

# 2023 Rock Energy Annual Meeting



**Monday, April 24, 2023**

## *87nd Annual Meeting of Rock Energy Cooperative*

- The 2023 meeting is returning to 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 opens at 4:30 p.m.**
  - Members are welcome to participate in the business-only meeting, which **will begin at 5:30 p.m.**

*We look forward to seeing you on April 24.*



## **Other activities will include:**

- 2023 Rock Energy Scholarship recipient recognition
- Director elections for districts 6, 7, and 8
- Prize giveaways

# 10

# SPRING ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

March 20th marks the first day of SPRING! With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money. Below are 10 simple things you can do to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home this spring!

**1.** Service your air conditioner. Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Also, the first day of spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.

**2.** Open windows. Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.

**3.** Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

**4.** Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

**5.** Install window treatments. Energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades, and films can slash heat gain when temperatures rise. These items not only improve the look of your home, but also reduce energy costs.

**6.** Caulk air leaks. Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out—and cash in your wallet.

**7.** Bring in sunlight. During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

**8.** Set the thermostat. On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10 percent.

**9.** Seal ducts. Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30 percent of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward saving energy and lowering your electricity bills.

**10.** Switch on bathroom fans. Bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



## Rock Energy Rate Adjustments

For the first time since 2015, residential electric base rates will be modified, effective with electric billings after March 15, 2023 (some industrial accounts were adjusted January 1, 2023).

Due to increased costs, particularly on the cooperative's cost of purchased power, the base rates for energy and the monthly facility charge will be increased. In addition, a small distribution demand charge will be implemented to address increased costs to maintain and upgrade the electrical system. For demand rates, the demand charge will increase.

For residential accounts, the last increase to the monthly facility charge was in 2018, and again, the most recent change to the base rate of energy was in 2015. For residential accounts, the overall increase is 6.3%. For all rate classes, the impact is 7.7%.

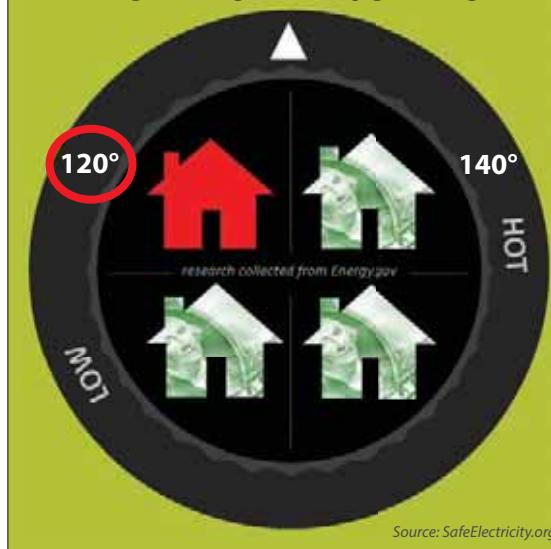
Many factors are increasing costs: clean energy goals, supply-chain issues, world events, weather, and inflation are some contributing factors. In 2022, Rock Energy experienced a 37% increase in power costs. With power cost representing nearly 70% of all expenses, the impact was substantial.

The cooperative remains cost competitive, while maintaining and upgrading the system to accommodate the needs of our current and future members. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

## WATER HEATERS

Water heating can equal up to 25% of your home energy use.

Dial Down to 120°



# SMARTHUB

## SMART MANAGEMENT

## SMART USAGE

## SMART LIFE



Track your electric use and take the guess work out of your bill with SmartHub.

Through detailed graphs, you will be able to monitor your use 24/7, track your consumption, and find ways to reduce and save!

To sign up for SmartHub, just go to [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop) and click on the RED SmartHub button at the top of the home page.



# Preventing Home Electrical Fires



Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

**Over a recent 4-year period...**

**30%**

happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)



**1**

Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires**.

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires**.

**2**

## WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

Damaged cords and flickering lights

Discolored outlets and switch plates

Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly. Learn more at:

Sources: NFPA & SafeElectricity.org

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**Jonas Berberich, Editor**

## CAPITAL CREDITS GENERALLY NOT TAXABLE

With tax season in full-swing, Rock Energy Cooperative members might be wondering if the capital credits they receive are taxable.

Capital credits generally are not taxable for individual members. Whether your capital credit refund is taxable generally depends on whether or not you claimed your energy bills as a business expense.

For example, a farm or other business claiming 75 percent business use of their energy costs would have to include 75 percent of the cash payment for the capital credits when received as income. The non-business portion is not subject to taxation.

In addition, through your SmartHub account, you can access and review your 2022 capital credit retirement information on your May 2022 billing statement.

Rock Energy suggests that members with specific questions should consult a tax adviser.

## Energy Efficiency Tip: Electronics

If you're looking for additional ways to cut back on energy use, you should look closely at how you are using all electronics in your home. For instance, you should unplug non-critical equipment. Better yet, connect them to a smart power strip and use the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance(s) when not in use.



**WATCH OUT FOR ENERGY VAMPIRES!**  
Scan the QR code to watch the Energy Vampires video!



Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. These vampire loads occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as DVD players, TVs, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.



**ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE**  
Empowering Members Since 1936