

WATT' HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

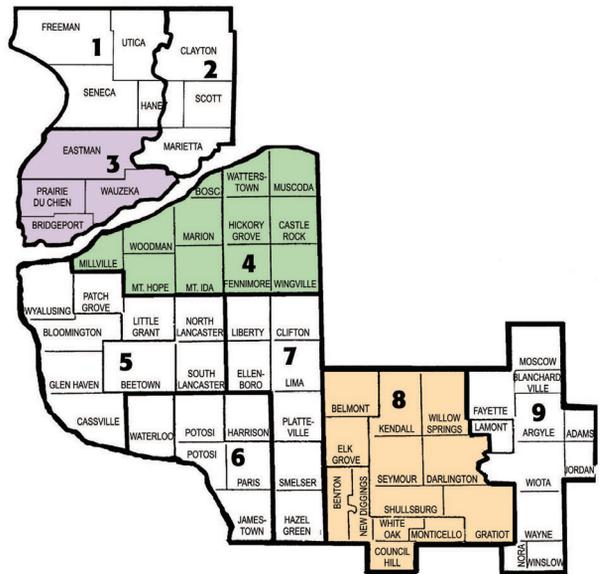
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Director Candidate Paperwork Due January 10, 2021.

If you reside in Districts, 3, 4, or 8 and you are interested in running for a seat on the SREC Board of Directors, you must act quickly. The deadline for turning in the necessary paperwork is Sunday, January 10.

Potential candidates must gather a minimum of 15 signatures on the petition form in order to become eligible to run for a position on the board. Petitions must be signed by 15 members who reside in the district in which the nominee resides. In the case of a joint membership, the signature of one of both joint members counts as one (1) signature per the Bylaws. The nominee must receive service from the cooperative, at the address in the district they are interested in representing. As provided by the Bylaws, directors receive a per diem for attendance at monthly board meetings. The current per diem is \$500 per meeting.

Completed petitions must be received at the SREC office in Lancaster no later than January 10, 2021.



Our 2021 Annual Meeting and election will be held on Saturday, April 10 and is tentatively scheduled to be held in person at the Grant County Youth & Ag Building in Lancaster. Current incumbents, Charles Simmons, Ellen Conley and Steve Carpenter, respectively are all seeking re-election. Petition forms are available on our web-site or by calling our offices.

For additional information about the petition process or qualifications for directors, please refer to the Bylaws, the sample petition form, and the director district map which are available on the cooperative's website at www.sre.coop. Please feel free to contact us at 800-236-2141 x554. ■



86% of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)



Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Administration (DOA) has adjusted the eligibility requirements for residents who are seeking heating and electric assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP).

Eligibility is now based on the household's previous month of income, rather than the former requirement of the previous three months of income. This move was made to ensure those who are recently affected by the COVID-19 response are able to receive assistance quickly. Eligibility requirements are available below:

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to households across the state to help lower the burden incurred with monthly energy costs.

Most types of fuel are eligible to receive assistance. Whether you use wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil to heat your home, energy assistance is available if you qualify.

Heating Assistance

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season. The funding pays a portion of the heating costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of heating a residence. The amount of the energy assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Electric Assistance

Your household may be eligible to receive a payment for non-heating electric energy costs through funding provided by Wisconsin's Public Benefits.

WHEAP electric (non-heating) assistance is a one-time benefit payment during the heating season. The funding pays a portion of the household's electrical (non-heating) costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of the non-heating costs.

The amount of the non-heating assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the

household's size, income, and non-heating costs. In most cases the non-heating assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Crisis Assistance

A household may be eligible for crisis assistance if you are experiencing an energy emergency. Crisis assistance is available through local WHEAP agencies that provide a 24-hour crisis phone number to help with emergencies that occur after business hours. Crisis assistance is intended to provide emergency and/or preventative services to assist eligible households experiencing an energy emergency.

Non-emergency or preventative crisis services are also available and include providing information on how to reduce fuel costs, counseling on budgeting and money management, providing payments to a fuel supplier, and co-pay agreements.

Furnace Assistance

WHEAP emergency heating system assistance can provide services to eligible home owners if the furnace or boiler stops operating during the heating season. Heating system assistance includes payment for repairs, or in some situations your residence may qualify for a total replacement of a non-operating furnace or boiler. Call the local energy assistance office immediately if you are experiencing a no heat situation.

