



Shane L. Larson,  
Chief Executive Officer

## More Power to You

# PREPAID OPTION REDUCES ENERGY USE, GIVES MEMBERS CONTROL

**Did you know that nearly 1,000 Rock Energy Cooperative members do not get a monthly bill? You're probably thinking that sounds too good to be true. Well, in a way it is. These members are still paying for the energy they use, but they're deciding when they pay and how much they pay.**

Rock Energy's Prepaid Energy Option is a pay-as-you-go plan, allowing members to pay for energy as they use it. It gives them more control over their budget and makes them more aware of the energy they use.

**The best part is that members become more aware of the energy they use.**

The best analogy for prepaid energy is one that's familiar to everyone—putting gas in your car. When your gas gauge heads toward empty, you know it's time to add some fuel. You stop at the gas station and decide how much to spend. If tomorrow is payday and you're short of cash, you'll just put a couple gallons in the tank—enough to last until you can afford more.

Prepaid energy works the same way. Members maintain a prepaid balance in their account from which their daily usage is subtracted. When their balance gets low, the co-op alerts them by

e-mail, text message, or phone call that it's time to put money in their account. Then they have a variety of ways to add money—online, in person, by phone, by mail, or through online banking.

But the best part is that members become more aware of the energy they use. Mike Salmons, our energy services manager, tells me that since we started the program in October 2010, a total of 2,500 members have taken advantage of the prepaid option. On average, they reduce their energy use by about 15 percent, which translates into savings on their energy costs. Even better, when members use less energy, it lowers demand on our entire system, which saves everyone money in the long run.

Members can log in to their account online and check their prepaid balance,

their daily use, and the estimated number of days their balance will cover.

Sheila Drummond of South Beloit, a co-op member who enrolled in the prepay option in July 2011, says she goes online often to check her daily use. She uses the data to determine how much it costs to run each of her major appliances. For example, it costs \$1 a day to run her fans and 90 cents a day for the pool filter. When she discovered that an old freezer used \$2 worth of electricity each day, she got rid of it and saved about \$60 a month.

She estimates that her energy costs have decreased about 25 percent since she's been on the program because she's more aware of the energy she uses. In the past, she would turn on her air conditioner and not see the consequences until the bill came in the mail about 30 days later. Now, she can compare her electric

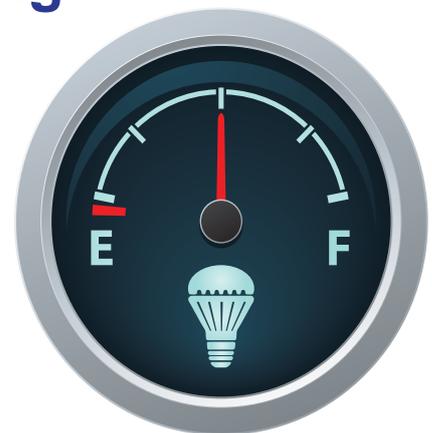
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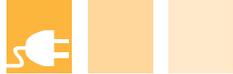


## The power is in your hands with... Prepaid Metering

By paying for electricity as you go, you can monitor energy use and know when you need to conserve. A few benefits of participating in prepaid metering are:

- Teaches the value of electricity
- Helps consumers understand what uses watts in their home
- Provides absolute control over how much money is spent on electricity
- Helps reduce energy use





## More Power to You

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use the day before and day after and see exactly how much it costs to cool her home. With that knowledge, she then can decide whether or not to turn on the air conditioner.

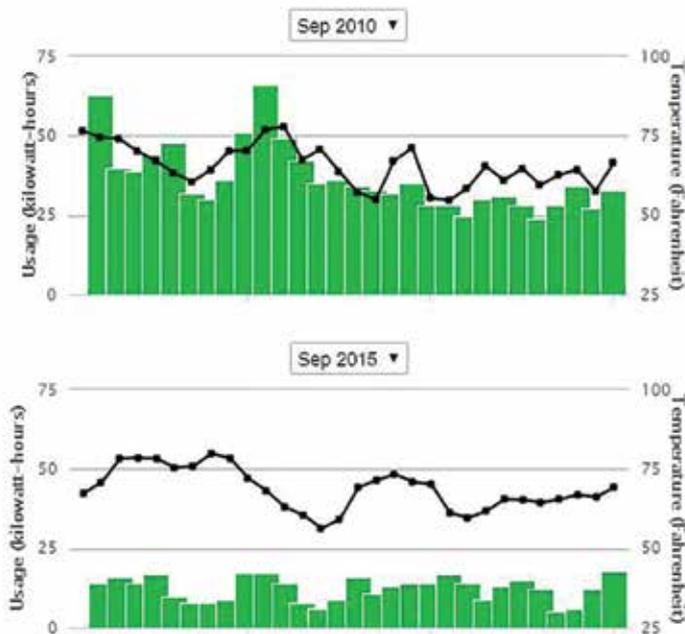
The program also gives members better control of their monthly budget. They can make biweekly, weekly, or even daily payments rather than one large payment each month. Members might make a payment whenever they get a pay-

