



WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Protect your home, protect your investment

With smart home improvements that save energy and money

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has teamed up with Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, to bring you Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Deep Impacts—a service designed for electrically heated homes to improve comfort, safety, durability, and energy efficiency. Through this partnership fees are discounted approximately 60% for a home performance assessment and rebates are increased for a limited time. This special offer is for home's heated primarily with electricity. This could be for home's that have electric baseboard heat, electric plenum heaters, electric thermal storage units or geo-thermal heat pumps.

Other than reducing energy costs the home performance assessment can solve a wide array of common problems found in homes such as; window condensation, comfort problems, water staining or peeling paint on ceilings and ice dams. Protect your home investment—energy-efficient improvements are good for you, your family, and the environment!

The "home-as-a-system" approach

Your home is a delicate balance of systems—human, mechanical, and structural. A minor change in one will affect the others, with positive or negative results. You can control these systems, and Home Performance with ENERGY STAR can help.

With the assistance of qualified professionals, you'll learn exactly how your home is performing and discover cost-effective ways to reduce your energy use, month after month.

How does it work?

To qualify a survey about your energy use and home's building characteristics must be completed. Acceptability is based on the results of the survey. Call Megan Graney at Scenic River Energy Cooperative to complete this survey (800) 236-2141, ext. 105. If you qualify you will be contacted by the home energy consultant to schedule a thorough assessment of your home's energy use. Your consultant will conduct tests for drafts, check insulation levels, inspect for moisture problems and examine your mechanical systems, such as the furnace and water heater, to ensure they're operating safely.

Following the inspection, you'll receive a written report of the findings, including a list of recommended solutions and the financial incentives for which you may qualify. Once the improvements are complete, the consultant will retest your home to make sure the improvements are effective.

Earn financial incentives for improvements

Homeowners participating in Home Performance with ENERGY STAR will enjoy access to Focus on Energy Cash-Back Rewards to help offset the costs of eligible improvements—such as air sealing, insulation, ventilation, and other energy-saving measures.

In addition, federal tax credits and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative rebates are available for certain types of improvements.

For more information

Energy-efficient home improvements are a great way to increase your home's comfort, safety, and durability while saving energy and money each month. To learn more about the benefits of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, call Megan at Scenic Rivers Cooperative: (800) 236-2141, ext. 105, or John Viner at Focus on Energy: (608) 354-0207.

Watch for more detailed information in your mailbox in the weeks ahead.

Questions on the line



Rick Kolb, CEO answered questions from the membership regarding the annual meeting.

Why don't you let people know that fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, making them difficult to dispose of? Does this make them a good environmental choice?

Compact Fluorescent Lamps do contain a small amount of mercury. Studies have shown that the amount of mercury that would be produced by a coal burning power plant to light a standard light bulb is more mercury than is contained in the CFL bulb. In addition, the CFL bulb results in about one fourth as much carbon dioxide being produced as an equivalent standard bulb. Thus, on balance, the CFL is a better environmental choice. Many hardware stores have disposal stations for old CFL bulbs, along with Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at each of our three offices. We have no fees for this service.

How many people become members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative in a year?

Most years we add about 200 new members because of new housing and/or businesses. Last year and so far this year the pace has fallen off significantly. We believe this is due to the poor economy. In addition, there are several hundred people that move out of and into existing locations each year.

Two comments were made that the annual meeting was too long.

Our meeting lasted slightly over one and one-half hours. Of course, most people arrived quite a bit earlier than the meeting started to enjoy food, fellowship, and music. We believe it is important to inform the membership about our co-op in a very thorough manner. This means covering financial, power supply, and legislative issues, to name a few. In addition, our guest speakers from Dairyland Power Cooperative come all the way from LaCrosse each year and as over 60% of our funds go to Dairyland, we feel it is important to the membership to hear what DPC is doing with that money and what problems and opportunities they are facing. Having said that, we have an evaluation process each year after the annual meeting to look at ways to improve the members' experience. We have discussed going to a Saturday morning meeting in the past, and I'm sure we will consider that again for next year. Saturday morning meetings may not be any shorter but perhaps the members would be "fresh" and would not have to drive in the dark.



Since 1939, June has been designated the official month for celebrating the importance of Wisconsin's dairy industry. Here's a list of area events held this month to honor Dairy Month:

Dairy Month Kick-off Banquet

Monday, June 1 • 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

United Methodist Fellowship Hall
Highway 27, Eastman
Cheese and cracker social time
before lasagna and spaghetti
meal at 8 p.m.

Crawford County Dairy Breakfast

Saturday, June 6 • 6 to 10 a.m.

Terry Steger & Tim and
Char Steger Farm
60724 Irish Ridge Road,
Prairie du Chien

Lafayette Dairy Breakfast

Saturday, June 13 • 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Lafayette County Highway
Department
12016 Hill St., Darlington

Grant County Dairy Breakfast / Travel & Recreation Show

Sunday, June 14 • 7 a.m. to noon

Bloomington Fairgrounds

Crawford County Dairy Days

June 19-21

Soldiers Grove
Softball & volleyball tournament, food
stands, music, tractor pull, parade
Sunday at 1 p.m.

Solutions for Our Future: Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency—the buzzword of the late 1970s and early '80s—has become a hot topic once again. The federal stimulus bill includes funding for making energy efficiency improvements to your home, and there are numerous national groups dedicated to promoting the concept. But you might not know that the energy efficiency revolution started with a refrigerator.

