

# Lyon REC News



OCTOBER 2021

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : [www.lyonrec.coop](http://www.lyonrec.coop)  
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLES

By Anne Prince

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

### Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity--to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain--the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

### Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and upgraded technology.

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## WHERE ARE THEY?

Lyon REC, PO Box 629, Rock Rapids, IA 51246 is holding unclaimed property resulting from uncashed patronage dividend checks due to the person listed below. Please contact our office at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 if you have any information on these people.

These members or their authorized representatives have until October 29, 2021 to contact us so that the checks can be reissued. After that time, Lyon REC is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa Law and Board Policy.

William Amundson  
Rich & Reba Crawford  
Kevin DeGroot  
Paul and Robin Johnson  
Samuel J & Rachel T Koedam  
Greg Lakner  
Clarence L & Carol J Marra  
Verlyn Martens  
Janet Oleson  
Arlene Serck  
Wallace Van Roekel



Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.

October is  
National Co-op Month!

## IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLES

### Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars--it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

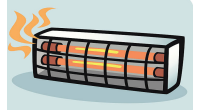
## CONSERVE ENERGY AS WEATHER COOLS

It's tempting to turn the heat on as soon as the weather starts to cool down in the fall. But holding off for a few weeks until you really need to rely on heat can keep your energy bills low.

If you must turn the heat on during the early fall:

- ❶ Set it no higher than 68 degrees. This will make your indoor air comfortable without wasting energy.
- ❷ Move furniture and drapes away from warm air registers and baseboard heaters so they don't block the heat from circulating. The freer the air flow, the lower you can set your thermostat.
- ❸ Close the flue damper of your wood-burning fireplace. In fact, consider fitting an electric fireplace into it so you can enjoy a light show without sending heated air up the chimney.
- ❹ Have an HVAC pro inspect your heating system before it gets too cold outside. Regular maintenance can prevent an expensive, inconvenient problem later in the winter when it would be uncomfortable to go even a day without a working heating system.
- ❺ Caulk indoor openings on external walls, like around the areas where the cable and phone lines come into the house and around penetrations for water pipes and sewer lines. Sealing those openings can keep your heated air in and the cool air out.

## TAKE EXTRA CARE WITH SPACE HEATERS



They're convenient and come with all kinds of built-in safety features, but space heaters still contribute to more than 40% of house fires and 85% of house fire-related deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

If you rely on space heaters to keep your rooms warm during the fall before it's cool enough outdoors to crank up the central heat, follow a few common-sense precautions:

- ➔ Place space heaters on flat surfaces--preferably the floor.
- ➔ Keep the heater at least three feet away from flammable fabrics, including furniture and draperies.
- ➔ Likewise, place the heater at least three feet away from the wall where it's plugged. If it's too close, it could overheat the wall and start a fire.
- ➔ Choose a model that lets you tilt the heating element upward.
- ➔ Never, ever disable a tip-over switch. Most heaters come with them built in.
- ➔ Don't use a space heater in the bathroom, laundry room or another space where water could touch the appliance.
- ➔ Turn off the heater when you leave the room. If it does tip over, you need to know it immediately so you can pick it before it starts a fire.
- ➔ Keep a close eye on a space heater when kids and pets are in the room with it.
- ➔ Plug space heaters into wall outlets, not extension cords, power strips or surge protectors. Using those kinds of cords increases the risk of an overloaded circuit, which can start a fire.

## RECHARGEABLE LEAF BLOWERS BETTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

Fall is leaf-blowing season and a good time to replace your heavy, gas-fueled blower with a rechargeable cordless model that is lighter-weight and better for the environment.

Powered by lithium batteries, new cordless leaf blowers are powerful and start with a squeeze of a trigger; there's no cord to pull.

And these cordless blowers do not need fuel; the batteries can be recharged again and again simply by plugging them into an electrical outlet in your garage.

Rechargeable blowers are quieter than traditional gas models and weigh about half as much. They're also less expensive.

Tool reviewers generally say gas motors are slightly more powerful than battery blowers, but the cordless rechargeable models are catching up. And they say that unless you're blowing thick layers of damp leaves, the rechargeable tool's power is sufficient.

If you plan to buy a new leaf blower:

- Consider the rules of your community. Some neighborhoods have banned gas leaf blowers because they make too much noise.
- Gauge how much weight you can comfortably handle while using a leaf blower. Gas models have heavy, built-in motors so they're heavier and harder to handle than the cordless models.
- Do you want a blower that also vacuums up the leaves once you've blown them into a pile? Blow-and-vac models are available in both gas and battery styles.

# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DIRECTORS ARE CONSUMERS LIKE YOU

You get your electricity from a cooperative, which means that the consumers are members and have a say when it comes to running the utility.

A board of directors, comprised of members of the community who are cooperative members like you, meets regularly to discuss electricity rates, programs, policies and even personnel.

