

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Easy Ways To Pay Your Power Bill

Budget Billing—The modern, convenient way to budget your energy dollars is by utilizing REC's Budget Billing offer. Combine this feature with the Automatic Bill Payment program and you will not only find the sting taken out of those months when your energy costs peak out, but also the comfort of knowing these costs in advance.

Switching to either or both of these convenient billing systems is as easy as calling or stopping in at any of our three offices located in Lancaster, Gays Mills and Darlington. Automatic bill payment with budget billing gives you the additional advantage of paying the same amount all year-round, and knowing the amount of your monthly bill in advance. No more high bills during your peak energy usage season.

Give your budget a break. Switching your account over to budget billing is quite simple. We will compute your bill based on your previous 12-month usage. You will then pay the "budget" amount

for 11 months. In the 12th month you will pay the "actual balance" on your account if you have an amount due. Your account will be adjusted periodically to reflect changes in your electrical usage. Remember, you will continue to receive all of your monthly usage information, to ensure that your consumption is in line with previous history.

Automatic Bill Payment—Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's Automatic Bill Payment lets you pay your bill automatically without writing a check. You won't have to worry about missing a payment, and you'll save time, check blanks, and postage. This service is available to all REC members at no charge.

An Automatic Bill Payment form can be obtained from any of the REC offices. Just follow the directions on this form, and beginning the next month your payment will be deducted automatically from your savings or checking account on either the 10th or the 20th of each month. You will continue to receive a statement each month showing your actual electric usage. This way,

you can monitor and compare your present monthly usage to past consumption records. The monthly REC deductions will appear on your bank statement.

WEC News 2005 Awards

Every month Wisconsin Energy Cooperatives have personalized pages within the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News. These pages can be found on pages 4 and 5 and on pages 28 and 29. Personnel at each electric co-op select and write materials that appear there.

Each year since 1966 WECA, publisher of the magazine, has given awards to individual co-ops for excellence in various categories of presenting local-page news. In 2005 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative won the Human Interest Award and also got an honorable mention for the Photography award.

We would like to congratulate our editor and writer for the WEC News, Mary Erickson. She does an outstanding job for us.

Head Start

- ▶ Is a Federal and State funded preschool program in your area.
- ▶ Serves income eligible families with children 3-5 years of age (they must be 3 by September 1, 2006) who live in Grant, Iowa, La Fayette and Richland counties and Early Head Start, serves pregnant women and children 0-3 in Northern Grant and Richland Counties.
- ▶ Is free of charge.
- ▶ Provides comprehensive educational, health, nutrition, parent involvement and family service information.
- ▶ Families receiving Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance are considered income eligible.

SWAP Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2006-07 program year. Please contact the Head Start office at 608-935-3379 or 1-800-494-8899 for an application or more information.

Vitality
NOTE

Don't disagree

Trying to change what someone else thinks can be stressful. So, when you find yourself disagreeing with someone, simply say, "That hasn't been my experience," and leave it at that.

Currently Cooking



The grilling season will soon be here. Here is a pork recipe that is sure to please the family.

Marinated Pork

- 8 oz. can of crushed pineapple
- ¼ C. onion
- ½ C. soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/3 C. oil
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- meat tenderizer may be used if desired.



Mix ingredients together and marinate pork steak overnight. Grill meat. Taken from the Dairyland Power 60th Anniversary Cook Book.

Just For Fun

Predictions that didn't quite come true:



Electric light— “Good enough for our transatlantic friends, but unworthy of the attention of practical or scientific men.”

—**British Parliament's report on Edison's work, 1878**

Television— “People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.”

—**Darryl F. Zanuck, head of Twentieth Century-Fox, 1946**

Computers— “There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in their home.”

—**Ken Olson, Pres. Of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977**

Nuclear energy— “Nuclear powered vacuum cleaners will probably be a reality within 10 years.”

—**Vacuum cleaner manufacturer, Alex Lewyt, 1955**

Employee Retires

Nancy Jerrett, Executive Secretary to the manager for 19 years, retired on March 1, 2006. Nancy moved to Lancaster from Omaha, Nebraska, where she worked for the Federal Reserve Bank. Nancy and her husband Buzz currently live in Lancaster. The cooperative wishes to thank her and wish her a happy retirement.

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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 Joan Wagner, 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.

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Our board of directors include Dale Bevan, Don Walters, Sandy Davidson, Norman Gordon, Gerald Koeller, David Stute, Merlin Kvigne, Tom Bennett, and Ellen Conley.

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Barrel Burning



Many homeowners believe they are helping the environment by saving landfill space when they burn their trash in a burn barrel. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a study showing burn barrels release the same amount of dioxin and furan as a municipal waste incinerator providing service for thousands of residents. Dioxin and furan are extremely toxic compounds.

The DNR website states that it is illegal to burn asphalt, metal, garbage, petroleum products, plastics, rubber, or treated wood, due to their harmful emissions. Also permits are required for burn barrels and only untreated paper and wood products are permitted.

—**Grant County Countryside Clinic**

Switched-Off Devices Still Use Power

People are installing more and more entertainment devices in their homes, including extensive entertainment centers as well as multiple televisions and computers. They all consume electricity. The surprise is just how much energy these appliances consume when they appear to be “off.”

According to the U. S. Department of Energy, about 75 % of the energy used for appliances in the typical home is consumed when the appliances are turned off. This is due to features such as clocks and remote controls that are always operating. The most efficient new televisions, for example, still consume up to 3 watts when turned off, and the best computer/monitor combinations use up to 35 watts in sleep mode.

“...about 75 % of the energy used for appliances in the typical home is consumed when the appliances are turned off.”

