

ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

January 2010

Lower your thermostat to add up savings

Did you know that lowering your thermostat 2 degrees during a Midwest winter can save almost \$300 a year in heating costs?

That's right. Turning your thermostat down to 68 degrees instead of 70 can result in a \$293 savings on a typical 2,262-square-foot home in the southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois area, according to Touchstone Energy Cooperative's "Together We Save" campaign.

Rock Energy is among 700 cooperatives participating in the national drive to help members save money by lowering their energy bills.

Do you want to save even more money? Try turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees when no one is home. If you set your thermostat at 55 to 60 degrees for the eight hours or so when the house is empty, you can save 5 to 15 percent a year on your heating bill, the U.S. Department of Energy reports.

You can manually adjust your thermostat or invest in a programmable thermostat. At a cost of \$50 to \$150, a programmable thermostat will pay for itself in less than a year.



If you program the thermostat so the temperature increases to a comfortable 68 degrees by the time you get home, the only difference you'll notice is in the amount of your monthly energy bill.

Also, remember that your furnace runs best when properly maintained. Change your filter on a regular basis and have your furnace serviced once a year to make sure it is running efficiently.

More than a dozen other energy-efficiency web applications linked to a virtual home tour are available at www.togetherwesave.com.

So far, Rock Energy members who visited the site learned that they could save more than \$7,000 by taking small steps to lower their energy bills.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Thermostat myths

- **Myth:** It will cost more to heat up your house after lowering the temperature.
- **Truth:** *The furnace runs longer as it warms up the house, but it didn't operate at all when set at the lower temperature.*
- **Myth:** If you set the thermostat to a higher temperature, the house will warm up faster.
- **Truth:** *The thermostat turns the furnace on and off, but doesn't control how much heat is produced.*
- **Myth:** You can save money by turning your thermostat down and then heating rooms with electric space heaters.
- **Truth:** *Space heaters use more energy and cost more to operate than the amount saved by turning down your thermostat.*

Save the Date!

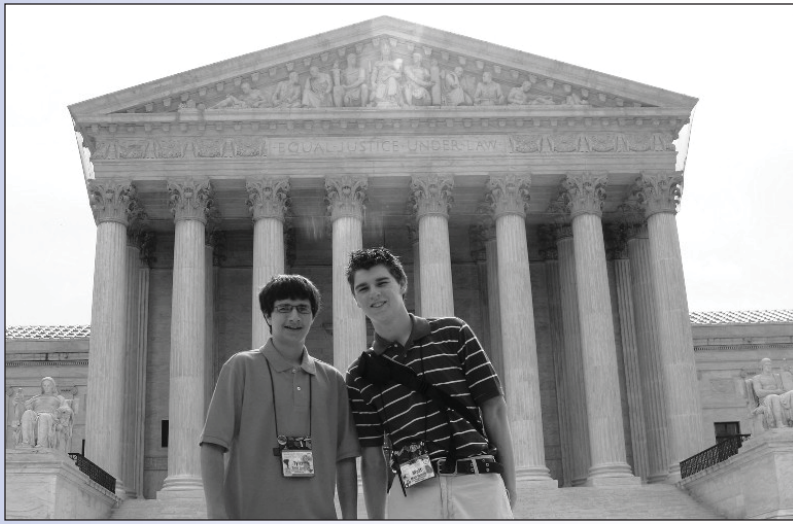
74th Annual Meeting Monday, March 29

Nearly 700 REC members, guests, and friends gathered at the Eclipse Center in Beloit for last year's annual business meeting and dinner.

Plan to join us for this year's event!

Watch for details in this newsletter, your monthly Rock Energy magazine, and at www.rock.coop.





Rock Energy Cooperative sponsored students Tyler Long, left, of Orfordville and Matt Valenti of Rockton during the 2009 trip to Washington, D.C. They are pictured outside the U.S. Supreme Court building.

High School Juniors Can Apply for Youth Tour to Washington

If you know a high school junior who is curious about how government works and wants to learn more about the political process, encourage them to apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Rock Energy Cooperative will sponsor two high school juniors on the June 11–18 trip to Washington, D.C. They will join more than 1,000 students from across the nation as they meet with congressional representatives, tour historic sites, and receive information that might help determine their career paths.

This year marks the 51st trip and promises to be as exciting as ever.

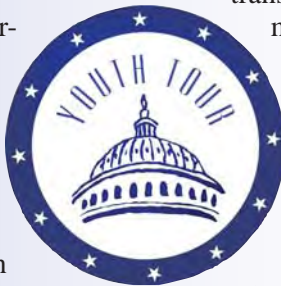
On the bus trip to the nation's capital, students will establish their own cooperative, learning the principles required to own

and sell soda and chips.

Applicants must be children of Rock Energy members and reside in the co-op's service territory. The weeklong, all-expense-paid tour includes transportation, lodging, meals, and admission to all events. Round-trip travel is by motor coach from Springfield, Ill., to Washington. Travel to Springfield is not included.

Interested students should write a letter explaining their interest and mail it to Rock Energy Cooperative Youth Tour, P.O. Box 1758, Janesville, WI 53547. The deadline is Feb. 15.

If you have questions, please call Barbara Uebelacker, communications specialist, at (608) 752-4550 or (866) 752-4550 or email her at BarbU@rock.coop.



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(608) 752-4550 or (866) 752-4550

Shane Larson, Chief Executive Officer • Barbara Uebelacker, Editor

P.O. Box 1758
2815 Kennedy Rd.
Janesville, WI 53547-1758

P.O. Box 126
15229 Willowbrook Rd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

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Gourmet foods and specialties, spices and jams, housewares, cookbooks, unique culinary and craft programs; "Give Us This Day" Program.

10% Off In-Store Items

Shady Tree Floral – Beloit, WI – (608) 365-6670

Floral shop specializing in fresh-cut flowers, house plants, silks; weddings and funerals.

10% Off (not valid on wire orders)

For a listing of current deals, visit www.rock.coop.

Health Department Recommends Annual Testing of Private Wells

The Rock County Health Department is urging well owners to test their drinking water annually or whenever they notice a change in the taste or odor of their water.

Municipalities regularly test drinking water supplies to ensure safety, but it's the responsibility of private well owners to have their well water tested.

Rock County has about 13,000 private wells, but most are not tested for coliform bacteria or nitrates on an annual basis.

Based on past results,

about one in six Rock County wells tested for bacteria are unsafe, while one out of four are unsafe due to high nitrates. These contaminants can cause negative health effects in people who drink the water.

Nitrate tests are especially recommended if pregnant women or infants younger than 6 months live in the household.

Test kits are available from the Rock County Health Department. Each test costs \$22. For more information, call (608) 757-5440.