In the mid-1970s the first of a series of national refrigerator standards was created. Back then, the amount of energy each fridge used varied widely depending on the engineer who designed it and the amount of insulation built in. By setting and later boosting efficiency standards for manufacturers to follow, the U.S. Department of Energy notes the amount of energy a standard fridge consumes today has been cut by 75 percent from 1975—even though the size of the average fridge has grown from 18 cubic feet to 22 cubic feet.

As a result, the amount of energy we're saving by using current efficient commercial and residential refrigerator models (versus those from the 1970s) equals more than all of renewable energy produced in America today, excluding hydro-

power. You see, energy efficiency isn't about wearing sweaters or cutting back on your daily activities—it's all about being smart with the power you use. And the smarter we are about our power use right now, the less power we'll need in the future.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration stresses that because of efficiency measures, energy productivity—the impact we get from every kilowatt-hour used—is rising by 0.9 percent a year. By turning to energy efficiency to pull more productivity out of the electricity we require, the United States can reduce its demand growth from 2.1 percent each year to 0.5 percent, according to a 2009 McKinsey Global Institute study.

Electric cooperatives like Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative are doing our part to help you get the most out of each kilowatt-hour you consume. Across the nation, 92 percent of electric cooperatives offer energy efficiency programs for members. It's part of our commitment to providing you with reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion.

As you've probably heard, government action to address climate

change will increase electric bills; the size of this impact on your pocketbook has yet to be decided. When it comes to meeting our nation's energy challenges, electric co-ops are offering elected officials our experience on how to make affordable choices on behalf of consumers. But we need your help.

Through the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative members like you have sent more than 1.7 million messages to Congress, asking lawmakers to focus on the interconnected issues of making sure we have enough generation to satisfy growing demand, developing new low-emissions technologies, and keeping electric bills affordable when shaping energy and climate change policy.

Get involved in this campaign by asking your U.S. representative and senators on Capitol Hill this important new question: Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives like Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to ensure our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford?

To learn how to begin a dialogue, visit www.ourenergy.coop today.

Currently Cooking:

Gourmet Potatoes by Violet

2 lbs. frozen hash brown potatoes	1/3 cup chopped onion
Lawry's seasoning salt	1/2 cup butter
1/2 pint whipping cream	1 pint half & half

Thaw potatoes, layer in 9X13 pan with butter & onion, sprinkle generously with salt. Pour cream and half & half over potatoes.

Bake 1 hour covered at 350 degrees and then 1 hour uncovered. Cubed ham can be added for a complete meal.

Thank you Violet for sharing your recipes with our members!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When using your laptop computer at home, put the battery charger (an AC adapter) on a power strip that can be turned off. The transformer in the charger draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged in.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Gaylord Laverne Reichling

Gaylord Laverne Reichling age 78 of Darlington, WI passed away Friday, April 17, 2009 at U.W. Hospital, Madison, WI. He was born on March 10, 1931 to John G. and Clara L. (Steger) Reichling in Darlington. Gaylord graduated from Darlington High School in 1949. He was united in marriage to Sandi Engelke on February 28, 1965 at First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, WI. Gaylord lived in Darlington his entire life where he owned and operated Gaylord's Texaco Service from October 4, 1954 until June 1, 1966. He then began working

for the Lafayette Electric Co-op (R.E.A.) on the next day. Gaylord remained with R.E.A. until 1986. He then started Gaylord's Appliance in March of 1986. Gaylord also drove school bus for Al's Trucking for many years.

Gaylord is survived by his wife: Sandi; his children: Chanel Gutierrez of Cape Coral, FL, Renee (Dan) Wendt of Slinger, WI, Anita Reichling of New Hampton, IA, and Jennifer (Chuck) Johnson of Dubuque, IA; eight grandchildren: Joshua & Stefani Gutierrez, Chase, Isaac & Andrew Johnson, and Charlene, Clara & Catherine

Wendt; a great-grandson: Xavier; and a sister: Lorraine Keister of Wiota. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Gaylord was an active member of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Darlington where he served on the Church Consistory and sang in the choir. He also sang in the Darlington Barber Shop Quartet. Gaylord was a thirty-five year member of Darlington Fire Department, a fifty-five year member of Evening Star Lodge #64 Free and Accepted Masons of Darlington and the Zor Shriners. He also served on the City Council for over thirteen years and on the Union Grove Cemetery Board for almost fifty years. Gaylord will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his family and friends.

Funeral Services were held Saturday, April 25, 2009 11:00 A.M. at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 339 East Louisa Street, Darlington with Rev. Kathleen Rinear officiating. Burial was at Union Grove Cemetery in Darlington.

Tree Maintenance

Tree Crew Locations for June-

Grant County- Fennimore, Mt. Ida, & North Crawford

Crawford County- Eastman and Prairie du Chien

Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power



Barb Murphy

Title- Secretary

Crawford County

Family-

- **Husband:** Terry
- **Children:** Angella Dahl and Jill Bender
- **Grandchildren:** Keegan, Alexandra, Zachary, Ella, Brayden, and Jack

Hobbies-

Fishing, flowers, and walking

Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?

I wanted to try something new and I have been here for 20 years!

What do you enjoy most about your job at SREC?

My job includes something different every day. I like the variety it brings!

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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*
Megan Graney..... *Editor*

Our board of directors consists of Tom Bennett, Merlin Kvigne, Sandy Davidson, Norman Gordon, Gerald Koeller, David Stute, Chuck Simmons, Larry Butson, and Ellen Conley.



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