

Lyon REC News



DECEMBER 2020

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop

Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

10 IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATING

Prevent house fires and emergency room trips this holiday season by following a few common-sense rules for safe decorating.

- 1 Keep your live tree from drying out-and becoming a fire hazard-by chopping about two inches off of the trunk as soon as you bring it home. Dunk it in water; water it every day; and get it out of your house once it starts drying out.
- 2 Use artificial trees only if they are labeled "fire resistant."
- 3 Keep all trees at least three feet away from heat sources, like space heaters, fireplaces and radiators.
- 4 Place small, breakable and sharp ornaments on high tree branches so children can't reach them.
- 5 Check the labels on packages of holiday lights to learn if the strand is for indoor or outdoor use. Don't use indoor lights outside.
- 6 Don't use last year's lights if they have cracked sockets, frayed wires or loose connections.
- 7 Avoid plugging more than three light strands into a single socket.
- 8 Hang lights with plastic fasteners, never with nails, tacks or wires.
- 9 Turn off indoor and outdoor lights and decorations when the family turns in for the night or leaves the house.
- 10 Be aware that some holiday plant, like poinsettias and mistletoe are poisonous. Keep them out of reach of children and pets.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

We have printed an excerpt of the bylaws that pertain to the nomination and election of members to the Board of Directors in this newsletter. The Board of Directors will be appointing the Nominating Committees for District 6 and a District at Large. District 6 includes Liberal and Grant Townships and is currently represented by David De Boer. The District at Large includes all Townships and is currently represented by Rodney Mogler.

At the end of each year, we also receive the new rates for our purchased power. We have been notified by L & O Power Cooperative that there will be an increase in the cost of purchased power effective with usage as of January 1, 2021 for general energy purchases due to inflation and the cost of rebuilt substations and transmission lines. There will be no cost increase in the electric and dual fuel heating rates effective with usage as of January 1, 2021. These costs have been offset by the reduced cost of purchased power in 2020 due to reduced demand charges. Therefore, there is no expected change in the estimated PCA for 2021. Preliminary PCA rates have been received and the estimated rates are as follows:

	2021
General Energy (per kWh)	\$0.03421
Electric & Dual Fuel Heat (per kWh)	\$0.01450
Casino (per kWh)	\$0.01309

Please remember that these are estimated amounts and that the final PCA will be calculated in January 2021 for usage as of January 1, 2021 once the December 2020 bills are calculated and mailed to you. Also, please remember that the PCA calculation looks back at the cost of purchased power for 2020 and compares it to the amount collected by the PCA for the same period and the PCA is adjusted for over or under collections.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Employees, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2021. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in 2020 and look forward to serving you again in 2021.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

will be closed for the day

at 11:30 AM on December 24th, 2020

and closed all day on December 25th, 2020.

We will also be closed for the day

at 11:30 AM on December 31st, 2020

and all day on January 1st, 2021.





CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS WITH HEALTH. SAFETY IN MIND

It's tough to think about all the parties, family gatherings, church services and shopping mall trips you might have to skip this holiday season as you and your family keep yourselves safe and socially distant.

But health experts say you don't have to spend the happiest time of the year alone.

Here are some ideas for celebrating safely this holiday season:

- ➔ If your family is hosting Christmas dinner this year, consider cooking and eating outdoors if the weather is mild.
- ➔ For indoor gatherings, limit the guest list to family and friends you trust are taking every precaution to prevent themselves from being exposed to coronavirus.
- ➔ Exclude anyone you don't already know from your holiday party or dinner.
- ➔ Keep it small.
- ➔ Insist that everyone wear a mask except while eating.
- ➔ Spread out the seating so people who do not live together sit six feet apart.
- ➔ Place hand sanitizer on the dining room table, in each bathroom, near the front door and in the kitchen.
- ➔ Increase ventilation by cracking windows and doors. It's not the most energy-efficient solution, but it's temporary while the party is going on.
- ➔ Skip the sing-along this year. Singing has been proven to spread the virus quickly.
- ➔ Disinfect surfaces in the house that are likely to be touched by many people—like in kitchens and bathrooms. Leave some sanitizing wipes in bathrooms and ask each guest to wipe down surfaces after each use.
- ➔ Encourage hand-washing during the event.
- ➔ Ask each guest to take extra precautions for two weeks before the event.
- ➔ Keep guests out of the kitchen to limit who handles food and touches surfaces where you're preparing dinner.
- ➔ Serve each guest yourself, wearing a mask. Don't set up a buffet or self-service food or drink stations.

