

# WATT'S HAPPENING

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

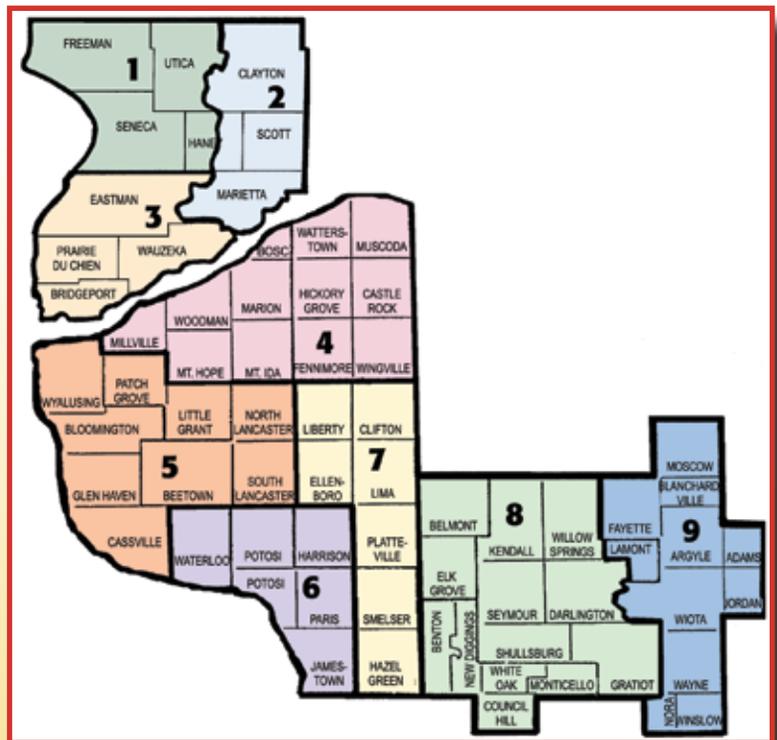
## Notification of Election of Directors in Districts 3, 4, and 8

The terms of the directors in Districts 3, 4, and 8 expire at the 2015 annual meeting, when elections will be held for those position. The Bylaws provide for nomination of candidates by petition. A petition must meet the following requirement:

- The petition must be signed by 15 or more members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.
- The members signing the petition must reside in the same district the nominee would represent.
- In the case of a joint membership or a tenancy in common membership, one or all of the joint or common members may sign the petition, but whether only one signs or all sign it only counts as one (1) signature.
- The petition must be delivered to the Cooperative's headquarters in Lancaster at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting - that is, no later than the close of business on January 12, 2015.

To be eligible to run for director, a candidate must meet all of the qualifications set forth in the Bylaws. Those qualifications include:

- The candidate must be a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and s/he must reside in the district to be represented. (See the map of the director districts included as part of this notice.)



- The candidate cannot:
  - be employed by or have a financial interest in a business that competes with the Cooperative or that sells energy or supplies to the Cooperative;
  - hold or be a candidate for a public office that is elected on a party ticket;
  - have been employed by the Cooperative anytime in the past 5 years;

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- participated as a party or a witness in any litigation against the Cooperative in the past 5 years;
  - be delinquent more than 90 days on the payment of any amount owed the Cooperative; or
  - have been convicted of any offense involving dishonesty.
- The candidate must participate in an orientation process to assure an understanding of the responsibilities of directors (unless s/he is currently serving as a director). Information about that orientation will be provided to all qualified candidates nominated by petitions as described above.

In the case of a joint tenancy or tenancy in common membership, all the joint or common members must meet all of those qualifications in order for any one of the joint or common members to be eligible to be nominated.

As provided by the Bylaws, directors receive a monthly per diem. The current per diem is \$500 monthly.

For additional information about the petition process or the qualifications for director, please refer to the Bylaws, the sample petition form and the director district map that are available on the Cooperative's website at [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop).

## *Bundle up for winter storms*

**A**re you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

### *Winterize your home*

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

### *Prepare a winter survival kit*

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- **Other items:** First Aid Kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

### *Stay warm and safe*

If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.* ■

## How renters can fight the winter chill

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 33 percent of Americans lease their homes. Unfortunately, many lease agreements forbid major alterations to rental properties. But don't worry, renters! Consider using these low-cost, energy-efficient tips from Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to improve the efficiency of your home this winter.

### Hot savings

Heating the home typically makes up about 48 percent of your utility bill. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter - Energy.gov recommends 68 degrees Fahrenheit to boost energy efficiency.

During the winter months, take advantage of heat from sunlight. Open draperies and shades during the day to allow natural light to heat your home. Remember to close them in the evenings as the temperature drops and windowpanes become chilly.

Does your home have window air conditioning units? This winter, remember to insulate the units from the outside with a tight-fitting cover, available at your local home improvement center or hardware store. This keeps heated air from escaping outside. If desired, you can remove the window unit during winter months to prevent energy loss.

Another way to save on heating is to make sure your water heater is set at the lowest comfortable setting. Have you experienced scalding hot water when taking a shower? If so, it's likely that your water heater is set too high - which is a waste of energy. Older models of water tanks are often not insulated, which can be easily remedied by covering them with an insulating jacket.

### Bright ideas

Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy, and savings are not strictly limited to winter months. Try replacing a few of your most frequently used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified lights, and save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy and last several times longer than incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs. Practicing energy-efficient habits is another great way to reduce energy use. Always turn off your lights when leaving a room.

### Other ways to save

Leasing an older home or apartment? Odds are you have single-pane windows and old or missing caulk. Don't let the winter chill seep indoors! Apply caulk

around window frames, sashes and door panels to combat air leaks. Also, be mindful when using electronics at home. Unplug devices when not in use, and use smart power strips to save on energy use. To learn more ways to be energy efficient around the home, visit [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop).

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### Did you know?

Heating your home accounts for up to 48 percent of your utility bill.

A few tips to help you save:

- Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month (or as recommended).
- Caulk and seal windows to avoid air leaks.
- Keep draperies and shades open during the day and closed at night.

Visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) for more ways to save!

## Recipes

*Rita Kruser (Cuba City) says that these are fun to make when trimming the tree. And that you might need one for each hand when they are ready for snacking! This is a very easy bar version of macaroon cookies and are great for potlucks, staff meetings and family gatherings. Enjoy!*

### **Santa's Four Ingredient Cookie Bars**

- 1-1/3 c. (15oz can) Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 tsp Almond Extract
- 3 c. Flaked or Shredded Coconut
- 1 can (8oz) Refrigerated Quick Crescent Dinner Rolls

Generously grease bottom and sides of a 13x9 baking pan. In a small mixing bowl, combine sweetened condensed milk and almond extract; set aside. Sprinkle half of the coconut in the bottom of pan; drizzle with half the milk mixture. Unroll crescent dough and place rectangles in pan, gently compressing to fit pan. Pour remaining milk mixture over dough and sprinkle with remaining coconut. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes or until coconut is golden brown. Cool 5 minutes; cut into bars and remove from pan.



## 2015 Meter Testing

***All single phase farm and residential on Hurricane and Argyle substations will be tested in 2015. Also, we will be testing all three phase in 2015. Please keep the area in front of the meter clear for our access.***

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*



## Vegetation Management

Zielies Tree Service, Inc. is done for the year and will start back up 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. We appreciate your cooperation. 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*, 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.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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