

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

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

Scholarship applications are due February 14, 2024.

Extending Board Term Limits Can Strengthen Co-op Leadership

To most effectively serve its members, an electric cooperative must have a knowledgeable board of directors who will make informed decisions that best serve the needs of the membership.

With this goal in mind, the current directors of Lyon REC ask their fellow members to vote in favor of extending board director term limits at our 2024 Annual Meeting on March 25. We believe that extending term limits from 3 four-year terms to 4 four-year terms will benefit the co-op in several ways that will ensure success.

Prudent investment of educational resources

First, extending term limits for directors would be a more prudent use of educational resources, as there is an upfront financial investment to educate a new director. The electric cooperative industry is changing at an unprecedented pace today. In fact, there is so much to learn about electric cooperatives and the electric industry that most directors would say that it takes at least 2-3 years to become confident in the role. Extending term limits for an additional four years would

allow incumbent directors to keep building on the education and training members have invested in them, which translates into a more educated and informed board at Lyon REC.

Ensure continuity in the board room

If you serve on a community board, church council or school committee, you know that it is difficult to find people who are able and willing to serve. The same is true at Lyon REC as we search for members who are willing to serve as directors every year. In fact, our nominating committee will meet January 11th, dozens of phone calls will be made in order to find just one co-op member who will consider the opportunity. While we are proud to say that every Lyon REC director election in the past has been a contested election, it has become harder to find candidates. Extending director term limits is one way to ensure continuity of knowledge in the board room as we build the next generation of leadership.

Increase local representation on affiliated boards

As an electric cooperative that institutes term limits, we do notice a major disadvantage compared to electric cooperatives that do not have term limits. With a 12-year cap on director service at Lyon REC, it can be difficult for our directors to gain enough tenure to serve on affiliated boards, such as our power supplier cooperative (Basin Electric Power Cooperative), our financial services provider (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation), or our statewide trade association (Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives). Directors need time to establish relationships with their peers before being nominated to serve on these affiliate boards. Voting to extend term limits for Lyon REC directors would help increase the chances of our members having local representation on industry-related boards. Having a local board member on these affiliated boards ensures that the voices of our members are heard.

In next month's newsletter, we will provide some answers to frequently asked questions about serving as a co-op director and term limit statistics in Iowa.



Turn the Thermostat Down

Saving energy during the winter doesn't have to mean feeling cold in your own home. Here are five free ways to lower your energy bill while staying comfortable indoors.

1. Lower the temperature in your home by just a single degree. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates you can save 3% on your heating bill for every degree you set your thermostat back during the winter—as long as you leave it there.
2. Turn off exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom as soon as the steam or cooking smells are gone. It takes only one hour for those fans to blow all of the warm air out of your house, so use them only as needed.
3. Close the fireplace damper when you're not burning a fire. An open damper is a hole in your house that sucks heated air out and draws cold winter air in.
4. Move furniture and rugs away from heating vents so air can circulate freely around the room. That will make your heating system's work a lot easier.
5. Open the curtains on south-facing windows on sunny days so the sun's warm rays can radiate into your home. Close the curtains at night to help trap that heat indoors.

How Qualified Is Your Electrician?

It's tempting to ask your handy brother-in-law or next-door neighbor to make a few quick fixes around your house. But when it comes to repairing anything electrical, call a professional.

Electricity can be dangerous in a home that's improperly wired, has overloaded circuits or has exposed or defective wiring, receptacles or switches.

Even if the job seems simple, it's better to call an experienced, licensed electrician to do it. Most electricians have many hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of a more experienced electrician and have passed an exam.

Don't leave your electrical work up to a handyman, your brother-in-law or even yourself. The money you spend to hire a pro will more than pay off in peace of mind and a safe home.



Invest in Energy Savings

An investment that can lead to a big return for your family is the same one that will cut your home's energy use.

If you want to invest in energy efficiency this year, consider:

Replacing older windows, especially if they are single-pane models. Old windows are barely better for your home's comfort—or your energy bills—than windows that stay open all the time. Invest in double-pane windows with low-emissivity (low-e) coatings on the glass, which will keep the cold outdoors and you comfortable, heated air inside where it belongs. The

U.S. Department of Energy estimates that they typically lose up to 50% less energy than older versions.