GIVE GIFTS THAT KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

How awful would you feel if the thoughtfully selected holiday gift you gave a child or other loved one wound up injuring the recipient?

Beware of potential safety hazards when you're choosing toys and other presents this year. Some tips:

- ✓ Just because a toy's label says it's safe doesn't mean a child will use it safely. Choose toys that are age-appropriate.
- ✓ Toys with small parts are a choking hazard for children younger than 3.
- ✓ If a toy has to be plugged into the wall, it's not a good choice for a child younger than 10.
- ✓ The smaller a toy's battery, the greater the risk that it will wind up in a child's mouth. Batteries can choke or even poison a child who swallows them.
- ✓ If you give a bike, scooter, skates or other toys that make a child mobile, spring for safety gear like helmets, too.
- ✓ Learn if the toy you've selected has been recalled for safety reasons by checking the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website.

HOW TO WASH YOUR FACE MASK



Unless you're wearing disposal, single-use face masks to comply with federal guidelines and local laws, you should be washing yours regularly.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you wash your cloth mask every time you wear it. Others say it's OK to wear masks a few times between cleanings.

Here are some guidelines for mask-washing:

- »»» Throw your cloth mask into the washing machine with the rest of the week's laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and warm water.
- »»» If you only have one mask and want to wash it every day, hand-washing is probably more practical. In that case, add some bleach to the water so you can disinfect the mask.
- »»» If your mask has a filter, hand-wash it every day or so.
- »»» If the mask is made from colorful material, of course, bleach could fade the colors.
- »»» Soak the mask for five minutes in a bowl of room-temperature water with a few tablespoons of bleach. Rinse it thoroughly with cool water and immediately pour the water/bleach solution down the drain.
- »»» Dry the mask in your clothes dryer on high heat or air-dry it by laying it flat-in direct sunlight if you can.
- »»» Don't wear the mask until it's completely dry.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR HEATER INSPECTION

So you're home most of the time-working, teaching your kids and taking care of a house that's always full. And you were too reluctant to let a service tech into your home this fall to check your heating system.

It's not too late.

Resist the temptation to put off your annual HVAC maintenance check. The weather is about to turn its coldest. Make sure your home will stay toasty warm for the holidays and beyond.

Call a reliable heating and cooling company for an appointment.

Here's why keeping your home's heating equipment maintained is important:

- ☑ If your system is fairly new and still under warranty, you could void that warranty if you skip regular, professional inspections.
- ☑ Small problems with the heating system are cheaper and easier to fix than big ones. The pro who inspects your system every year can spot trouble spots before they become major repair jobs.
- ☑ Regular maintenance means fewer repairs. And means fewer repair bills.
- ☑ A well-maintained system will last longer. Manufacturers estimate that a heating system that is never maintained will last only half of its expected life.
- ☑ A tuned-up heater runs more efficiently, and that can keep your energy bills lower.

