



More Power to You

KEEPING YOU SAFE WHILE KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936

Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

At Rock Energy Cooperative, our mission is to not just provide reliable service to our members' homes and businesses, but to do it as safely as possible.

With COVID-19 continuing to be a major threat for people and companies everywhere, we here at Rock Energy have taken a number of precautionary measures to protect our employees and members in order to help prevent the spread of the virus, while continuing to provide services for our members:

- Rock Energy's co-op operations have not ceased. We have always had our team ready to respond to member needs, power outages and other concerns. Even though the lobbies have closed at our two offices, our employees are here to answer any questions you may have over the phone or through email.
- We have scaled down or ceased events, like our annual

meeting, which was scaled down last year, and our Member Appreciation Day, which was canceled last year. We have also leveraged technology for meetings and remote work as needed.

- Our field employees follow hygiene practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including using face coverings and gloves, and frequent hand washing. We wipe down workstations and vehicles each day.
- We have diligently followed all guidelines recommended by state and national agencies regarding proper disinfection of our facilities and have encouraged employees to follow recommended protocols for proper hygiene as well.

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While maintaining proper social distance, Rock Energy Operations Manager Chris Tullar, left, goes over assignments with crew members before the start of a busy day in the field.

MY CO-OP



Continued from page 20A

While much has changed in our world, at Rock Energy one thing will always remain the same—serving our members when they need it most. If you’re having trouble paying your bill, for example, we’re here to help find the best option for your situation. Contact us and we’ll help to find a solution that works best for you.

We have been and continue to encourage our members to avoid unnecessary contact by communicating with us and paying bills in ways other than face-to-face. For instance, managing your account online with SmartHub is a good idea and smart choice given the current circumstances. With SmartHub you can (among other things) pay your bill, view your account balance, and see your payment history. Paying your bill through SmartHub is also quick, secure, and safe. There are a variety of other different methods you can use to make a payment, besides dropping it off in person, such as:

- Auto pay
- Deposit box drop-off outside our offices
- Kiosk outside of the South Beloit office
- Online bill pay directly from your bank account
- For more information about payment options go to:

www.rock.coop/payment-options

Safely Responding to Incidents

While Rock Energy crews are most definitely focused on virus-prevention protocols—such as maintaining proper social distance from members and making sure all equipment and vehicles are sanitized, before and after use—they know they have critical work to do, regardless of the current conditions. There is no doubt that the pandemic has disrupted many facets of life, but having to deal with inclement weather and storms isn’t one of them. Since the pandemic began, our crews have been on duty, responding in the field to any and all incidents without hesitation.

Rock Energy is built on the strength of our members, along with the commitment of our employees and board members. You can rest assured that our dedicated team remains steadfast in our commitment to you, our members, no matter what the circumstances are and without question.



Pictured above and below, Rock Energy employees ensure that workstations and all equipment, both inside the office and in the maintenance shop, are sanitized daily.



The lobbies at Rock Energy’s Janesville and South Beloit offices are currently closed to members; however, member service representatives are available by phone during regular business hours.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

The Rock Energy Cooperative 85th Annual Meeting has been scheduled to take place on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI. However, please note that the event date is subject to change pending any unforeseen COVID-related mandates.

