

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN



## A DAY IN MAY

It was an average day in May — one that started like any other, when Cody Conradt was at work for an ag fertilizer company.

He was an assistant manager, and it was his next-to-last day on the job. They were understaffed that day, and Cody was filling in wherever he was needed.

He jumped in the truck to try and get ahead of the sprayer. Once the sprayer was in position, he hopped out to fill the tank with fertilizer.

He and his coworker inside the cab were unaware that the sprayer boom had either made contact or gotten too close to a power line.

7,400 volts of electricity traveled through the boom and electrified the equipment and ground where Cody was standing. Unfortunately, the unyielding stray voltage considered Cody's body as part of its electrical path to ground.

Since that day, Cody and Bailey began a tough road of recovery, together. For him, it was true grit, determination and living the ups and downs that come with this type of recovery. For her, it was emotional strength and fortitude — witnessing Cody's setbacks and victories and supporting him through them all.

Cody took his first steps as part of his recovery four months later — days before their September wedding.

Cody and Bailey share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety.

Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant.

Learn more at:

 Safe Electricity.org®

# Energy Savings for Your Business

Locally owned businesses are the backbone of our communities. With summer in full swing, now is the perfect time to make sure your building is equipped for maximum energy savings.

- LED lighting for your business allows you to maintain your preferred brightness levels while keeping energy costs low. And don't forget about your outdoor lighting options as well as timers for automatic, overnight shutoff.
- Check any refrigeration to ensure it is running optimally and keeping items cool without setting the thermostat lower than necessary. Keep up with regular maintenance and freon refills to ensure safe and longer-lasting inventory.
- Electric motor-driven systems account for about 25% of all commercial energy use. For larger operations, variable speed drives may be necessary to optimize your energy consumption.
- Unplug all unnecessary or unused appliances and electronic equipment. Many of these devices continue to draw power even when they are turned off. Advanced power strips are a smart, low-cost upgrade.



- Make sure your HVAC system is sized correctly for your business space. If it is not, this could lead to inefficient operation or insufficient cooling.

These tips can help you lower your energy use while keeping your operations humming.

SREC knows that your bottom line is important when making these business operations decisions. If these or other energy-saving adjustments require purchases, be sure to check out our rebates section about ways to save. [sre.coop/energy-rebates](http://sre.coop/energy-rebates)

## Brownout and Power Outage Safety

For various reasons, you may be hearing reports of brownouts and even blackouts in areas of our nation this summer. Our area has been largely unaffected and we are working to keep it that way. But, we take safety seriously and being prepared is critical to keeping our members and our employees safe. Knowing what can happen during a brownout, can help you to prepare and avoid costly and potentially dangerous consequences.

Brownouts are an unintentional drop in voltage from utilities or other power sources that can cause damage to your home's electronics. A sustained brownout could cause damage to electronic motors that are in everyday appliances, including washing machines, dryers, fans, air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers.

Before a Brownout consider installing one or more of these systems if you haven't got one in place already.

- Installing an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) can protect against all power disturbances. These work by providing battery backup to critical electronic to protect them from sudden shutoffs.
- A Generator provides energy during power interruptions. Both portable and standby



generators should be used with a transfer switch to prevent unintentional energization of surrounding areas which could cause harm to utility workers or neighbors. Install CO detectors and keep generators at least 20 feet from homes and away from doors and windows.

- Surge Protective Devices (SPD) protect against voltage spikes that can cause damage to your electronics when full power is restored. Whole home surge protection is required in the 2020 National Electrical Code.

Scenic Rivers Energy employees work hard every day to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of the electricity you rely on. We are not facing brownouts or blackouts in our area. However, now might be a good time to consider adding a power outage backup system to your home.

# FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



1. Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



2. Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



3. Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



4. Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



5. Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



6. Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



7. Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



8. Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



9. Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



10. SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

# Reminder

## 2021 Photo Contest

For those avid photographers among our membership, we hope you will participate and send us your work. We especially encourage first timers and our younger members to submit your work.

High-resolution photos can be submitted via email to [jmims@srec.net](mailto:jmims@srec.net). For a complete list of rules and criteria, as well as the entry forms, visit our website at [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we can email you a copy. Please call us if you have questions.



### PHOTOS ARE DUE AUGUST 20

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts.

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming on the Castle Rock Substation in Grant County during August.

Badgerland Utility Solutions will be spraying on the Eastman and Gays Mills Substations in Crawford County during August.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative employees will be spraying on the Fennimore Substation in Grant County during August.

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

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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