



## CO-OP CAREERS

It's more than just a job when the community comes first



Steve Lucas, CEO

I admit to a little bit of bias on this topic, but I believe there's no better place to work than at a co-op. I've worked at co-ops in various capacities throughout my entire career, and I wouldn't have it any other way. That's because the co-op way is a way of life, and it's the kind of life I believe in.

It turns out I'm not alone. According to a recent report in *Fortune* magazine, the top three things Millennials—the generation of young adults either just joining the workforce or in the early stages of their careers—seek in jobs are balance between home and work, an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge to grow personally, and an employer that places importance on community and sense of purpose.

Those are all factors that appeal to me too, and they're what I've found working for cooperatives.

Co-ops are about providing service and meeting needs, not about making a profit. They're engaged in the communities they serve, doing what they can to make their communities better. Here at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we support our communities in many different ways, from providing scholarships and other opportunities for our young members or contributing to local charitable causes through our Operation Round Up program.

That giving spirit is carried out individually by our employees as well. The fine folks who work at SREC live in the areas we serve, and every one of them is involved in his or her community somehow, whether by serving on a volunteer fire department, coaching a youth sports team, or serving on a church council. It matters to our employees that they contribute to the place they call home, and SREC supports their efforts.

Also, co-ops are part of a network that offers endless opportunities to grow personally and professionally, with a wide offering of courses, conferences, and webinars through which employees can hone their skills and expand their knowledge. At SREC, we even offer on-the-job training for young people who are interested in linework or diesel mechanics. Some of our current employees started out as students learning through our on-the-job training and have gone on to serve long careers, rising through the ranks to leadership positions.

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, co-ops continue to shine as some of the best places to work in a community because the salaries and benefits are competitive, co-ops often hire from within communities, and they promote from within the co-op as well. That certainly holds true at SREC.

If you're contemplating a career, I encourage you to consider the co-op way.



### MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Pamela Rigotti of Argyle took the winning picture for February in SREC's 2017 Member Photo Contest. She captioned this picture: "Paying homage to one of the oldest homes in Argyle (circa 1850-1860). Please turn to page 17 to learn more about the 2018 Member Photo Contest."

### SREC JOB OPENING: Journeyman Lineworker

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC) is headquartered in Lancaster, Wis., with offices in Gays Mills and Darlington. We are seeking a qualified journeyman lineworker for Gays Mills. prefer Journeyman lineworker with electric utility experience.

Minimum qualifications: Journeyman must have successfully passed state examination for journeyman lineworker. Requires valid Class A CDL driver's license. Requires relocation to within a 10-mile radius of the reporting location. Normal work week is Monday through Friday with on-call responsibilities.

We offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience and qualifications and an excellent benefits program. To apply, submit a cover letter, resumé, references (three professional, two personal) and a SREC application found on [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop) under "Careers" and send it by email to [hpierce@srec.net](mailto:hpierce@srec.net).

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE/M/F



# \$1,000 College Scholarships Available

College scholarships will be awarded through a drawing at the 2018 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative 81st Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2018. At the time of the annual meeting, to be eligible to receive a scholarship, the applicant must be either:

- a. a senior in high school
- b. a senior in a home-schooled program
- c. a non-traditional student entering their freshman year in a post-secondary accredited program

After successful completion of their first semester of post-secondary school or college AND receiving credit for at least 12 credits at a minimum "C" average, a \$1,000 check will be made out to the student and the school for the second semester tuition. If the student fails to meet these qualifications, the scholarship will be awarded to the alternate if he or she has met all the same requirements.



## Qualifications:

1. Only dependents of members or members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be eligible to receive scholarship money. (Family members of employees and directors are eligible as long as they are members of SREC.)
2. The application can be mailed or emailed to the addresses below and needs to be received **on or before April 9** to qualify:

Mailing Address: Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative  
 Attn: 2018 Scholarships  
 231 N. Sheridan St.  
 Lancaster, WI 53813

Email Address: [csolmstead@srec.net](mailto:csolmstead@srec.net)

SREC will mail or email each student a letter to verify receipt of the application. If you do not hear from SREC by April 10, 2018, please call to verify SREC received your application.

3. The student must be present at the SREC Annual Meeting held on April 14, 2018 to win.
4. The student **must** receive college credit for at least 12 credits at a minimum "C" average to be awarded the scholarship.
5. Simply fill out the application form and return it to the address stated above. Applications can be picked up at any of the SREC three offices: Lancaster, Darlington, or Gays Mills or on our website @ [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop).

If you have questions regarding the 2018 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Scholarship, please contact Carrie Olmstead at 608-723-2121 or 800-236-2141 ext. 556.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (or legal guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from student)

Cooperative Billing Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



# 2018 SREC MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding its fourth annual Member Photo Contest. Winning photos will appear in SREC's 2019 calendar. Photos may also be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

## Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture scenic life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.).
- Photos must be horizontal (landscape).
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos MUST be at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

*Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop), picked up at a SREC office, or emailed to you.*

**Please email all photos to [hpierce@SREC.net](mailto:hpierce@SREC.net).**

## Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run through August 21, 2018; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All SREC members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An SREC member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- SREC employees will choose winning photos.



## FREE ENERGY-SAVING PRODUCTS NOW AVAILABLE TO RENTERS

Focus on Energy’s popular offering that ships free energy-saving products to Wisconsin homeowners is now available to renters and condo owners.

“This year our Simple Energy Efficiency offering expands to all ratepayers of utilities that participate in Focus on Energy,” said Casey Langan, Focus on Energy spokesman.

Funded by 108 electric and natural gas utilities, Focus on Energy has worked with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects since 2001.

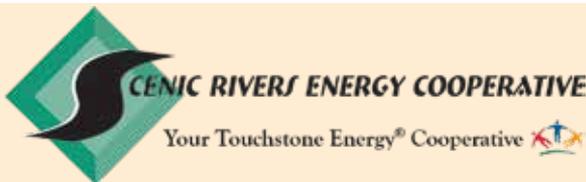
There are six different packs to choose from. They include items such as light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, high-efficiency showerheads, pipe insulation, and advanced power strips for home offices and entertainment centers. Participants can order one pack per household, once every three years.

Order your free pack online at [focusonenergy.com/simple](http://focusonenergy.com/simple) or call 800.230.4701. Packs are shipped for free to your doorstep within four to six weeks. Please have your electric and natural gas utility account numbers available when ordering.

“Whether switching to LED lightbulbs or plugging electronics into an advanced power strip, these products help Wisconsinites save energy and money,” Langan said. “These Simple Energy Efficiency packs are just one way Focus on Energy benefits our state’s economy, reduces energy waste, and conserves resources.”

## PLANNING TO BUILD?

It might not feel like it right now, but the spring construction season is right around the corner! If you’re planning to build a new house, garage, or other outbuilding that will be in need of electric service this year, please contact us now. We can help you assess your needs, offer suggestions on your best course of action, and talk about heating and cooling programs with rate incentives.



### Steve Lucas, CEO

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## SREC SEEKING FEATURE WRITER

SREC is seeking a qualified free-lance writer to tell members’ stories for the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Successful applicant will also be required to take any photos necessary to accompany stories. This is a free-lance position only and will not lead to a permanent position at the co-op—writer will be paid per hour and compensated for mileage.

If interested, please contact Heidi at SREC, 608-723-2121 (ext. 554) or [hpierce@srec.net](mailto:hpierce@srec.net).



## SAVE THE DATE



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative’s annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 14, at the Youth & Ag Building in Lancaster. Please watch for the 2017 Annual Report in the March issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*.

## Board of Directors

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