

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



REMINDERS

Make paying your bill easy with ACH. Your payment is automatically deducted from your bank account each month- no checks, stamps or remembering due dates. Contact us to sign up today!

If you are moving, please notify the cooperative when you move and inform the new members to get signed up for service.

If you are planning on working on an outdoor project this fall, don't forget to call 8-1-1 before digging.

Basin Power Plant Tour

Last month, a group of members from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, Osceola Electric Cooperative and Federated Rural Electric Cooperative went on the Basin power plant tour to Bismark, ND. The group toured the Coteau Freedom lignite coal mine, Antelope Valley Station power plant, Lewis and Clark visitor center and fort, a riverboat ride with supper on the Missouri River, and a quick stop at the Terry Redlin Art Center. This trip is a great opportunity for the Cooperatives' members to learn more about how their energy is generated. The group from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative included: Vern and Sue VanTilburg, Dave and Shirley Burkard, Zachary Burkard, Curt and Brenda Gisolf, Larry and Tristan Blik, Mark and Deb VanHul, Dennis and Joan Hoogendoorn and Jason and Amy Korthals



LOWER WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE

Most major home appliances are set to run as safely as possible, but water heaters are a major exception. When they are shipped from the factory, they are sometimes preset to 140 degrees.

This high setting also can waste energy. Keeping 50 gallons of water at 140 degrees all day and night requires a massive amount of "standby" energy. It is also hot enough to cause serious burns in just five seconds.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends turning your water heater down to 120 degrees.

The math is simple. For every 10 degrees you lower the temperature, you save roughly 3% to 5% on your water heating costs. So lowering the thermostat from 140 degrees to 120 degrees can easily save you energy and money.

To change it, locate the dial on your water heater. On electric models, you may need to unscrew a small access panel to find the thermostat dial. On gas models, it is usually right on the front valve.

A temperature of 120 degrees is still plenty hot for comfortable showers and running your dishwasher. It also slows down mineral buildup inside your tank, helping your water heater last longer.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy

KNOW THE DEW POINT BEFORE LEAVING WINDOWS OPEN AT NIGHT

When September nights turn from crispy to comfortably crisp, your first instinct might be to fling the windows open and let that cool breeze in. It feels like free air conditioning.

But doing this without checking the humidity can actually backfire. If the outdoor air is damp, you are inviting hidden moisture directly into your home. Overnight, your walls, wood floors and furniture will absorb that humidity like dry sponges.

The next day, as the sun warms the house, your air conditioner has to work twice as hard. An a/c unit does not just cool the air; it has to wring out all that water vapor first. Running a compressor to dehumidify your home is incredibly energy intensive.

To avoid this, use the dew point rule. Check your local weather app before opening the windows. If the dew point is 55 degrees or lower, the air is dry and comfortable. In that case, go ahead and open up after dark. If it is higher than 55, keep the windows shut.

When the dew point is low, you can practice "night flushing." Open the windows at night to pull in the dry, cool air. Then, shut everything tight early in the morning before the sun hits the walls. You will trap the cool air inside and keep the humidity out.

LOCAL STUDENTS COULD WIN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATTENDING WEBINAR SERIES ON LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We’ve also been sending deserving high school students to our nation’s capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa’s electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, leadership and electric cooperatives with a two-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at IowaYouthTour.com.

“This program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, advocacy or leadership,” remarked Dustin Timmerman, General Manager. “We want to raise students’ awareness of how local electric co-ops power people’s lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting career paths that are available in smaller communities and help them advocate for issues they care about.”

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- **Sunday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.** - Why Cooperatives Matter and How to Effectively Advocate
- **Sunday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.** - Being a Leader

At the end of each live session, one attendee will be selected at random to win a \$500 scholarship; students who attend both sessions will be entered into a bonus drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online at IowaYouthTour.com receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a dynamic speaker. Attendees will also hear about Iowa Youth Tour. Students with an interest in government and public service are encouraged to apply for this weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2027 Youth Tour is slated for June 16-22 next summer.

Learn more at www.IowaYouthTour.com for more information.

STUDENTS:
Are you
interested
in service,
advocacy or
leadership?



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win a college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



Operating Statistics		
JULY		
	2025	2026
KWH Purchased	12,707,678	13,510,760
KWH Sold	12,724,525	13,363,835
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.76%	2.74%
Total Demand	21,757 KW	22,687 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,598 KWH	3,729 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$420.70	\$495.16
Income Per Mile	\$1,358.78	\$1,790.80
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,338.13	\$1,615.81
Miles Energized	983	872
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	7.37¢	7.76¢

GOT A DOLLAR? CHECK YOUR REFRIGERATOR'S GASKET

Your refrigerator is the ultimate kitchen workhorse—one of the only appliances in your home that has to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Because it never takes a break, even a tiny inefficiency can quietly add up on your monthly utility bill.

If you want to find out if your fridge is leaking expensive cold air into your kitchen, the easiest diagnostic tool is probably sitting right in your wallet. It's called the dollar bill test, and it takes less than ten seconds to do.

Step 1: Open your refrigerator door, place a crisp dollar bill or a slip of paper halfway across the rubber door gasket, and close the door tightly on it.

Step 2: Gently try to pull the dollar bill out.

If you feel a strong drag and the bill resists your pull, your magnetic seal is in great shape.

If the bill slips out easily with little to no resistance, your gasket is failing, and your fridge is working overtime to keep your food cold.

Repeat the test at several different points along the top, bottom and sides of both the fridge and freezer doors.

Before you call an appliance repair tech, try two easy fixes:

- Clean any accumulated dirt and grime off the seal with warm, soapy water. Then rub a very thin line of Vaseline along the hinge side of the gasket. This restores flexibility to the rubber and quickly improves the suction.
- If you notice a specific section of the seal is warped or bent out of shape, grab your hairdryer. On a low-heat setting, gently warm the warped area of the rubber. This softens the material, allowing you to easily mold it back into its correct, flat position with your fingers so it can grab the metal frame again.

No luck? You might need a new gasket.

CASTLES HAD IT RIGHT

Medieval castles are famous for being damp and freezing. But the people living in them understood a fundamental rule of human biology that we often ignore today.

Castles were decorated with massive, heavy tapestries. While they looked beautiful, their primary job was insulation. Without them, the cold stone walls would practically suck the heat right out of the room—and out of the people in it.

This is governed by a concept called “mean radiant temperature.” Your body continuously radiates heat to any cold surface in its direct line of sight. If your walls are cold, you will feel chilly, even if your thermostat says the air is a cozy 72 degrees or higher.

You can use this medieval trick to prepare your home for autumn. Your home is your castle, after all.

Hang heavy fabric art or thick curtains over exterior-facing walls. Lay down thick rugs over cold hardwood or tile floors.

These fabrics act as barriers. They stop cold surfaces from absorbing your body heat, making the room feel instantly warmer.

By managing your home's radiant temperature, you can keep your thermostat set a few degrees lower this autumn without feeling any drafts.

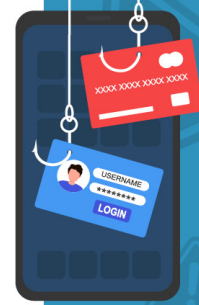
TIPS TO AVOID

ENERGY SCAMS



Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA



Nondiscrimination Statement

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

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: program.intake@usda.gov