



WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Fall Test of Electric Heat

Dairyland Power and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be conducting their annual test of interruptible heating loads in preparation for winter control. This test is conducted each fall to assist the cooperatives in determining if problems exist with their interruptible heating loads and remind members that loads will be controlled during the peak of the heating season. This test is performed at the request of the Dairyland Managers Association.

The strategies affected are:

- Strategies 2A and 2B - Dual Fuel
- Strategy 4B - Miscellaneous Heat

- Test Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Alert Notice: 2B & 4B - 4:50 p.m.
Control Starts: 2A & 2B, 4B - 5:00 p.m.
Restoral: 2A & 2B - begins at 9:15 p.m.

If you experience any problems during this test, call our office and let us know. You can call 1-800-236-2141 extension 105 for Leann Handel. ■

Energy Upgrades: Installing Better Light Fixtures

The light fixtures in most of our homes were designed to hold standard incandescent bulbs. We're all familiar with the threaded base on these bulbs since the common "Edison base" was invented more than 100 years ago by the famous inventor Thomas Edison. This illustrates just how old-fashioned this lighting system is.

The standard incandescent light bulb creates light by heating a thin filament until it glows white-hot. This primitive process produces more than 90
(over...)

Incentive Reminder

Any member interested in applying for a 2006 incentive must have the necessary paperwork completed by December 31, 2006. The 2006 member incentives are as follows:

Electric Water heater:..... \$200.00 for an 80 gallon
\$360.00 for a 120 gallon

AC or Air Source Heat Pump.....\$60.00 per ton
 (must be SEER 14 or greater)

Ground Source Heat Pump.....140.00 per ton

Light Ballasts/Fixtures

- Electronically Ballasted Fluorescent Fixtures.....\$6.50/ballast
 - Metal Halide/Sodium Vapor Fixtures..... \$10.00/fixture
- (Minimum of 5 to qualify; must be retrofit and hardwired)

Electric heat items (Boilers, plenum heaters) \$15.00/kW
 ETS (Electric Thermal Storage) Units..... 20% off of retail cost

** Must allow a load control device to be installed.
 Please call 800-236-2141 x105 for more details. ■

Solar Electric Systems are Making a Comeback

Solar electric systems are making a comeback all around the world. The rising cost of electricity has driven some of this new interest in solar energy, but improvements in solar technology are also making this renewable energy source increasingly attractive.

Solar electric or photovoltaic systems use silicon-based cells that convert sunlight to electricity. Groups of these cells are wired together to form the solar arrays you may have seen on rooftops or in racks on the ground. Solar electric systems produce direct current (DC), and an inverter is usually installed to convert this power to the alternating current (AC) that is used in our homes.

Some homeowners install batteries to provide backup power at night and during cloudy weather, especially for homes that are far from the electrical grid. But an increasing number of homeowners are installing photovoltaic systems on homes that are already connected to the grid. These grid-connected systems provide the best of both worlds: abundant and reliable power from their traditional electric utility, and clean renewable power from their solar system.

Despite the falling cost of photovoltaic systems, they still require a significant investment that varies from \$15,000 to \$30,000 depending on the size of the system. It may be a good investment in the long run, but it's not one many of us can afford. Even with rising electrical costs, your local electric utility can still provide reliable electrical power for a lot less money. But remember the cost of creating a green planet doesn't come cheaply. ■

Earth Notes

We are nearing the end of 2006; let's take a look at where we are at with our environment. There are people that say we are experiencing global warming, others say we are in a mass extinction of our animal and bird species, others say water will be in short supply. The only good thing about it is that we are starting to realize this problem and are trying to do something about it.

We need to do what we can to provide habitat, eliminate runoff, cut down on our nonrenewable fuels and be very conscious and frugal with our natural resources. When buying new appliances, buy those that are approved as being energy efficient, buy cars with a higher fuel efficiency, eliminate unnecessary trips, carpool if possible, cut back on mowing to provide wildlife habitat, plant bushes and plants that feed and attract wildlife, and show our future generations what a truly beautiful world we live in and try to keep it that way. ■

Energy Upgrades, continued

percent heat and less than 10 percent light. Luckily, we now have a simple and cheap alternative: compact fluorescent lamps that use about one-quarter the energy of incandescents.

You can buy compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) just about anywhere these days. Many screw right into the standard Edison base, allowing you to keep your existing light fixtures. But the best way to improve the efficiency and quality of your lighting is by installing new fixtures that are designed specifically for CFLs. These dedicated fixtures use special CFLs with a pin-type base, and they include a built-in ballast that replaces the bulky ballast found at the base of screw-in CFLs. Dedicated CFL fixtures are also designed with high-efficiency reflectors that direct an even and pleasant swath of light into the room.

You can buy dedicated CFL fixtures for every application. When you're ready to install them, you should hire a licensed electrician to do the work unless you are familiar with home wiring. Once you have them installed, you'll begin saving energy and money right away.—Source: *Chris Dorsi, Saturn Resource Management* ■

Currently Cooking

My daughter brought me back a Paula Deen cookbook from Savanna, Georgia. I thought that this pie recipe might be a good one for Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Pie

- 3 eggs
- 1 C. dark corn syrup
- ½ C. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1 C. canned pumpkin
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 C. chopped pecans
- 1 - 9-inch unbaked pie shell
- Whipped cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. With hand beater, beat eggs well. Beat in corn syrup, sugar, butter, pumpkin, and vanilla until well blended. Arrange pecans in bottom of pie shell. Slowly pour egg mixture over them. Bake for 1 hour or until knife inserted 1 inch from edge comes out clean. Serve with whipped cream. Serves 6 to 8. If you only have white syrup substitute brown sugar for the white sugar, you will get the same effect.

Just For Fun



The ten-year-old boy was failing math. His parents tried everything to get him to do well in school, but nothing worked. Finally they enrolled him in a Catholic school. From his first day, the boy spent every night poring over books. When his first report card came, he had received an A in math.

"Son," his father asked, "what made the difference in math class? The nuns? The textbooks?"

"Dad, I had never taken math seriously before," the boy admitted. "But when I walked in and saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew this place meant business!" ■

Scott Bihl in Readers Digest

Vitality NOTE

The more vitamin E you consume, the less likely you are to develop the early signs of clogged arteries. One study found. It's recommended adults consume at least 15 gm. daily. Some good sources: almonds, broccoli, soybean oil, sunflower seeds and turnip greens. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.* ■


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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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