Installing a programmable thermostat. If you're still trying to remember to turn the heat down every night at bedtime, up again when you wake up, and down again before you leave the house for work in the morning, you're probably overheating your house. A programmable thermostat will do all the adjusting for you—according to your preferences.

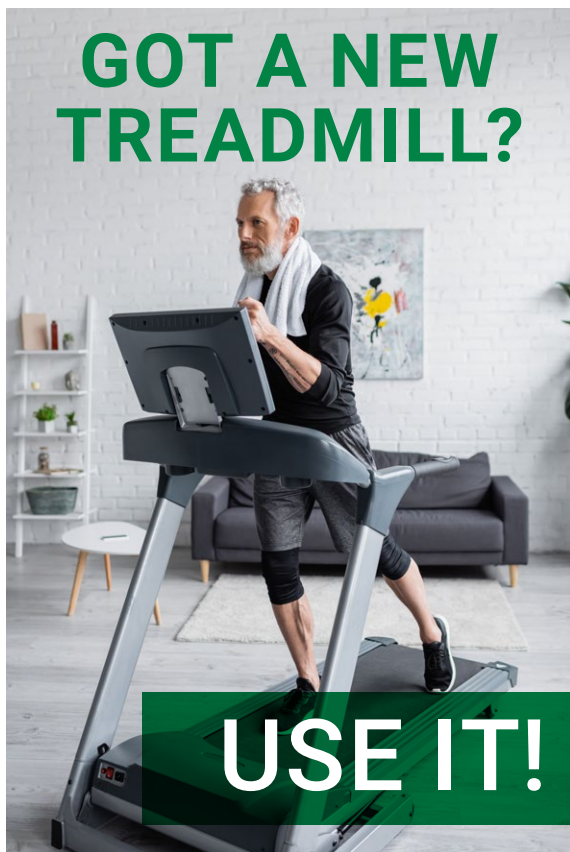
ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

GOT A NEW TREADMILL?



USE IT!

Too many treadmills purchased in the name of New Year's resolutions wind up being little more than expensive clothes racks as they sit unused month after month. If you have decided to buy one for your home, resolve to use it on a regular basis.

Here are three questions to answer before sinking \$1,000 or more into a new treadmill:

1. How often will you realistically use it? It might be cheaper to temporarily join a gym and observe how often you hop on the treadmill there. Or you could rent a treadmill for a limited time to test how committed you actually are before buying one of your own.
2. Can you afford a good one? A treadmill that costs less than \$1,000 is unlikely to be durable enough to handle regular use or hard runs. Shop around for a good deal—and a sale—so you can buy a good model rather than one that might not hold up.
3. Where will you put it? Treadmills are huge and noisy, and they use a lot of electricity. Do you have a room that is insulated or far away from where the family watches TV, studies or works? Is the electrical capacity in that room sufficient for a treadmill? You might have to invite an electrician over to answer that question. And is your room ventilated? Treadmills equal sweat, which can make a room smell pretty bad if it's poorly ventilated.

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those in need of it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in weatherization of homes of low income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly contribution. Even one dollar a month contribution will help others.

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare.

My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative,
PO Box 629, Rock Rapids, IA 51246

Operating Statistics

NOVEMBER

	2022	2023
KWH Purchased	10,689,700	10,899,015
KWH Sold	10,266,174	10,518,321
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.87%	3.02%
Total Demand	18,878 KW	18,173 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,253 KWH	3,296 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$337.90	\$359.62
Income Per Mile	\$1,134.39	\$1,194.47
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,103.34	\$1,093.99
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.20¢	6.12¢

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 (Basin Electric) Scholarship Program will award more than 150 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Twenty-five scholarships are given to children of Basin Electric or subsidiary employees.

Twenty will go to children of member-cooperatives' employees, and the remainder 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 Basin Electric. Scholarships will be distributed in August.

Who is eligible to receive the scholarship?

Dependent children (including adopted or stepchildren) 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.

Basin Electric 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.

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 Basin Electric by the member cooperative.

The scholarship award winners or the member co-ops are asked to notify the Basin Electric 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 Basin Electric, 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 the given deadline. Check with your electric cooperative for the deadline date.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative Scholarship:

Each year Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, Rock Rapids, awards one scholarship to a student of a member of the Cooperative. 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 Rural Electric Cooperative office or online at www.lyonrec.coop. Scholarship applications must reach the Cooperative office by February 14, 2024.

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