

What's Happening

September 1
Labor Day
- REC Offices Closed

September is
National
Preparedness Month

September is
National Campus
Safety Awareness
Month



Rock Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 1758
2815 Kennedy Rd.
Janesville, WI 53547-1758

P.O. Box 126
15229 Willowbrook Rd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

(866) 752-4550

Shane Larson
Chief Executive Officer

Jonas Berberich
Editor

2025 Youth Leadership Conference

The 2025 Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) was held in July at the University of Wisconsin-Stout with 78 youth from 17 electric cooperatives in attendance.

Several Rock Energy youth members participated in this year's YLC, including:

- **Austin Carey**
- **Evan Carey**
- **Liam Carey**
- **Grayson Hanna-Downey**
- **Kelsey Krohn**
- **Lily Kuo**
- **Kelby Schneider**
- **Isaac Busch**

Other Rock Energy members (former YLC leaders) participating were: Emma Steinke, Thomas Peters and Jayden Mosley. Rock Energy youth member Kelby Schneider was elected to the 2025-2026 YLC Board.

YLC is a three-day, activity-filled event aimed at building leadership skills and offering attendees a solid understanding of what electric cooperatives are, and the potential career opportunities they offer. Youth who attend YLC also have the opportunity to enter WECA's essay contest for scholarship funds and run for YLC board, which opens up other state and national leadership opportunities.

This year's event featured speaker Hunter Gillett, who was only 18 when he was critically injured in a plane crash in Chetek. The plane was piloted by his friend, 17-year-old Owen Knutson, who died in the crash that happened near the Red Cedar River. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the nose of the airplane hit the water at a 45-degree angle after it stalled. Gillett's presentation at YLC was a message of hope and healing.

Also new this year at YLC was a well-received presentation by WECA Director of Government Relations Joe Mesec on "The Power of Advocacy." The event also featured former favorites including Craig Hillier, motivational speaker and author, Ben Bella, safety and loss control manager, an etiquette dinner, and entertainment by a hypnotist.



Pictured above is the 2025-2026 YLC Board. Front Row (L to R): Kelby Schneider (Rock Energy Co-op), Sienna Steines (Barron Co-op), Aliya Cox (Oconto Co-op), and Jacob Schmidt (Clark Co-op). Back Row (L to R): Braxtyn Marx (Vernon Co-op), Laura Wegerer (Taylor Co-op), and Max Klussendorf (Taylor Co-op).



There were plenty of activities and laughs at YLC in July at UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI.



Pictured above is Thomas Peters, Rock Energy member and former YLC Leader.



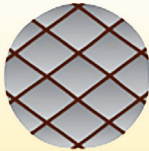
PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR FALL

Have you prepared your home properly for the rigors of fall and winter weather? If not, then check out this **Fall Maintenance Checklist** to get your home ready for the colder months ahead! These tips will help you save energy and reduce your utility bill.



HVAC

Your furnace needs to be in tip-top condition, so make sure it blows heat efficiently before it gets too cold.



Furnace Filter

Change your furnace filter frequently.



Walls, Ceilings, Etc.

Check your home's walls, ceilings, and floors for cracks, holes, and other damage.



Roof

Check your roof before the snow flies for missing or loose shingles or other damage.



Curtains

Open curtains and blinds to let the sun in to heat your home. Shut them at night to retain heat.



Windows & Doors

Check for air leaks around windows and doors. Address any issues with caulking or weather stripping.

Source: Residential Energy Services Network

SAVE ENERGY & CUT COSTS WITH SMART DEVICES

When it comes to SMART home devices, there are a number of different stand-alone items that can help you trim your energy use and cut costs, starting with these:

SMART THERMOSTATS:

Using a smart thermostat can result in cost savings on utility bills by efficiently managing temperature settings. (Actual savings depend on heating and cooling habits.)



SMART PLUGS: These allow you to plug in an appliance and track its energy use. You may decide cooling a case of pop in that old garage refrigerator isn't worth it after all. They allow you to control an appliance or gadget remotely.

SMART LIGHTING: Smart lighting allows you to take advantage of higher tech motion sensors and dimmers, which means using less energy to light (or should we say not light) your home.



SMART BULBS: These help you to save money because they are internet-capable LED bulbs that allow lighting to be controlled remotely. If your teen or spouse is always leaving the lights on in an empty house, you can turn them off from your phone.

**ROCK
ENERGY
OFFICES
CLOSED
SEPT. 1**

REC OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Rock Energy offices will be closed and personnel will be out on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Our offices will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Members can still make payments in the drop boxes at both offices and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.