



Steve Lucas, CEO

SUMMER SHIFT: SMALL STEPS FOR SAVINGS

Scenic Rivers employees like to save money, so we know that our members do too. When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity—whether to cool the home, turn on the lights, or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If members shift their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

The price of electricity purchased

on the grid is always changing, based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need—or demand—rises during the day, the price of electricity increases. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity.

Tips:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal). Closing curtains and pulling shades will help the home feel cooler, longer. A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the hot water heater to 120 degrees.
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home \$111 per year.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. The less electricity cooperative members use when prices are at their highest, the more stable we can keep our retail rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become. And that is how together, as a cooperative, we can all realize energy and cost savings.



- Run the dishwasher before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Open your dishwasher after the rinse cycle is complete to let dishes air dry.

Do The
**SUMMER
SHIFT**

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The winning photo for July in SREC's 2021 Member Photo Contest was taken by Deb Gates of Eastman. Winning photos are featured in our 2021 Member Photo Calendar. Our 2022 Member Photo Contest is underway! Turn to page 18 to learn more.



ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, ENERGY SAVINGS CAN'T BE TOPPED!



Change up pizza night at home by taking it to the grates! Grilled pizza is one of the best ways to get a charred and crisp crust, plus, cooking on the grill saves energy. By keeping the extra heat out of the house, you'll use less energy trying to keep it cool.

Save a little more dough by making pizza dough from scratch. Not only is it affordable (under \$2 for two crusts), but it's easy to make and can be prepared in advance. Simply store in the refrigerator for up to three days, or freeze and thaw for when the pizza craving strikes. Deana Protz, PR & communications specialist at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, shared her go-to pizza dough recipe you knead to try.

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil [and more for brushing bowl and shaping dough]
- 1¾ cups warm water
- 1 packet active dry yeast
- 4½ cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp. granulated sugar

Dough Directions. Brush a large bowl with oil and set aside. Whisk yeast and water in a bowl. Let stand 10 minutes then mix in oil. Add flour, salt, and sugar to yeast mixture. Stir to combine. Transfer dough to a floured surface and knead continuously for 10 minutes. Dough should be smooth, but slightly sticky. Transfer dough to the oiled bowl, and cover with plastic wrap. Let rise for 1–1½ hours.

Pizza Preparations. Dust the back of a cookie sheet with flour. Gently stretch the dough into a thin shape.

Deana suggested, "Rub olive oil on your hands when shaping the dough. This will prevent the dough from sticking and also encourage a golden crust."

Grilling Guide. Prepare the grill for direct high heat and spray with non-stick oil. Slide dough directly onto the grates, close the lid, and cook for 2 – 3 minutes. Turn the pizza dough grilled side up. Add toppings. Close the lid and cook for an additional 2 – 3 minutes.

Allow to cool for minutes, before cutting. Enjoy!



GRILL SAFELY

Lighting your grill with a closed lid can cause a dangerous buildup of gas, creating a fireball. Keep your gas grill lid open when lighting it. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off, and wait at least five minutes before relighting.

Courtesy of Oakdale Electric Cooperative

PRACTICE SAFETY WHEN DIY-ING

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- **Start by selecting a designated work area.** The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend.** We know you're a pro but investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. (Ditch the sandals for this!)
- **Work slowly and clean as you go.** When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could

make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use, and any tripping hazards.

- **Be cautious with power tools.** Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the United States are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:
 - Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
 - Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
 - Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
 - If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
 - Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
 - When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.





Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



2021 PHOTO CONTEST

It's that time of the year...well, actually it is well past that time of the year when we announce our annual photo contest. For those avid photographers among our membership, we hope you will participate and send us your work. We especially encourage first-timers and our younger members to submit their work.

Photos that are submitted may be used in our 2022 calendar, but photos may also be used for magazine covers and in other publications.



Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos for 2022 should capture life in rural Wisconsin, specifically farm animals.
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be high resolution; at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run through until August 20, 2021; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- All Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members under the age of 18 years old are 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 determine the winning photos.

High-resolution photos can be submitted via email to jmims@srec.net. For a complete list of rules and criteria, as well as the entry forms, visit our website at www.sre.coop. Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we can email you a copy.



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