

## What's Happening

**July 4**  
**Independence Day**

**July 15**  
**National Pet Fire  
Safety Day**

**July is National  
Grilling Month**

The National Grilling Month in July ushers in fun times by the grill. Backyard grilling only became popular after WW2 when many people's socio-economic conditions improved and the middle class rose.



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# SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS!

With the recent increase in energy prices causing utility bills to go up, Rock Energy would like to offer up these strategies to help you save energy and keep costs down during the summer months when you're trying to keep your home cool. Some of the tips below are completely free and can be used on a daily basis to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to keep energy affordable when the heat is up during the blazing Wisconsin and Illinois summer months.



**Phase out phantom energy loss:** Unplug your electronic devices when not in use and use smart power strips. Consider energy-saving settings, which are often available on newer equipment and appliances.

**Insulation:** Heating and cooling account for most of the energy used in any residential property. Heat can radiate down from your attic in the summer if you have poor insulation, and that's not good when temps are high.

**LED:** LEDs use up to 80 percent less electricity to produce the same amount of light as their traditional incandescent counterparts.

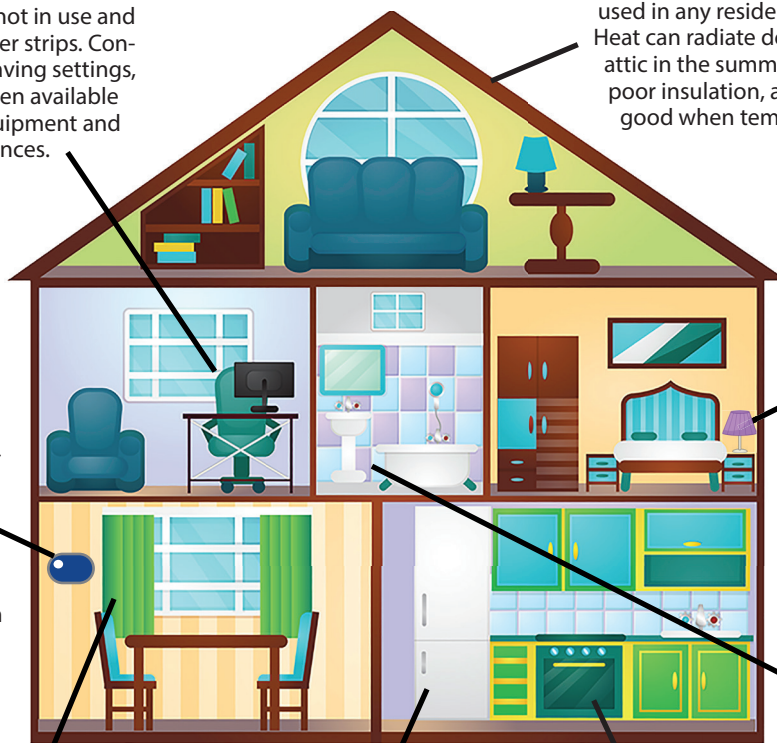
**Save water:** A simple low-flow aerator saves water in the bathroom. It's cheap and a very effective way to save on your water bill.

**Set it for the season:** Set thermostats to 78 degrees and use fans to keep you feeling cooler. For every degree higher you maintain your thermostat, you can see up to a 3-4% decrease in energy use.

**Keep the heat out:** Close your curtains and blinds during peak hours of the day to keep the sun's heat out.

**Fill your fridge:** Solids and liquids are easier to cool than air. Try to keep your refrigerator set to the temperature recommended by the manufacturer for optimal performance.

**Cool down the kitchen:** Use your oven sparingly. Consider cooking options such as the microwave, slow cookers and outdoor grills.



• **Washing clothes:** When washing clothes, try to wash and dry full loads only, and in cold water.

• **Filters:** Clean or change your air filters monthly. Dirty filters can block airflow, making your system work harder to keep you comfortable. Clear spaces around your air returns and vents to prevent airflow blockage.

# BEWARE OF THIRD-PARTY BILL PAYMENT SERVICES

Some on-line payment services legally publish information about Rock Energy Cooperative and other utilities on their website. However, not all the information they publish is accurate. If you conduct a "Google" search for "Rock Energy bill payment" (or something similar), one of the most prominent results to show up is doxo.com, which is a third-party payment company. The doxo.com payment page at times even displays the Rock Energy logo and contact information as a way to market its on-line bill payment service to potential customers. Rock Energy is not affiliated with doxo.com, so this can definitely be a source of confusion, especially if you're paying on-line for the first time.



## ROCK ENERGY IS **NOT** AFFILIATED WITH DOXO.COM

- Because the cooperative is not affiliated with doxo.com and has not authorized them to use our logo and information, using this site can lead to mistakes (like a payment being sent to the wrong organization) and/or an interruption in electric service.
- Often, third-party sites charge additional service fees and do not always make timely payments, which could result in lengthy delays in your payment getting to Rock Energy.
- Bottom line: The most affordable, safe and secure form of payment is SmartHub, Rock Energy's on-line bill payment site. SmartHub is a website and mobile device app that makes it easy to view and pay your electric bill with your computer, smart phone or tablet. Rock Energy offers this secure on-line bill pay option, along with several other secure payment choices: [www.rock.coop/payment-options](http://www.rock.coop/payment-options).

*If you have questions about paying bills on-line, please do not hesitate to call one of our Member Service representatives at 866-752-4550.*

An infographic titled 'Lightning Facts' with a blue fist holding a yellow lightning bolt. The background is dark blue with white lightning bolts. The facts are numbered 1 through 7 in yellow. Source: SafeElectricity.org.

- 1 Flashes of lightning between a thunderstorm and the earth are called cloud-to-ground.
- 2 There is roughly 5 to 10 times more intra-cloud lightning than cloud-to-ground lightning.
- 3 The vertical extent of cloud-to-ground lightning averages 3 to 4 miles.
- 4 Lightning often strikes up to 10 miles away from rainfall.
- 5 Lightning can occur in winter during heavy snowfalls.
- 6 Lightning can strike in the same place twice.
- 7 Lightning has 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.



## REC OFFICES CLOSED 4th OF JULY

Rock Energy offices will be closed and REC personnel will be out on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage or a natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.