



A MESSAGE FROM:
Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

Happy Holidays From Rock Energy

As the holidays kick off, we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team here at Rock Energy Cooperative cares about your wellbeing. So, this month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

CHECK FIRST

Before you deck the halls, always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This will give you peace of mind, knowing your holiday lights are ready to safely brighten your home. Also, make sure your lights are rated for outdoor use. See page 18B for more outdoor lighting safety tips.

Most households enjoy holidays-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so try to make it a monthly habit.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT SAVINGS

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time you spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

From all of your friends here at Rock Energy, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright, and we hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans.

We are thankful to be your energy provider, and if we can do anything to improve our service to you, please let us know.



10 LIGHTING TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Before you plan out your holiday lighting scheme, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 3 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 4 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 5 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 6 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 7 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.
- 8 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 9 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 10 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.

How To Recognize A Natural Gas leak?

SOUND - An unusual hissing, roaring, or whistling sound along a natural gas line or coming from an appliance might signify a leak.

SMELL - Gas providers add a chemical that makes natural gas smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected.

SIGHT - Unexplained dead grass, bubbling water, and blowing dirt near a meter or along the pipeline route are signs of a leak.

Natural Gas Detection & Safety - VIDEO

Check out Rock Energy's "Natural Gas Safety at Home" video and know what to do if you detect a natural gas leak. To view the video, scan the QR code to the right. ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶

If you suspect a leak in your home, leave the building or area immediately. Go to a safe place, outside the smell of gas (certainly not downwind of it). Do not use a phone until you're safely away from the suspected leak. Then call Rock Energy Cooperative at 866-752-4550, or contact your gas provider.



Worried About Mailing Your Payment To REC?

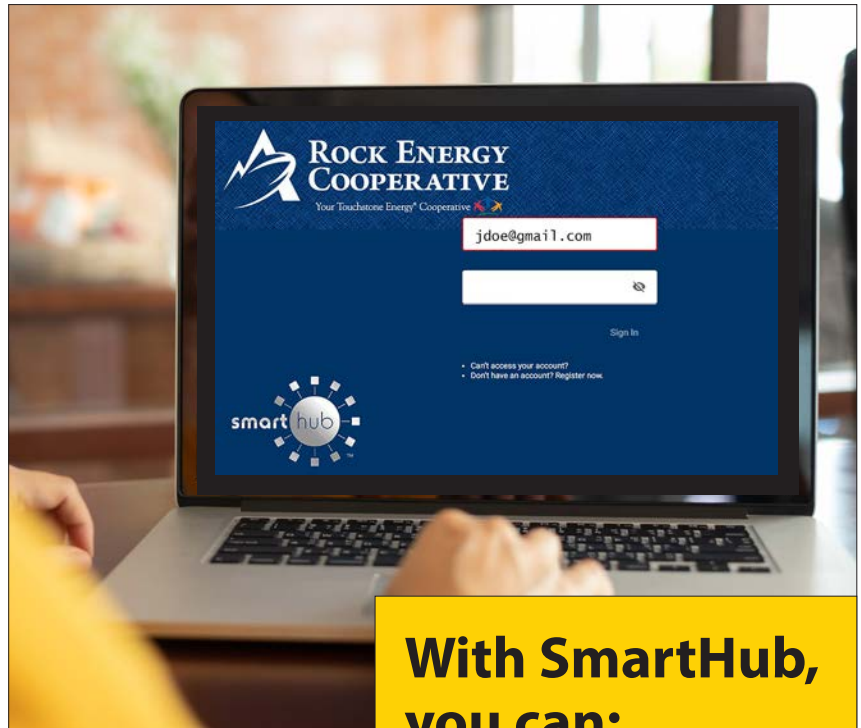
SmartHub May Be The Solution!

You may have heard or noticed lately that USPS deliveries can be a little pokey, and with the holiday season upon us, getting mail (like your utility bill if mailed) from here to there can be a very untimely task.

