



Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

More Power to You

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY INTENSIFIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Concern for Community is one of seven cooperative principles that guide all co-ops. Here at Rock Energy, we try to follow that principle in everything we do—from how we run the co-op to how we connect with our local communities. We value this principle year-round, but its significance increases greatly during the holiday season.

Energy cooperatives have a proud history of giving back to their members and the communities they serve. Rock Energy sponsors a school supplies drive for needy families, awards

scholarships to deserving students, distributes capital credits to members, and provides savings with our Co-op Connections Card.

We also have two programs that help our less fortunate friends and neighbors. Project Lift Up is our voluntary donation

Project Lift Up is our voluntary donation program that helps members who are having difficulty paying their energy bills.

program that helps members who are having difficulty paying their energy bills. As the name implies, Project Lift Up gives people a financial lift. Rock Energy members have donated almost \$17,000 in the past eight years.

Money given to Project Lift Up helps fund Rock Cooperative Care, our program that assists co-op members with their energy bills. Since 2010, more than \$178,000 has been awarded to members who might otherwise fall through the cracks because their incomes are too high to qualify for federal assistance but too low to make ends make. If you think you might qualify for assistance, check out the income guidelines on page 16c of this magazine.

Project Lift Up was designed as an easy way for members to make small monthly donations by rounding up their energy bill to the nearest dollar. Members also can choose to add a set monthly amount to their bill or make a one-time donation. Most contributions come in the form of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters when co-op members round up the amount they pay. Considered separately, that spare change might seem insignificant. But when combined with other donations, that small amount of money could help your neighbor in a big way.

Signing up is easy. Just fill out the form on this page and return it to Rock Energy. The form also is available at www.rock.coop by clicking on Your Account and scrolling down to Project Lift Up. We'll make sure your donation goes to someone who truly needs it. If you already participate in Project Lift Up, you can help make the holidays even brighter for others by adding a one-time donation to your generous contribution.

Whether you're new to the program or increasing your donation, we'll give you three free LED bulbs to help you save money on your energy bill.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who

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Yes, I want to make a holiday gift to Project Lift Up and receive three free LEDs!

(Choose only one option.)

- Round up my monthly energy bill to the nearest whole dollar.
- Add \$1 each month to my budget billing plan.
- Add a monthly donation of \$_____ to my energy bill. (Please enter dollar amount.)
- Add a one-time donation of \$_____ to my next energy bill. (Please enter dollar amount; minimum of \$10 donation required for light bulb offer.)
- I already am enrolled in Project Lift Up but want to add a one-time donation of \$_____ to my next energy bill. (Please enter dollar amount; minimum of \$10 donation required for light bulb offer.)



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 E-mail Address: _____
 Signature: _____
 Account Number: _____ Date: _____

MY CO-OP



MORE POWER TO YOU

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participates in this program. Your generosity shows the true cooperative spirit of Rock Energy members and is a perfect example of the co-op's Concern for Community principle. Our members are always willing to lend a hand to help a neighbor facing tough times.

Before our annual Member Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast in September, we gathered employees, directors, and their families outside our Janesville warehouse for a group photo that becomes our holiday greeting to members. I hope you enjoy seeing the smiles of these people, who believe it's a privilege to serve your energy needs.

All of us at Rock Energy sincerely hope that you and your family stay safe as you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another holiday. We hope this special time with family and friends is filled with joy and happiness. Thanks for allowing us to be your energy provider during the past year. We promise to give you the same great service during 2017. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to improve.



Director Clark Schoonover received his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate in September during the NRECA regional meeting in the Twin Cities. Pictured with Schoonover, left, are Jim Matheson, chief executive officer at NRECA, and Tracy Warren, communications manager at NRECA. Schoonover, who represents District 6 on the Rock Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, was recognized for completing courses designed for energy cooperative directors.



ROCK COOPERATIVE CARE OFFERS ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Some Rock Energy Cooperative members need a little help paying their energy bills. They might earn too much to qualify for state and federal energy assistance, or they might need some extra money to supplement the other programs.

Either way, Rock Cooperative Care is available to help. Since 2010, more than \$178,000 has been distributed to help members.

A one-time grant of up to \$500 is available to help residential members

who are struggling to pay their energy bills but do not meet more stringent state and federal requirements.

Check the chart below to see if your household qualifies for assistance. For example, a four-person household would be eligible if the total annual income is \$72,900 or less.