check, when their Social Security check arrives, or whenever they can afford it. In addition, the option is a good solution for members who move often or are facing financial difficulties because it eliminates the need for deposits and late fees.

**She estimates that her energy costs have decreased about 25 percent since she's been on the program...**

The co-op's Prepaid Energy Option teaches the value of electricity, shows you what uses watts in your home, provides absolute control over how much you pay, and helps you reduce your energy use and costs. If you're interested in finding out more about the program and whether it's right for you, just give us a call.

If there's anything we can do to serve your energy needs and improve our service to you, please let us know. In the meantime, have a safe and happy Independence Day!



These charts show Sheila Drummond used much less electricity after switching to the co-op's Prepaid Energy Option. The program makes her more aware of the electricity she uses.

## HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE POLICIES COVER LOSSES 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 Cooperative does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner's insurance policies cover losses from power interruptions 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 power outage and by installing surge protection.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens, for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Member Appreciation Day 2016  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Saturday, Sept. 17 • 8 to 10:30 a.m.

REC Headquarters, 2815 Kennedy Road, Janesville, Wis.

Watch for details!



# Back to School Supplies Drive

Rock Energy Cooperative is sponsoring a School Supplies Drive so our employees and members can donate back-to-school items to help families who are having difficulty providing the proper tools for their children to succeed in school.

## Needed supplies

#2 wooden yellow pencils	Zipper binders
Ballpoint pens	Protractor
Plain pocket folders	Ruler
Spiral notebooks –	(1/8 scale and metric)
wide ruled	Scissors
Notebook paper –	(preferably Fiskars)
wide ruled	Backpacks
3-ring binders	Kleenex
Box of 24 or 64 crayons	Deodorant
(preferably Crayola)	
Pink erasers	
Glue bottles	
Glue sticks	
Dry erase markers	
Colored pencils	
Washable markers	
Watercolor paints	
Highlighters	

Donations will be delivered to the following school districts for distribution to needy families:

Beloit	Hononegah
Beloit Turner	Janesville
Brodhead	Milton
Clinton	Parkview
Dakota	Prairie Hill
Durand	Rockton
Edgerton	South Beloit
Evansville	

**Donation  
deadline is  
July 29!**

## Drop-off locations

### Rock Energy Cooperative offices

2815 Kennedy Drive	15229 Willowbrook Road
Janesville, WI	South Beloit, IL

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

### Lake Summerset Association

1202 Lake Summerset Road
Davis, IL

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday



## Get Connected

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



House of Carpets, 1410 Cranston Road, Beloit – 608-362-7113  
[www.houseofcarpetsofbeloit.com](http://www.houseofcarpetsofbeloit.com)

Beloit's Carpet Superstore servicing the entire state-line area for over 43 years, offering quality merchandise, honest and dependable craftsmanship, and always prompt and courteous service. Find a comprehensive selection of brands and products for builder/residential, educational, multifamily housing, and office/tenant needs. Opened in 1966 as Carpet Seconds on Park Avenue; in 1977 became House of Carpets. One of Wisconsin's largest carpet stores featuring over 400 rolls of carpet in stock as well as vinyl flooring, tile, and laminate.

10% Off All Remnants

Dave's Ace Hardware, 430 S. John Paul Rd., Milton, 608-868-2843, and 755 Brown School Road, Evansville, 608-882-4646 – [www.davesace.com](http://www.davesace.com)

Retail hardware and rental store. Your Mosquito Magnet distributor. Extensive list of rental equipment. Professional repair on screens, windows, and acrylics. Our commitment to you: Your Satisfaction Guaranteed, Period!  
\$5 Off Any Purchase of \$50 or More



For a complete listing of current deals, visit [www.rock.coop](http://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](mailto:BarbU@rock.coop) or call her at 866-752-4550.

## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 5. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. 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 866-752-4550.



## Always Call Before You Dig.



One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

### Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547  
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080  
608-752-4550 • 866-752-4550

### Barbara Uebelacker, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE**  
Empowering Members Since 1936