If you're worried about getting your bill and paying your bill in a timely manner through the mail, there is a solution you should consider (if you haven't already)—SmartHub! You can sign up for SmartHub to make sure you receive your bill and plan your payments without having to rely on the postal service when paying by check. SmartHub is Rock Energy's online account management system.

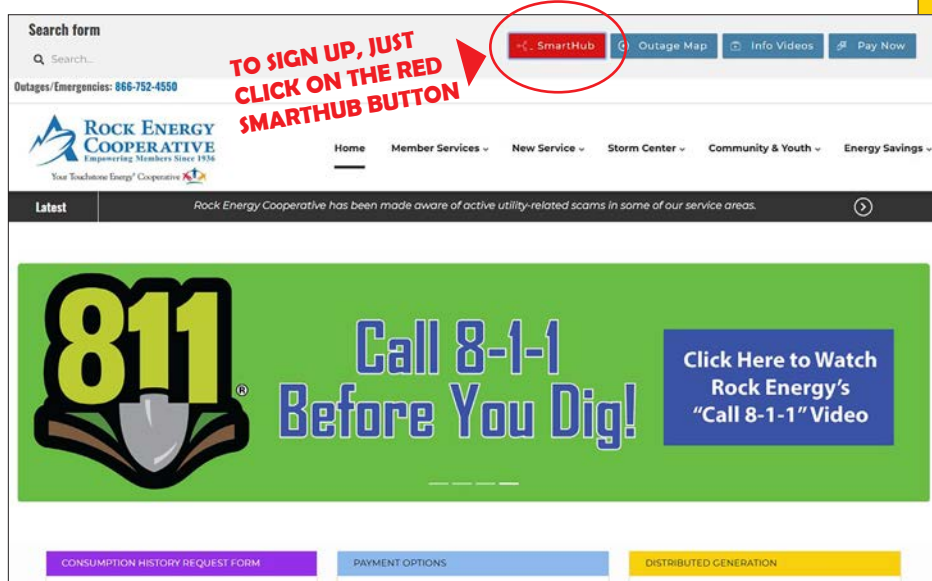
The free app for computers and mobile devices is easy to use and offers many features to provide members with secure account management right at their fingertips.

If you are new to online account management, go to www.rock.coop and click on the red SmartHub button (see below) at the top of the page to sign up. You can register as a new user with your account number, account holder's last name, and email address.



With SmartHub, you can:

- Check your usage.
- Contact our office.
- Pay your bill.
- Receive account notifications.
- Sign up for paperless billing.
- Set up EFT and have your monthly bill deducted from your checking account (no convenience fee).
- And Much More!



2026 Rock Energy Scholarship Application Now Open

Rock Energy Cooperative (REC) again is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

The on-line application is available at www.rock.coop. Go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. Or, you can just scan the QR code on this page. The deadline for submitting applications is **Jan. 10, 2026**. Applications must be completed on-line at www.rock.coop.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or jonasb@rock.coop.



Rock Energy Offices Closed For Holiday

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed for the holidays on:

- Wednesday, Dec. 24
- Thursday, Dec. 25
- Wednesday, Dec. 31
- Thursday, Jan. 1

Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holidays and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Rd. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage or natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.

Unclaimed Money Held For Former Members

Rock Energy Cooperative holds unclaimed capital credit funds for some former members. A list of those who have unclaimed money can be viewed on our web site at: www.rock.coop/unclaimed.

The money will be forfeited and paid to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives' Federated Youth Foundation for educational purposes unless claimed by **Dec. 31, 2025**.

You may send claims to Rock Energy at P.O. Box 1758, Janesville, WI 53547, or call 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

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866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR LOCAL TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVE!

You inspire us to find solutions, so we can provide the energy and savings you need. Being a part of a Touchstone Energy cooperative means we're always listening so we can make our community a better place. To learn more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936