

WATT'S HAPPENING

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

The power of Operation Roundup

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with all the members in the Round Up program, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Each co-op decides how they want to operate the program, and the vast majority is governed by a board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community.

The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

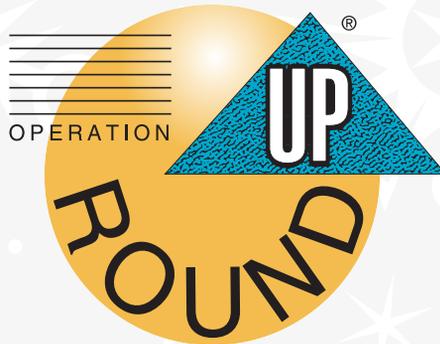
Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. This can include helping a family in need after a house fire. Assisting the local food pantry. Providing funds so that the local fire department can get a needed piece of equipment. Or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country – and the world – is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Roundup is a perfect example of that

cooperative spirit.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is pleased to offer Operation Roundup. We will continue to "borrow" ideas from other co-ops and welcome your participation. Please share with us additional activities we should explore to serve you and your neighbors, we can be reached at 800-236-2141.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @ adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop ■



Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly half of your home's energy use? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with big energy savings.

*Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Materials You Will Need:

Caulk, caulk gun, knife or tool to cut, rags, water

- 1. PREP:** Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk.

Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

- 2. LOAD:** You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun.

Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze

once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

- 3. APPLY:** To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought.

Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

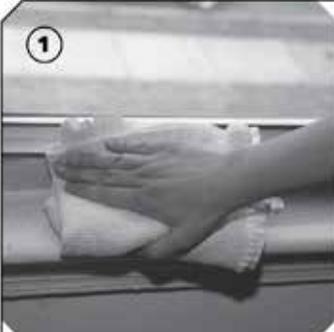
Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

- 4. RELEASE:** Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.
- 5. CLEAN:** Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly **HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE**? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with **BIG ENERGY SAVINGS**.

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Be prepared for winter storms

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.
- **Stay fed** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods



and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 800-236-2141 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



If you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room, small space heaters can be less expensive to use than your central heating system.

Source: energy.gov

Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for your meatloaf recipe! She shares that this is great for sandwiches, lunches, or snacking when doing cleanup from snow.

Quick and Easy Meatloaf

- 2 lbs Lean Ground Beef
- 1 pkg (6oz) Stove Top Stuffing Mix (Chicken flavor)
- 1 c. Water
- 2 Eggs, beaten
- Ketchup

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Place meat, stuffing mix, water, eggs and 4 heaping tablespoons of ketchup in a bowl. Mix just until blended. Shape into loaf in 9 x 13" baking dish. Top with 4-6 tablespoons ketchup. Bake for one hour or until done.



Our next recipe is from Cathy Skaife (Platteville), thanks for sharing! She said that she tried this recipe from Julie Robarge of Tomah and it was a winner at the 2010 Warrens Cranberry Festival and she had to share it because it is delicious.

Cranberry Oatmeal Cookies

- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups of flour
- 1 package (3.4-ounce) instant vanilla pudding
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup chopped cashews

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars together. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine oatmeal, flour, dry pudding mix, salt and baking soda.



Gradually add to wet mixture. Stir in chocolate chips, dried cranberries and cashews. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes about four dozen cookies.



Vegetation Management

Due to the weather conditions, Zielie's Tree Service, Inc may not start up until February to work on the Eastman substation in Crawford County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

WATT'S HAPPENING

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 Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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