

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Prepare Your Home to Beat the Heat This Summer *Stay Cool While Spending Less*

Summer months can bring some of the highest energy costs of the year with the high demand for air conditioning. Keeping your home comfortable can be expensive, but it can also be dangerous. If your air conditioner runs too often, it can stress your home's electric system and create a risk for shock or fire.

To help your home be more energy efficient, Safe Electricity has the following tips for energy efficiency this summer:

- Update your insulation. This will keep cool air in your home and hot air out. You can add more insulation on top of existing insulation in your attic. Research the type of insulation you should use.
- Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequately sized vents or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.
- Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters, and replace disposable ones. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt. It is a good idea to call a professional to inspect your unit early in the summer.
- Use a smart or programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Consider installing ceiling fans. On moderately warm days, a ceiling fan may be enough to keep you comfortable. On warmer days, you can decrease your air conditioner use by using a fan.



Even in summer, you don't have to sacrifice comfort to stay within your budget. Here are a few easily achieved cost saving tips:

- Turn off the air conditioner and open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house on moderate days.
- Avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.
- Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs near your home, but away from power lines, to provide shade.
- Set heat-producing devices away from the air conditioner thermostat. Heat from the lamp could cause the thermostat to read higher temperature and keep the air conditioner running more than necessary.

If you are shopping for a new air conditioning unit, look for one with the blue Energy Star label. An Energy Star air conditioner will save money in the long run by using less electricity. Your electric utility or state may have incentives for purchasing a more efficient model.

# Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

## Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

## During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible

and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.

- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

## Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



## After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

# Celebrate JUNE DAIRY MONTH

**Saturday, June 4**

**Crawford County Dairy Breakfast**  
6–11 a.m. at the Nolan Family Farms, 30990  
Johns Ln, Prairie du Chien

**Sunday, June 12**

**Grant County Dairy Breakfast**  
7–11:30 a.m. at the Nobland Farms,  
2561 Buckwheat Ridge Rd, Lancaster



## Lafayette County 2022 Dairy Activities

- *Darlington Canoe Fest Parade 6/12*
- *Wiota 4th of July Parade 7/3*
- *Shullsburg 4th of Julp Parade 7/4*
- *BOGO Ice Cream Cones at the Lafayette County Fair 7/13-7/17*
- *Gratiot Labor Day Parade 9/5*
- *Belmont School Fair Parade 9/17*



# ONE MORE CAST

COULD BE DEADLY

Don't become part of a tragic fishing story. Keep an eye on weather conditions and know when to call it a day.

## SEEK SHELTER

If you see or hear signs of weather rolling in, stop fishing and retreat to a four-sided building or hard-top car. If you ignore the signs and keep fishing, it could cost you your life.



## WAIT 30 MINUTES

Wait 30 minutes after you see or hear lightning before heading back outside.

## REMEMBER

Always look up for overhead power lines before casting.



## LIGHTNING FACTS 2006–2020:



Two-thirds of lightning deaths occurred during outdoor activities.



Of those deaths, 33% happened during water-related activities.



Fishing accounted for most, or 44%, of those water-related activities.

# 2022 Member Photo Contest

## "Bright and Shiny Faces"

With the new year now begun, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is kicking off our annual photo contest. We are searching for photos that show off the faces of our members, both young and old. Faces can also include those of our pets, farm animals, and the wildlife you might encounter. The winning members' photos will be featured in our 2023 calendar. Winning photos may also be used in future newsletters, on our social media pages or in other cooperative publications.



**Photos must be submitted by August 15, 2022.**

*For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.*



## ENVELOPE REMINDER

Please be aware that due to supply chain issues, your electric statement envelopes will be **WHITE**.

We are hoping that this will only be for a few months. Please watch for your monthly electric statement from Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative in a **WHITE** envelope until further notice.

**Thank you for your attention!**



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service is trimming on the Harrison Substation in Grant County during the month of June.

Badgerland Utility Solutions is testing poles in the Castle Rock and Hickory Grove Townships of Grant 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. During this time, we especially appreciate your cooperation as we maintain social distancing between our essential staff and our members. **If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.**



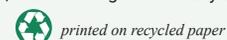
Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Watt's Happening, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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