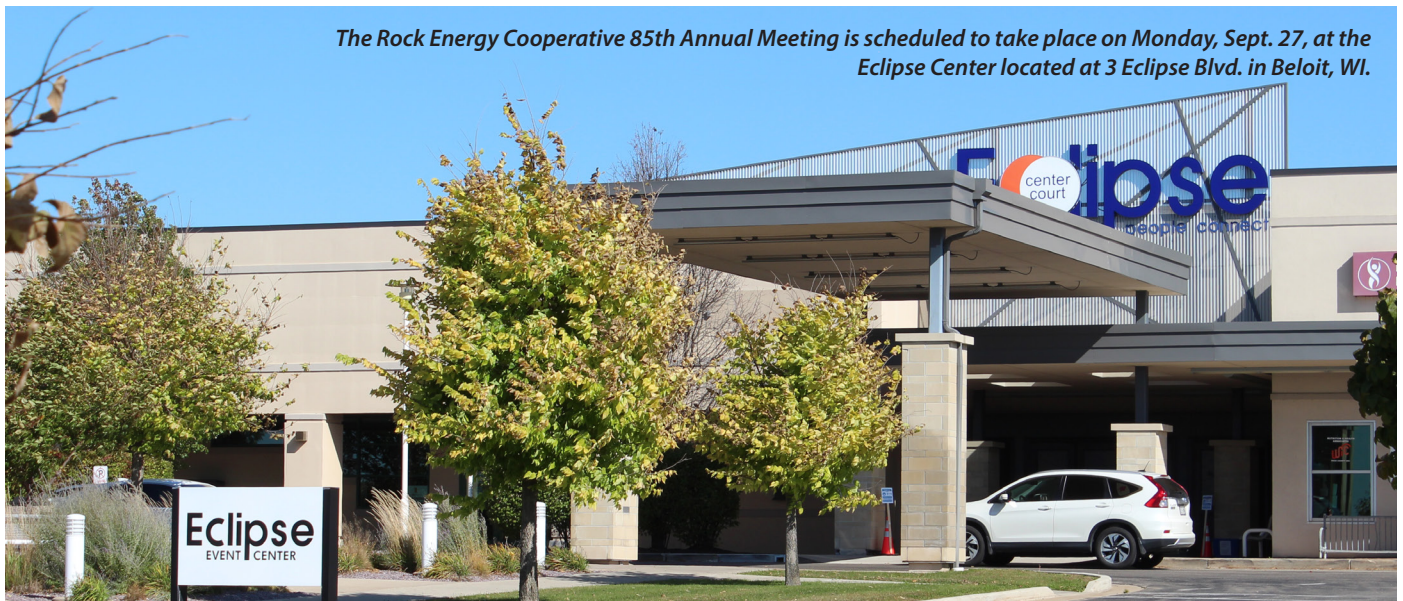
Taking into consideration the health and well-being of our members, this year's event will be a business meeting only, expected to last around 30-45 minutes. No dinner will be served, nor scholarships presented. There will be no guest speakers or kids' activities as well. Attending parties should be limited to two people maximum per membership (yourself and one other person) in order to allow for adequate social distancing. Every attendee should bring a mask with them to the event (masks may be required).

At this year's annual meeting, members will elect directors in districts 1, 3, and 5. All directors are elected at-large, so you can vote in all three districts. More details about upcoming board elections will be included in future publications.

Attending the annual meeting gives members — the most important part of our co-op family — a chance to participate in the governance of the cooperative. As always, we look forward to serving you and we hope to see you there.

More information about the annual meeting will be released in upcoming issues of this magazine, as well as the REC Newsletter (sent with your billing) and email correspondence. If you haven't already given us your email address, you can do so in order to receive REC-related information.

The Rock Energy Cooperative 85th Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, Sept. 27, at the Eclipse Center located at 3 Eclipse Blvd. in Beloit, WI.



MY CO-OP

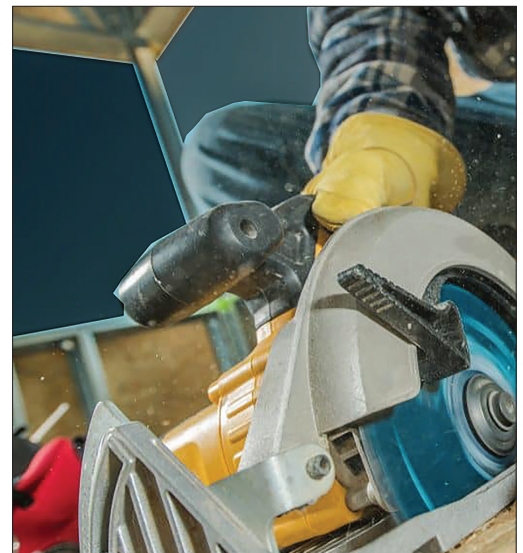
POWER TOOLS ARE USEFUL, BUT REMEMBER TO BE SAFE!

When using power tools at home, safety should always be the No. 1 priority. Even experienced people can have serious accidents, so you should never skip even the most minor of safety precautions. By consistently following certain rules, you can prevent many potential hazards that could harm you or your family.

