

What's Happening

February 12**Super Bowl Sunday**

Glendale, Arizona
State Farm Stadium

February 14**Valentine's Day****February 20****Presidents' Day****February is Black History Month**

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

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Winter Energy-Saving Tips

With energy costs up, it's likely members are seeing their electricity bills go up as well. Below you will find some great energy-saving tips. From insulation to thermostats, if you take the time to consider all of the ways you can save energy this winter, you may be pleasantly surprised to see being more energy efficient does pay off in the long run.

**THERMOSTATS**

Set your thermostat between 66°F and 68°F, a comfortable range for most people. For every 1°F you lower your thermostat, you may reduce your energy use by 1-3 percent.

FURNACE FILTER

Start the heating season with a new furnace filter, and clean or replace it monthly to keep your furnace running efficiently.

**HOT WATER HEATERS**

Setting your hot water heater to 120°F can cut your water heating costs by 10 percent.

FIREPLACES

Open-hearth fireplaces draw heated air from your home, sending it, and possibly your energy budget, up the chimney. If you use your fireplace, install a snug-fitting set of glass doors. Doing so reduces the amount of heated interior air drawn into the fireplace and improves efficiency by up to 20 percent.

**POWER STRIPS**

Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.

ENERGY VAMPIRES

Unplug things you aren't using; use power strips for devices you know use power while idle (mentioned above); adjust power settings on things like your computer or TV; and consider getting timers for outlets to help control usage.

SEAL GAPS/HOLES

You should plug and caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. Look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and look for leaks around windows and doors. Seal them with the appropriate material, such as caulk and weatherstripping.

INSULATION

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if the insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), the level of insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home.

Youth Co-op Events Slated for 2023!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

July 11–13, 2023

UW–Stout / Menomonie, WI

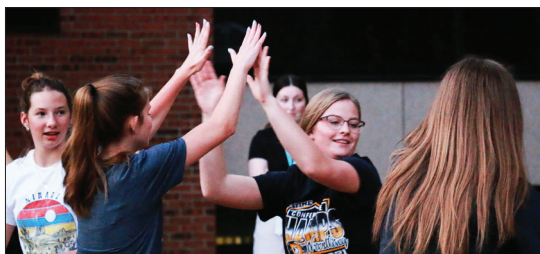
www.weca.coop/youth-education

A key component of WECA's educational programming for young people, the three-day Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) has been held each summer since 1963. The 2022 YLC attracted more than 60 students sponsored by 17 cooperatives. Activities focus on maximizing leadership potential, understanding cooperatives, and co-op governance—students organize and operate a functioning cooperative during the event—effective communication, and how to turn mistakes into positives.

Participating students elect a six-member WECA Youth Board who will help plan the following year's Leadership Congress, have the opportunity to attend the NRECA Youth Tour, and visit the WECA offices and State Capitol legislative offices. A feature of the Youth Congress is the annual WECA Essay Contest. In 2022, more than 60 students, writing on co-op oriented subjects, competed for three scholarships of \$1000, \$500, and \$250, redeemable at any accredited post-secondary educational institution in the U.S.

The event also offers a broad look into understanding cooperative business principles for the upcoming generation of co-op leaders.

Pictured at right, students participate in group activities at the 2022 YLC event.



NRECA YOUTH TOUR

June 15–21, 2023

Washington, D.C.

www.nrecayouthprograms.coop



Each year cooperatives sponsor young people for participation in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. In June 2022, nine Wisconsin youth delegates and 44 Illinois youth delegates joined roughly 2,000 additional youth delegates from across the nation for the annual event.

The Federated Youth Foundation, a co-op sponsored, independent charitable organization, provides significant financial support for Youth Tour participation through the proceeds from investments financed by unclaimed co-op patronage credits.

Every electric co-op has the opportunity to sponsor students for this educational tour of national monuments and visits with elected officials at their Capitol offices.

There is a strong educational component tied to the tour that teaches the importance of being an active participant in our democracy. Delegates are encouraged to come prepared with questions or topics to discuss in their meetings. Even though these high schoolers may not be old enough to vote, understanding that their Representatives want to engage with them is an empowering realization!

Registration for these events will open soon.

Go to the web site addresses listed above for more event details and registration information.

Homeowner Insurance Policies Cover Loss from Power Outages

Rock Energy Cooperative works diligently to make sure your electricity is there when you need it. But like all things, nothing is 100 percent guaranteed.

Power outages or voltage issues—whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, equipment failure, animals, or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs, and other appliances in your home.

These events are out of our control, and Rock Energy does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner insurance policies will cover losses from power interruptions that are caused by lightning, windstorms, and other sources.

Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage. You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a storm or power outage and by installing surge protection.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

87th Annual Meeting to be Held in April

Please join us on Monday, April 24, 2023, for the 87th Annual Meeting of Rock Energy Cooperative. The 2023 meeting is being moved to the spring, after the previous three annual meetings were held in the fall due to COVID-related issues.

The 2023 event will take place at the Eclipse Center in Beloit. On the day of the event, registration will open at 4:30 p.m. Members are welcome to participate in the business meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Further details about the 2023 meeting will be released in upcoming issues of the co-op magazine, in our newsletter, and through email correspondence.

We look forward to seeing you on April 24.