OCTOBER OPERATING STATISTICS

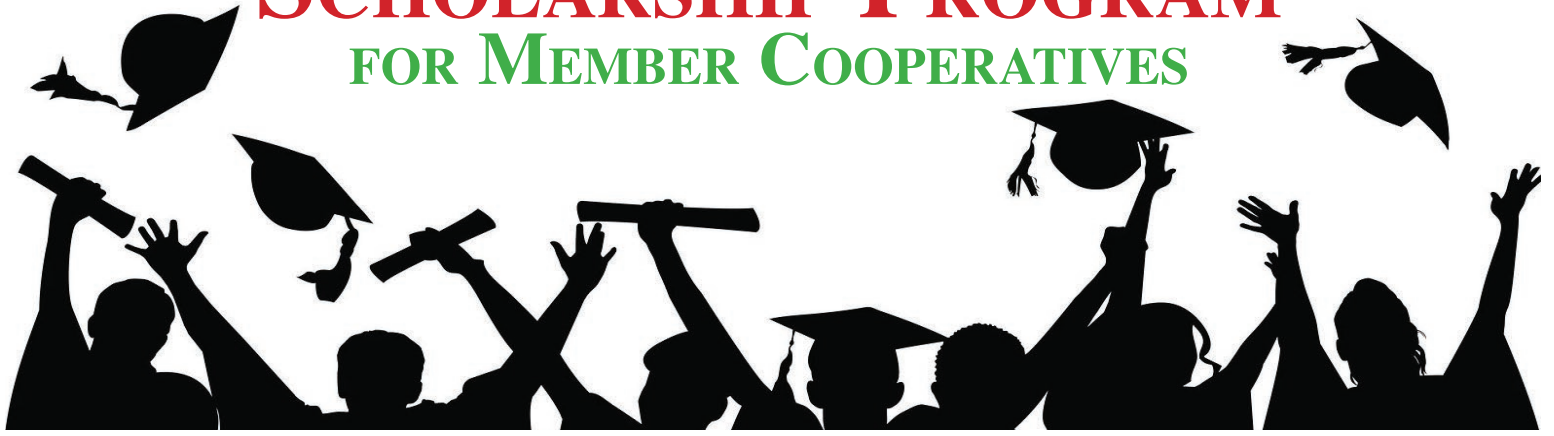
	2019	2020
KWH Purchased	9,298,465	10,390,147
KWH Sold	8,933,706	10,096,434
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.49%	2.76%
Total Demand	17,781 KW	19,842 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,228 KWH	2,507 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$223.03	\$244.74
Income Per Mile	\$950.84	\$1,051.05
Expenses Per Mile	\$983.46	\$1,062.67
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) ..	6.26¢	6.17¢

Non-Discrimination Statement

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR MEMBER COOPERATIVES



A program for dependent children of:

- Member-cooperative employees
- Member-cooperative consumers

How much is the scholarship?

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) Scholarship Program will award more than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Five of the 20 scholarships for children of BEPC or subsidiary employees will be designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified Vocational or Technical school, and five of the 20 will be designated for qualified applicants who plan to achieve an engineering degree.

Twenty will go to children of member cooperatives' employees, and 141 to children of member-cooperative consumers. There will be one \$1,000 scholarship for each member cooperative to award to a dependent of a consumer member.

The scholarships must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable to the school, and will be distributed to the school by BEPC. Scholarships will be distributed in August.

Who is eligible to receive the scholarship?

Dependent children (including adopted or step-children) of member-system consumers and dependent children of member-cooperative employees are eligible. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen.

The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

BEPC scholarships will be awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained.

How are the recipients selected?

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Applicants for the member-cooperative employee dependent category will first be screened by their cooperative. A BEPC selection committee will make the final selection in the member-cooperative employee dependent category.

Member cooperatives will be responsible to select one recipient to be awarded a scholarship in the member cooperative consumer category. The final recipient's completed application will then be forwarded to BEPC by the member cooperative.

The scholarship award winners or the member coops are asked to notify the BEPC human resources division with the name and address of the school the student will be attending by July 1. It is also important to know if the student has switched schools, or has decided not to attend.

What are the recipient's obligations?

Except for the requirements outlined in this brochure, no obligations will be imposed upon the student as a scholarship award winner. Other than payment of the scholarship, no obligations or liability are assumed by BEPC, its subsidiaries or member cooperatives.

How can I apply?

To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained from your local electric cooperative office.

Children of member-system employees and consumers must submit the application and all necessary information to apply for a scholarship to their local electric cooperative office. The applications must reach your cooperative by **February 14, 2021**.

Lyon REC Scholarship

Each year the Lyon REC, Rock Rapids, Iowa awards one \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student of a member of the Lyon REC. The scholarship can be used to assist in paying for the costs of the student's college, vocational-technical, or community college education. Priority will be given to applicants planning to attend vocational-technical, 2-year community or junior college education. Scholarship applications are available at the Lyon REC office or online at www.lyonrec.coop with a deadline date of **February 14, 2021**.