

August 2016

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

2016 Youth Leadership Congress

UW River Falls July 13-15

For more information regarding this event, please look for the feature article in the September issue of Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News.



Bernadette O'Brien, Hannah Nusbaum, Norah O'Brien, Allie Stader (2015-16 Youth Board Member), Sage Langhus, Kate Nusbaum and Melody Hampton.



53rd Youth Leadership Congress

Electrical safety lessons for kids

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still

be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.



Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is here to help.

By Meghaan Evans. 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. ■

Energy Efficiency **Tip of the Month**



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Source: energy.gov

Safety Near Solar Equipment

When installing solar panels on or near your home, it's important to take precautions to protect against potential fire hazards. Minimize potential fire risks in your solar installation with these safety tips from safety.com:

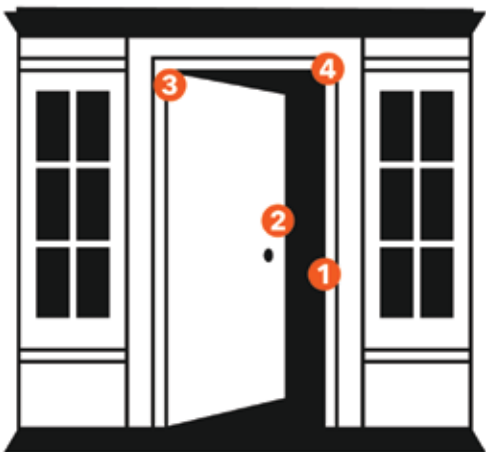
- **Purchase quality components.** Nearly every documented case of fire caused by defective solar panels has occurred in cheap, off-brand equipment.
- **Hire an experienced installer.** A competent installer will make sure all electrical connections are properly installed and insulated to minimize fire risk.
- **Route cables properly.** Appropriate sized electrical cables should be mounted in closed metal conduits. No loose cables should be present. Cables should be routed outside the building or enclosed in a fireproof duct.
- **Protect inverters.** Your inverter should be easily accessible, protected from the weather, and kept away from combustible materials. Be sure to leave enough space around it for proper ventilation.
- **Inspect regularly.** Once or twice a year, a qualified solar inspector should examine the system for faulty connections, rodent damage or other fire hazards.

Source: safety.com

WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



1 CLEANING SURFACES - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

Recipes

Thank You Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your recipes with us! She shares that the Grape Salad recipe is from her sister-in-law from Madison and it is delicious!

Grape Salad

- 1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1 (8 oz) sour cream
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 lbs red seedless grapes
- 2 lbs green seedless grapes
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons pecans - (I use more)



In a large bowl beat the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Add grapes and toss to coat. Transfer to a serving bowl. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans just before serving. Yields 21 - 24 servings.

Oat Pancakes with Fresh Berries

- 1 1/4 cups Quaker Oats
- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 egg whites, beaten
- 2 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Fresh berries (such as blueberries, raspberries or sliced strawberries)
- Honey or pancake syrup



In a large bowl, combine dry ingredients. Set aside. In a medium bowl, combine egg whites, buttermilk, oil and honey. Add liquid mixture to dry mixture. Stir until moistened (batter should be lumpy). Cover: let stand for 15 minutes to soften oats. Pour 1/4 cup batter onto a hot, lightly griddle. Spread batter into a circle about 4 " in diameter. Cook over medium heat for 2 minutes on each side. Turn over when edges are set. Serve with fresh berries and syrup. Makes 8 servings or about 16 pancakes.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service Inc. will continue to trim the Eastman Sub in Crawford County. All spraying crews should be completed by August.

DJB Inspections LLC will be inspecting underground transformers and cabinets in August on the Fennimore, Harrison, Jerrett and Platteville Substations.

Mi-Tech Services Inc. should be testing poles in Eastman and Wauzeka Townships in August and hopefully have the Grant County townships of Potosi, Cassville and Waterloo completed.

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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