grandchildren.

Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?

I chose to become employed



at SREC because there was more room for advancement than my former employer.

What do you enjoy most about your job at SREC?

I enjoy helping members. And who couldn't enjoy our new building!

Tree Maintenance

Tree Crew Locations for May-

Grant County- Fennimore, Mt. Ida,

Liberty, North Lancaster

Crawford County- Seneca, Eastman, Prairie du Chien

Pole Testing

Crews will be in the following townships within the next few weeks to perform pole testing. The Cooperative contracts this work with Pole Inspection Services to maintain safe and reliable service for you and your neighbors. You may see them working on your property with trucks or A.T.V.s.

Each year Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative tests and treats approximately 10% of the poles on our system. Of the poles tested, approximately 4% will be tagged and replaced within the first three quarters of 2010.

If you have any problems or concerns with the work completed by our contractor please contact the office.

Townships-

Crawford County-

Clayton, Scott

Grant County-

Liberty, North Lancaster, Clifton

Lafayette County-

Benton, New Diggings, Elk Grove, Shullsburg, White Oak Springs, Monticello



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

Richard E. Kolb. CEO
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Our board of directors consists of Tom Bennett, Don Walters, Sandy Davidson, Norman Gordon, Gerald Koeller, David Stute, Merlin Kvigne, Larry Butson, and Ellen Conley.



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