Because the directors are consumer/members, they know first-hand what members of the community want and expect from their electric utility.

Directors typically are elected by all of the utility's consumer-members and can run for re-election when their terms expire.

Consider running for a seat on your electric cooperative's board of directors. The point of the cooperative business is to give the members a say.



# SHOO AWAY VAMPIRES THIS HALLOWEEN



Little ghosts, goblins and princesses are a welcome sight on Halloween night. But beware of the vampire lurking inside your home.

You could be paying for vampire energy-electricity that leaks from your appliances, computers and entertainment systems-if you leave them plugged in even when they're turned off.

Any cord that is plugged into an electrical outline draws electricity. So if you leave your mobile phone charger plugged in after you've removed the phone or you leave your computer and scanner plugged in after you shut down for the evening, you could be wasting-and paying for-unused energy.

Most people leave electronics plugged in all the time because it's convenient to be able to turn them on without having to plug them in again and again, day after day. The worst offenders are "remote-ready" appliances, like computers, cable boxes, stereos, TVs, microwave ovens, garage door openers and video game consoles.

As long as they're plugged in, they remain in a "ready" state so they don't have to wake up or warm up when you turn them on.

That can cost you between \$165 and \$440 per year in wasted electricity, depending on how many devices you have.

A tip: Invest in a high-quality power strip-one that will sacrifice itself during a power surge rather than letting the surge ruin the appliance. Plug multiple items into the power strip and unplug the strip before bedtime. That's easier than unplugging and replugging lots of appliances.

A caution: Don't overload your home's electrical circuits by plugging too many appliances into a single power strip. Especially if you live in an older home, consult an electrician about how much of an electrical load your single outlets can handle.

## AUGUST OPERATING STATISTICS

	2020	2021
KWH Purchased .....	10,801,068	10,558,242
KWH Sold .....	10,668,240	10,434,587
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date) .....	2.65%	2.29%
Total Demand .....	18,704 KW	18,395 KW
Average Farm Consumption .....	2,593 KWH	2,530 KWH
Average Farm Bill .....	\$246.71	\$253.65
Income Per Mile .....	\$1,086.55	\$1,093.48
Expenses Per Mile .....	\$1,049.60	\$1,080.22
Miles Energized .....	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) ..	6.07¢	6.23¢

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Mid-Sioux Opportunity to help with HEAT bills!

Your local Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. office will be taking applications for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) **starting November 1, 2021 until April 30, 2022.**

**Please call your local outreach office or 800-859-2025 for an appointment time to apply.**

## ELIGIBILITY

A household may qualify for assistance in this program if the total household income falls within the income range listed below:

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
1	\$ 25,760
2	\$ 34,840
3	\$ 43,920
4	\$ 53,000
5	\$ 62,080

For family units with more than five members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

## APPLICATION

- **Social Security Card or I-94 Card** - We require a copy of the original card for each household member.
- **Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill** - This may be two separate bills.
- **Proof of Income.** This includes total household gross income from all sources. We must have complete proof of income to process your application.
  - **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
  - **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for 30 days preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return 2020 or 2021.
  - **Self-Employed / Farmers:** A copy of your 2020 or 2021 Federal Income Tax Return.
  - **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

**Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LiHEAP:**

<b>Ida County</b> 712-364-2175 or 712-225-3322 Thursday 9:00 – 4:00	<b>Cherokee County</b> 712-225-3322 Mon-Wed-Fri 8:00 – 4:30	<b>Plymouth County</b> 712-546-6603 or 712-225-3322 Tues & Thursday 9:00 – 4:00	<b>Sioux County</b> 712-722-3611 Mon-Tue-Th-Fri 8:00 – 4:30	<b>Lyon County</b> 712-472-3746 or 712-722-3611 Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00
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Visit us on the web at [www.midsioux.org](http://www.midsioux.org)  
Central Office 1-800-859-2025 / Hearing Impaired call 711

## INSPECT OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

It's leaf-blowing season. Is your blower in good shape?

Don't use it until you find out. Same goes for your lawn mower, bush trimmers and winter equipment like the snowblower.

As you dust off equipment that's been in storage all summer, check for:

✓ **Worn parts and power cords.** If you find them, don't try to get one final season out of the tool. Have the parts repaired or replaced.

✓ **Caked-on dirt or sap on blades.** A blast of water from your garden hose should loosen and remove it. A stiff-bristled brush can take care of the rest.

✓ **Rust.** That might take a bit more elbow grease and some steel wool to remove.

✓ **Splintered wood on handles and shafts.** A light sanding can remove splinters and an application of boiled linseed oil can prevent the handles from drying out again.

Once you finish your fall chores, clean the tools so they'll be in good shape next year. And store them in a dry, clean place. The electrical parts of tools that get wet while in storage can corrode.

# Hello Fall!



## Non-Discrimination Statement

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

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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).