How to Apply

Your household may be eligible for Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) services based on a number of factors. However, if the gross income for your household is less than the amount shown on the following chart, you might be eligible to receive assistance. Households must complete a Home Energy Plus application through the local WHEAP agency or apply online via: <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/>.

For more information on the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and how to apply, please call 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947), or visit the "Where to Apply" tab on www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov

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Keep your furry friends safe this winter

Winter weather – with its cold temperatures and with families spending increased time indoors – can bring its own set of safety hazards. From shock and fire risks to power outages, safety preparations and precautions are not only for people, but for pets as well. Take steps to ensure your furry family stays safe this winter.



Colder winter temperatures may introduce unfamiliar electrical devices – such as space heaters, heating pads, and electric blankets – into the home. Be on the lookout for potential hazards that may accompany such products and keep them away from curious pets.

- Discourage pets from sleeping near or behind electronics and appliances. Many pets are attracted to the warmth, but this is a potential fire hazard. Block off appliances and electronics if you must.
- Never let your pet nap on a heating pad or electric blanket, as this presents a risk of electrical burn and can also result in overheating the appliance, which may start a fire.
- Keep electrical cords tucked away and out of sight of puppies and kittens. If you have difficulty getting your pet to stop chewing on the cord, you can paint it with a bitter-tasting deterrent or enclose the cord in a PVC tube or thick plastic sleeve.
- Make sure all electronics are completely plugged into wall outlets. Partially exposed prongs are a hazard for curious puppies and kittens.

Winter storms can cause power outages. Be sure to include pets in your emergency weather plans. Keep supplies in your emergency kit for pets in preparation for bad weather. Make sure that it is stocked with a least three days' worth of food, water, and any medicine they may need.

After a storm, remember to use caution if you or your pets must go outside. Be on the lookout for downed lines, damaged electrical equipment, and other conductive materials that they may be in contact with. Stay far away from them and contact your utility immediately. Just because a line is down does not mean that it no longer carries an electrical charge.

For more electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org. ■

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Give the gift of safety!



Portable Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed, these devices detect an abnormal flow of electricity and shut off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.



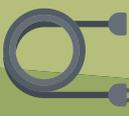
Outdoor Remote Control Outlet Switch

Leaving outdoor lighting on overnight can be costly and pose a potential hazard. An alternative to smart lights, this remote control switch allows you to turn outdoor lights or other gadgets on or off remotely.



Tamper Resistant Outlets (TROs)

Great for families with small children, TROs are wall receptacles that have shutters that stay closed unless a plug with two prongs is inserted into the outlet. Because they help keep children safe, the National Electrical Code requires TROs in new homes and apartments.



Heavy Duty Extension Cord

Power devices safely. Too often the tools or equipment necessary for larger projects are powered by extension cords that are inadequate for the environment or heavier electrical load.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH

VS

FACT



Electricity always takes the path of least resistance

Although the path of least resistance is the easiest to take, an electrical current can take any conductive path.



Voltage has to be high to kill

Although the voltage plays a role in how strong the current flows, exposure to the current itself is what's deadly. Even lower voltages can kill.



Heavily insulated tools will always protect against shock and electrocution

Don't let a tool give you a false sense of security; take all precautions even if a tool is marketed as safe or insulated.

LEARN MORE AT 

continued... (WHEAP)

to find your local energy assistance agency. You may also apply online at <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/>.

INCOME GUIDELINES FOR THE 2020-2021 HOME ENERGY PLUS PROGRAM YEAR (9/01/2020 through 9/30/2021) ■

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE MONTH	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$2,490.08	\$29,881
2	\$3,256.33	\$39,076
3	\$4,022.50	\$48,270
4	\$4,788.67	\$57,464
5	\$5,554.83	\$66,658
6	\$6,321.00	\$75,852
7	\$6,464.67	\$77,576
8	\$6,608.33	\$79,300

The Home Energy Plus Program uses a previous one month income test which is annualized to determine program income eligibility.

Income for people who are self-employed, farmers, or seasonal workers is based on federal income tax forms for the previous year.



HAPPY 
Holidays

Our office will be closed on December 24 and 25

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming on all three circuits of the Joe King substation. Members should anticipate increased activity by our crews in the area. Permitting for the Argyle substation is scheduled to begin in December with trimming to follow in January.

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 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

Steve LucasCEO

Our board of directors consists of Chuck Simmons, Don Schaefer, Sandra Davidson, Ellen Conley, Jack Larson, Larry Butson, Delbert Reuter, Steve Carpenter and Marcus Saegrove.



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