The Salvation Army office administers the Rock Cooperative Care program. If you meet the eligibility requirements, call either of these offices during regular business hours to schedule an appoint-



ment: Janesville, (608) 757-8300, extension 26; Beloit, (608) 365-6572; or Rockford, (815) 972-1135. Be sure to point out that you would like to schedule an appointment to apply for the Rock Cooperative Care program.

Rock Cooperative Care Income Guidelines for the 2016-2017 Heating Season*

Family Size	150% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$500 grant)		200% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$350 grant)		300% of Poverty Level (eligible for up to a \$250 grant)	
	30-Day Income	Annual Income	30-Day Income	Annual Income	30-Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,485	\$17,820	\$1,980	\$23,760	\$2,970	\$35,640
2	\$2,002	\$24,030	\$2,670	\$32,040	\$4,005	\$48,060
3	\$2,520	\$30,240	\$3,360	\$40,320	\$5,040	\$60,480
4	\$3,037	\$36,450	\$4,050	\$48,600	\$6,075	\$72,900
5	\$3,555	\$42,660	\$4,740	\$56,880	\$7,110	\$85,320
6	\$4,072	\$48,870	\$5,430	\$65,160	\$8,145	\$97,740
7	\$4,591	\$55,095	\$6,121	\$73,460	\$9,182	\$110,190
8	\$5,111	\$61,335	\$6,815	\$81,780	\$10,222	\$122,670

*Figures are based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2016–2017.

HELP ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE, FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) also helps eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services.

The program's heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season. The amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs.

You are eligible for heating assistance through WHEAP if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on the accompanying chart.

For more information and application details, please contact your local office:

- Rock County: 608-363-9200, Energy Services Inc., Eclipse Center, 600 Henry Ave., Suite 25A, Beloit, or 1 Parker Place, Suite 405, Janesville
- Green County: 608-328-9344, Human Services Department, N3152 Highway 81, Monroe
- Walworth County: 262-427-8505, Energy Services Inc., 319 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn
- Dane County: 608-267-8601, Energy Services Inc., 1225 S. Park St., Madison

WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2016–2017 Heating Season

Household Size	Combined Household Income		
	1 Month	3 Month	Annual
1	\$2,181	\$6,544	\$26,174
2	\$2,852	\$8,557	\$34,228
3	\$3,524	\$10,571	\$42,282
4	\$4,195	\$12,584	\$50,336
5	\$4,866	\$14,597	\$58,389
6	\$5,537	\$16,611	\$66,443
7	\$5,663	\$16,988	\$67,953
8	\$5,789	\$17,366	\$69,463



RATES WILL CHANGE JAN. 1

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the monthly facilities charge on most electric accounts will increase \$1. This adjustment moves the monthly charge slightly closer to the actual fixed cost of serving an account and will allow the per kilowatt-hour energy charge to remain relatively steady in 2017.

Get Connected

Check out these great deals offered with your Co-op Connections Card.



Best Western Legacy Inn & Suites,
5910 Technology Drive, South Beloit –
815-389-4211 – www.bestwestern.com

Hotel with complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, wireless internet, heated pool, hot tub, exercise facility, meeting space available, refrigerator and microwave in all rooms, cable and HBO, free local calls, cribs available, hot tub rooms available, free parking. Easy access from I-90/39 & I-43.

10% Off



Indulge Spa & Salon, 807 Brown School Road, Evansville – 608-882-6391

Full-service salon offering hair care, manicures, pedicures, massages, facials, and tanning.

\$5 Off Any Service Valued at \$20 or More



For a complete listing of current deals, visit www.rock.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card. You also can use the card for discounts on prescriptions as well as dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic, lab, and imaging services. To locate providers, call 800-800-7616.



Add Up Your Savings!

Tell us how much you have saved by using your Co-op Connections Card. If you have a story you'd like to share, e-mail Barbara Uebelacker at BarbU@rock.coop or call her at 866-752-4550.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$500 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.



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

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$92,000 in financial aid to deserving students. Funds for scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits.

Instead of using paper forms as in past years, Rock Energy now is accepting online applications. Just visit www.rock.coop, click on Your Benefits, and scroll down to Scholarship Programs.

The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 11. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker at 866-752-4550 or barbu@rock.coop.

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op. Applications must be completed online at www.rock.coop. Just click on Your Benefits and scroll down to Scholarship Programs. The deadline is Dec. 31.



Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas and Friday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's holiday. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekends. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 608-752-4550 or toll-free 866-752-4550.

Shane Larson, CEO

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Barbara Uebelacker, Editor



ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Empowering Members Since 1936