When it comes to using power tools, keep in mind the following things:

- Read the instructions
- Maintain and check your power tools frequently, check for frayed cords
- Dress for work (open-toe sandals are a bad idea)
- Work in an appropriate area
- Watch the positioning of your cords, especially when using a saw
- Turn them off / unplug them when not in use
- Be prepared for the worst – SAFETY FIRST!
- Educate your children

By always following safety rules, most accidents can be avoided and risks greatly reduced. The more knowledgeable you are about your tools and how they work, the better shape you'll be in.





5 REASONS WHY LED BULBS ARE A BRIGHT IDEA!

Yes, LED light bulbs are highly efficient, but they offer benefits far beyond lower energy bills. Have you made the switch to high-efficiency LED bulbs? You may know that LEDs use a lot less energy than standard bulbs, but are you aware of all the other benefits they bring to the table? If you aren't aware of what some of the benefits of LED light bulbs are, here are five you should know about:

1. High-quality LED bulbs last 25,000 hours or more. At an average of five hours a day, 365 days a year, they can last for at least 14 years. You may find yourself having to look at the instructions on the package the next time you need to change one out.

2. Color rendering index (CRI) measures how well a light bulb displays colors compared to sunlight. Incandescent bulbs set the standard with a score of 100. The latest LED products have a CRI of up to 90, making the light in your home look vivid and natural.

3. LEDs are inherently dimmable. That means you can turn down the lights for a romantic dinner at home or for an evening movie with the family. You'll save energy, as well.



4. Bulbs emit light in different tones, ranging from cool to warm. Warm (yellowish) light is great for your family room, while cool (bluish) light is better for performing tasks, such as in a workroom. LEDs cover the entire color range, so they can be used anywhere in your home or outdoors.

5. If you're looking to downsize your environmental footprint, switching to LEDs puts you on the right path. The lower energy use will reduce your household emissions. Also, LEDs contain no mercury, a hazardous substance found in other types of bulbs. This makes disposal simpler and easier on the planet.

ENERGY STAR

LED bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR are subject to specific requirements designed to replicate the experience you are used to with a standard bulb, so they can be used for a wide variety of applications.



Source: Touchstone Energy

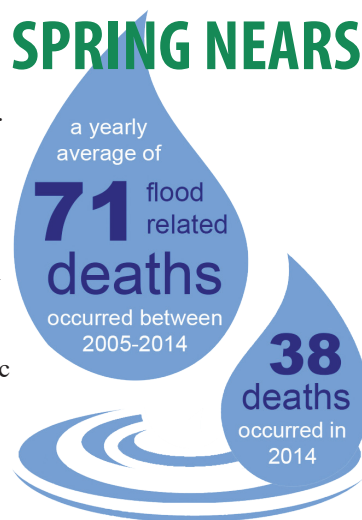
FLOOD SAFETY SHOULD BE TOP-OF-MIND AS SPRING NEARS

Spring weather and melting snow can cause flooding in lowland areas, homes, and basements. It can happen quickly or be drawn out over a period of time. According to the United States National Weather Service, flooding is one of the deadliest severe weather hazards in the U.S.

If you see a flooded area, here are some critical safety measures to keep in mind:

- Never step into a flooded room as water may be in contact with outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carries safety risks. If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used, because it may need to be repaired or replaced. If possible, simply avoid any area that's flooded.



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Jonas Berberich, Editor



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NEVER ENTER FLOOD WATERS

When floods happen, news reports often show homeowners and reporters standing in or rowing through flood waters.

This is a **BAD IDEA**. Flood waters can cover downed power lines or other electrical hazards, and the combination of water and electricity can cause shock or electrocution.

Here are some safety reminders:

- Never enter flood waters; this includes on foot or by any other means such as a boat or canoe.
- Electrical hazards such as downed power lines could be lurking underneath the standing water.
- Do not enter a flooded basement if water could be covering outlets, appliances, or electrical cords.
- Do not touch electrical equipment such as wires, switches or fuses if you are wet or standing in water or on a damp surface.



Cleaning up can also be dangerous:

- Downed and deadly power lines can be hiding under branches and debris.
- Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Replace water-damaged electronics and equipment.
- Always be aware of power line locations when using or carrying ladders, poles, or any other extendable or long tools.
- Be aware of power line locations each time you are elevated, for example: on a ladder, rooftop, or boom lift.



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