

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Emergency restoration When disaster strikes, we'll be ready.

Mother Nature is not as predictable as we would like her to be, and when she gets angry, we are left to pick up the pieces. Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, snow and ice, other natural disasters – her methods of destruction pose major threats to all kinds of infrastructure, including electrical lines and systems.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is ready to respond when the lights go out, but emergency situations – and extended outages – can be particularly challenging. Our lines serve several facilities, including schools, dairy farms, businesses, etc., making longer outages a challenging situation. Some homes may receive special attention if power loss affects life support systems or poses other immediate danger.

When a major storm moves through our area, fellow co-op line crews are standing by, ready to help us restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible. Even though co-ops are independent entities, we still rely on one another to share resources, information and, in some cases, manpower.

“Relying on each other is the cooperative way, and by doing so, we can restore power to members more quickly when severe weather emergencies occur,” CEO Lucas says.

This type of assistance is known as a mutual-aid agreement, and it works both ways.

Most co-op lines and systems are designed and built to the same standards, so when fellow crews answer the call for assistance, no training is necessary. They

show up ready to get the job done.

In addition to working with fellow co-ops during emergency situations, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative communicates with Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). When Wisconsin's governor formally declares an area a disaster, he requests aid from the President so that FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management staff can begin assessing damage.

“The best preparation for emergency situations is becoming familiar with the rules and procedures ahead of time, so you're educated and ready to respond,” CEO Lucas says. “Preparation ensures shorter outages for our members, and that's who we're here to serve.”

By Abby Berry. Abby Berry 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. ■

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- ☞ **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- ☞ **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- ☞ **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- ☞ **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- ☞ **First aid supplies, medicine**
- ☞ **Important documents**



Degree Days Now Available

Go to our website www.sre.coop and under the Billing menu, click on Degree Days to find information relating to heating and cooling days for past months and years.

Principles + values = cooperatives

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

All cooperative businesses around the world operate in accordance with the following seven cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

Less known is the fact that cooperatives have also adopted a set of values that helps to put these principles into practice.

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-ops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Let's take a closer look at these values and see how they impact us here at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

The founders of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative created it to serve the members that use the electricity and other services we provide, and we continue to do that today. This embodies the values of self-help, taking action and doing what needs to be done. We also know we must embrace the value of self-responsibility and be accountable to you, our member.

Each member has one vote, no matter how much electricity you use. This ensures that democracy is practiced the way it is intended with equality for all members. This is a key difference between co-ops and investor-owned companies where the number of votes you have depends on the number of shares you own.

For co-op members, equity has two meanings. We strive to treat all of our members fairly. It also means that, as a member, you have equity (ownership) in the co-op.

While each co-op is autonomous, we do act in solidarity with other co-ops and our community. We know that we can do more for you by partnering with other co-ops and like-minded organizations.

Your parents were right when they said, "honesty is the best policy." As an owner, you have the right to expect us to act with openness and in a transparent manner. We welcome your active participation in our co-op.

Cooperatives have long (and correctly) been identified as the original socially responsible business, meaning we care about the impact we have on the community while ensuring we are economically viable.

We try to demonstrate our concern for the community through caring for others every single day, whether it is through donations, scholarships, safety demonstrations, etc.

By using our values in support of our principles since our founding in 1938, we have been able to serve you for the past 78 and will do so long into the future.

By Adam Schwartz. Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and a member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop. ■



A change for the better

It's the little things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The lowdown on dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowered system efficiency

Making the switch

Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types

of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm (and your loved one feeling snuggly), and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A teachable moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

For other tips on how to save, call the efficiency experts at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

By Anne Prince. Anne Prince 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. ■

Maintaining Your Air Conditioner

Annual maintenance can help improve your comfort and the efficiency of your air conditioner while prolonging the life of your unit. Hire a certified professional when your unit needs more than basic maintenance.

- 1 Routinely replace or clean your air filters. This can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.
- 2 Check your air conditioner's evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary.
- 3 If your coil fins are bent, use a "fin comb" to straighten them.
- 4 If you have a split system, be sure to clean debris and leaves from the fan, compressor, and condenser.
- 5 Occasionally pass a stiff wire through your unit's drain channels to prevent clogs.
- 6 For window air conditioners, inspect the window seals to keep cool air from escaping.

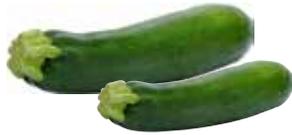
Source: Department of Energy

Recipes

Glazed Lemon Zucchini Bread

Ingredients

- 2 cups cake flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup canola oil
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 TB lemon juice
- ½ cup buttermilk
- zest of 1 lemon
- 1 cup grated zucchini



Glaze ingredients:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 TB lemon juice
- 1 TB milk

1. Mix flour, salt and baking powder in a medium bowl and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, beat eggs. Then add oil and sugar until well blended. Add lemon juice, buttermilk, lemon zest to this mixture and blend all together.
3. Fold in zucchini until it is mixed well.
4. Add dry mixture to the wet mixture and blend all together until well combined.
5. Pour batter into greased 9x5 loaf pan.
6. Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes.
7. While still warm, make glaze and spoon over the bread. Let the glaze set up before cutting and serving.

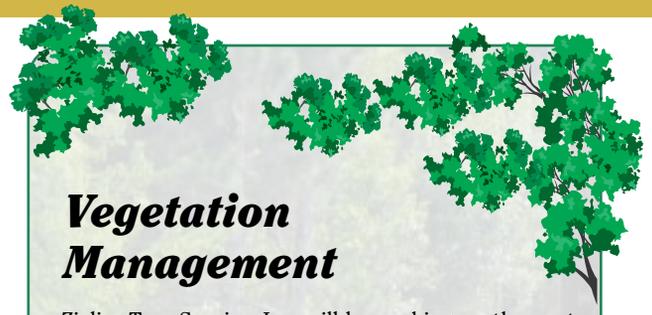
Garlic Roasted Asparagus

Ingredients

- ½ c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 8 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 2 tbsp. fresh finely chopped parsley
- 2 lbs thin asparagus, ends trimmed
- Coarse sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Set aside. In a small pot, heat the oil, garlic, onion powder, and parsley on medium-low heat. Cook for 3 minutes, until the garlic mixture is fragrant but not browned. Spread the asparagus in a single layer on the prepared pan. Drizzle on the garlic-oil mixture. Lightly sprinkle with coarse sea salt and freshly ground pepper. Roast for 8-10 minutes, until the asparagus are bright green; do not overcook. Serve hot.



Vegetation Management

Zielies Tree Service, Inc. will be working on the west and south circuits of the Mt Hope substation in Grant County doing the clearing with the jaraff and mowers along with the bucket crew in this area.

SREC will be spraying the circuits of the Castle Rock substation in Grant County as time permits.

DJB Inspections is testing poles in the following Grant Counties: Patch Grove, Bloomington, Beetown, Glen Haven and Wyalusing. Then they will move to the following Lafayette Counties: Belmont, Kendall, Seymour, Willow Springs, Darlington and Mineral Point. They may also inspect underground cabinets and transformers in Grant County and Lafayette 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. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

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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 Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

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Steve Lucas CEO
Heidi Pierce Editor

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