

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN



An easy way to manage your energy bill

October Member Appreciations

Beautiful weather brought many people out to our offices in celebration for Coop Month. Members of all ages enjoyed our bucket truck rides. For more pictures, check out the December issue of WEC News.

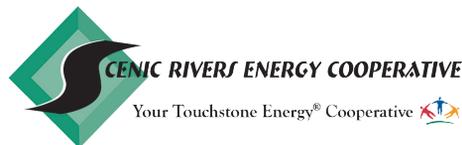


Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative now offers a FREE service that will help you manage your energy bill, all from the convenience of your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your energy bill online
- View your billing history
- Check your energy usage at any time
- Monitor your daily usage
- Identify ways to lower your energy bill.

It's easy, too! All you need to do to get started is visit our website, www.sre.coop, click on the SmartHub logo under Links, and follow the directions to sign up for and log into your own account. For mobile access, download the free application in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.



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Energy efficiency for the modern family and its many devices

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms--controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want



the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours--a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

“Old school” energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

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. ■



One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest. You can easily view and adjust your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is being used. Photo Credit: Nest

WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

40 ft.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **A** FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure **NO** part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget
to fall
back on
November 5!

Set your
clocks back
by one hour.



Recipes

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your Snickerdoodle Cookie and Spiced Pumpkin Cake recipes!

Snickerdoodle Cookies

- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Mixture to roll cookies in: 2 tablespoons sugar—2 teaspoons cinnamon



Combine sugar, butter, vanilla and eggs. Mix well. Stir in flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt. Blend well. Shape dough into 1 inch balls. Combine 2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons cinnamon. Roll dough in sugar/cinnamon mixture and place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 9 minutes.

Spiced Pumpkin Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 3 cups flour
- 5 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin mix
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray and flour a 12-cup bundt cake pan. In a bowl, whisk together flour, pumpkin spice, baking powder, soda and salt. Beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs. Add can of pumpkin, milk and molasses. The mixture will appear curdled. Add flour mixture. Mix just until combined. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 55 to 65 minutes. Cool in pan for 30 minutes. Invert to a plate. Cool completely. Whisk together powdered sugar and lemon juice. Drizzle over cake.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service, Inc. will continue trimming on the Steuben Substation in Crawford County with hopes of being completed by December.

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.

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