

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Youth Leadership Congress

UW- River Falls · July 26-28, 2017

The WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills and to learn about the purpose, operation and scope of cooperative business.

Who should apply?

Students that will be going into 10th, 11th or 12th grade next fall and have parents or grandparents that are members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

**Yes, I would like to attend the
2017 Youth Leadership Congress
July 26-28 at UW- River Falls.**

Name: _____

Parent or guardian: _____

Address: _____

Telephone no.: _____

Email: _____

Highschool: _____ Grade Next Fall: _____

*Please return this form to
SREC, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster, WI 53813 or hpierce@srec.net
SREC must receive information by June 26th*

Photos from 80th Annual Meeting

held on April 8th (See the May issue of WEC News Magazine for more coverage)



Efficiency tips for outdoor shops and barns

There are many benefits to having an energy efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe; save money on your water bill; keep your animals happier and healthier; and save you from costly structural repairs.

Whether you are looking to build a new structure, or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If you are hiring a contractor to help build your structure, make sure you look for companies who specialize in “green” buildings and energy efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

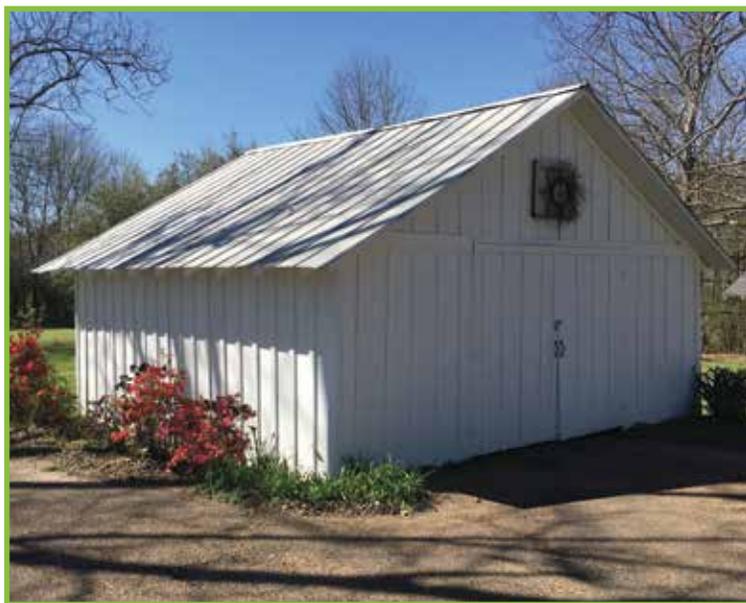
Follow these tips to make energy efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.

- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and will keep insects at bay.

To learn more about how to make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient, contact the energy experts at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Meghaan Evans 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. ■



Whether you are looking to build a new structure, or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

Power strips versus surge protectors

As the proliferation of electronics impacts our daily lives, we realize there simply are not enough outlets in our homes. This is particularly true for older homes. As a result, we end up with a number of “outlet expanders,” more commonly known as power strips.

Power strips are generic and fulfill a very simple function. They are inexpensive, and the quality, I suspect, is on par with the price.

Keeping this in mind, let’s look at factors to consider when purchasing a power strip or a surge protector, the power strip’s more talented cousin.

Important tip: Make sure you know the amperage rating of the outlet into which you are connecting the strip and other equipment. A residential circuit can overload if you are not careful.

Purchasing a power strip:

- Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics and devices, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.
- Pay attention to the orientation of the outlets. The typical design is along the length of the strip, facing the bottom or end of the strip. I recommend power strips with the outlets perpendicular to the length of the strip.
- Get a smart strip. These are becoming more common and less expensive. With smart strips, one outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.

If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider a surge protector. Here, price is



A surge protector can keep your expensive electronics safe. Look for protectors that offer cable and internet connection protection, a significant joule (jewel) rating and a “smart” component.

even more important because a cheap surge protector can be worse than none at all for two reasons. One, they use cheap, small surge fighting components. Two, these components can fail and the strip still will provide power, all without any indication that its protective side is gone.

Like power strips, there are some key factors to consider when buying a surge protector.

- Go for a significant joule (jewel) rating. This is a measure of how much energy it can withstand.
- Cable and internet connection protection. You may want to consider this for your entertainment and computing needs as surges can enter via any wired connection. Be sure the protector is designed to handle a digital television. Otherwise, it can cause pixilation if it’s only designed for analog signals.
- Indicator light that shows if protection has burned out.
- The same outlet orientation as previously mentioned.
- Power conditioning feature (for PCs, this is a nice-to-have feature but not a necessity).
- A smart capability as mentioned above.

Power strips and surge protectors are worth the investment when you follow these simple suggestions. Don’t get “burned” by purchasing cheap, inefficient strips and protectors. Pun intended.

Tom Tate 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. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your favorite breakfast casserole and your Rhubarb Coffee Cake recipes!

Country Breakfast Casserole

- 1 lb Spicy or Mild Bulk Pork Sausage
- ½ c. Onion, finely chopped
- 4 c. Frozen Diced Hash brown Potatoes, thawed (this is about half of a 32 oz package)
- 1-1/2 c. Shredded Colby/Monterey Jack Cheese
- 3 Eggs, beaten
- 1 c. Milk
- ¼ tsp Pepper
- ¼ tsp Salt
- Salsa



In a large skillet, cook sausage and onion until no pink remains. Drain. Then in a 8x8x2" (2 quart square) baking dish, layer the potatoes, half of the cheese and sausage-onion mixture and remaining cheese. Then in a bowl, combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Then pour over the mixture in the baking dish. (Casserole may be covered and chilled overnight.) Bake, covered in a 350 degree oven for 50-60 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack and let stand for 10 minutes. Cut in squares. Pass the salsa. Makes 6 servings.

Rhubarb Coffee Cake

- ½ c. Butter, softened
- 1-1/2 c. Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2 c. Flour
- 2 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- ¼ tsp Nutmeg
- 1 c. Buttermilk
- 4 c. Fresh Chopped Rhubarb



Topping:

- 1 c. Flour
- ½ c. Brown Sugar, packed
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- ½ c. Cold Butter

In a large mixing bowl cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in Vanilla. Then combine dry ingredients; add to the creamed mixture alternating with buttermilk. Stir in rhubarb. Pour into greased 13x9 inch baking dish. In a small bowl, combine the topping ingredients and cut in the butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter. Bake at 350 for 45-55 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 16-20 servings.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service Inc. will continue to permit the Hurricane Substation and crews will be starting to trim this substation as well.

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 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.srec.coop

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