



WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Energy savings for every season

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home, and desired comfort levels. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, consumers desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the hot air from infiltrating cool abodes.

Fall and winter: keeping heat in

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

Spring and summer: keeping your cool

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two, and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Moreover, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting to approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates wasteful and unwanted heat. Employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 1-800-236-2141.

Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues 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. ■

2017 Energy Efficiency Calendar



Start the new year off by being more energy efficient!

Each month, try changing your energy use habits by using the tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



JANUARY

Turn off lights when you leave a room.

FEBRUARY

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.

MARCH

Turn off water while brushing your teeth.

APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Clean or replace your air filter. You may need to ask an adult to help.

JUNE

Keep the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit during summer months.



JULY

Close curtains and blinds during the day to block the sun.

AUGUST

Keep all doors and windows closed while the AC is running.

SEPTEMBER

Dry clothes outdoors on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

OCTOBER

Only open the refrigerator door for short amounts of time when necessary.

NOVEMBER

Take short showers instead of a bath.

DECEMBER

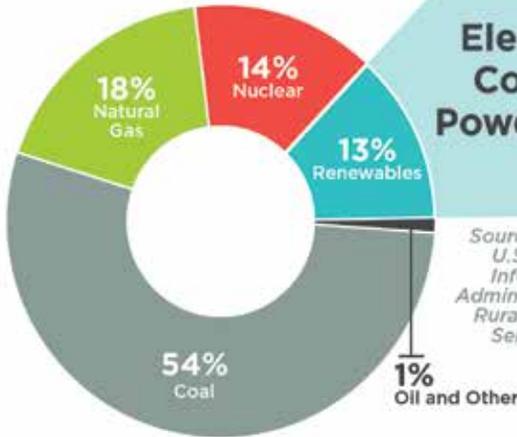
Decorate your home for the holidays with energy-saving LED bulbs.



Electric Cooperatives Focus on Renewable Energy

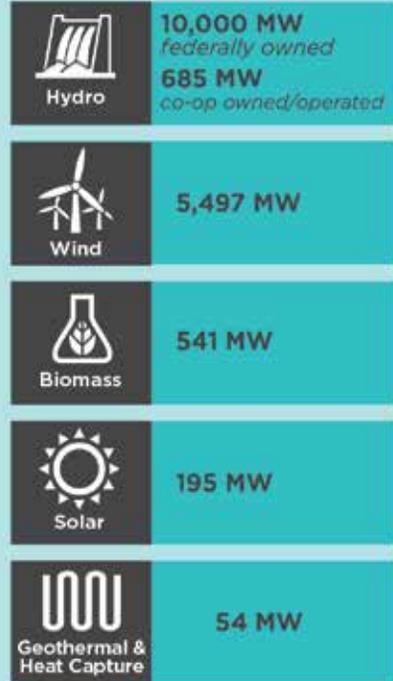
Electric cooperatives use a diverse mix of fuels to supply members with safe, reliable and affordable power.

Renewable resources provide 13 percent of cooperative power needs nationwide, in line with the national average.



Electric Co-op Power Mix

Sources: 2014 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Rural Utilities Service and NRECA.



If anyone would like to share some great family recipes, please mail them to:

SREC, Attn: Heidi,
231 N. Sheridan,
Lancaster, WI 53813

or
email at hpierce@srec.net.

Thanks!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

5 DISTRACTED DRIVING STATS YOU SHOULD KNOW

3,179

Number of people killed each year in vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers
(Federal Communications Commission, 2014)



1 in 4

The probability that a vehicle crash involved a cellphone
(National Safety Council, 2014)

60%

Percentage of people who use cellphones while driving
(Nielsen Post, 2011)

21-24 Age group most likely to send a text or email while driving
(Distraction.gov, 2012)



4X↑ RISK

How much using a cellphone increases your risk of crashing
(National Safety Council, 2014)



Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your Baby Back Rib recipe! "These have a tangy sauce that everyone likes and always asks for the recipe."

Baby Back Ribs

- 2 Tbsp Smoked Paprika
- 2 tsp Chili Powder
- 2 tsp Garlic Salt
- 1 tsp Onion Powder
- ½ tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 1 tsp Pepper
- 4 lbs Pork Baby Back Ribs



Sauce:

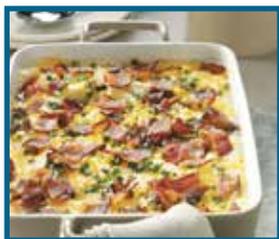
- ½ c Mayonnaise
- ½ c Worcestershire Sauce
- ½ c Yellow Mustard
- ¼ cup Reduced-Sodium Soy Sauce
- 3 Tbsp Hot Pepper Sauce

In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients. Cut ribs into serving size pieces and rub with seasoning mixture. Place ribs in a 6 quart slow cooker. Cook covered on low for 5-6 hours or just until meat is tender. Preheat the oven to 375. In a small bowl, whisk the sauce ingredients. Transfer ribs to the foil lined 15x10x1 inch baking pan and brush with some sauce. Bake 15-20 minutes or until browned, turning once and brushing occasionally with sauce. Serve with remaining sauce.

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your recipe for Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes!

Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes

- 3 lbs. potatoes (about 9 medium) peeled and cubed
- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup butter, cubed
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 6 bacon strips chopped
- 1 cup (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 green onions, chopped



Boil potatoes. Drain, mash potatoes with cream cheese, sour cream and butter. Stir in milk and seasonings. In a small skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Crumble bacon. Transfer potato mixture to a greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese, onions and bacon. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40 to 50 minutes or until heated through. This makes 10 servings.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service Inc. will not be trimming in January.

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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