

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, 2025.

Invest in Energy Savings for the New Year

If your New Year's resolution is to use energy more responsibly, you might want to invest in a few devices that will help you keep on track.

1. Smart power strips. Power strips aren't only useful for making room for multiple plugs when you have a limited number of outlets. A good one can detect when the electronic equipment you plug into it is in standby mode—and shut the power off.

That's different from standard power strips, which you have to switch off manually when they're not in use.

2. Programmable thermostat. If you don't already have one, what are you waiting for? You'll save gobs of energy by programming your heat or air conditioning to hold back during times of the day when nobody is home or at bedtime, and to crank back up just before your alarm goes off or you're scheduled to return from work.

3. Dimmer switches. You don't always need your lightbulbs to shine their brightest. If you're having a family dinner—or a romantic dinner for two—or if

you're watching TV, scrolling on your phone or napping, for example, why not dim the lights? A dimmer switch will allow you to lower the brightness of the lights, set a relaxing mood for the room and—a bonus—save energy.

When you dim your lights, less energy flows to them—up to 120 times less energy. Take note, however, that not all dimmers work with all kinds of light bulbs. Choose one that “matches” your LED, incandescent or CFL light bulbs for best results.

4. Ceiling fans. They're not just for summer. Install them in any room. During the winter, set the blades so they spin clockwise, and use the fans at the lowest speed.

The fan will move warm air from the ceiling—warm air rises, after all—throughout the room, which will make it feel cozier.

Note, however, that a ceiling fan is only useful when someone is in the room to feel the effects. They don't warm a room; it makes the people in it feel more comfortable.

Experts estimate that you can

save up to 15% on heating costs in the winter by running ceiling fans because they allow you to set your thermostat at a lower temperature.

5. Insulate your water heater. This one is so easy, you won't need to call a handyman.

If your water heater is warm to the touch, it could mean it is losing heat to the air instead of directing it all to the water. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that wrapping your heater with an insulation blanket—a good one costs less than \$50—could reduce that standby heat loss by up to 45%.

A caution, however: Some local codes and utility companies do not allow insulation blankets, especially if they cover the water heater's operating instructions or safety precautions, or if they block air passages, safety valves or controls. Check with your electric cooperative before installing one.



What to do with old appliances?

If you're replacing appliances like your refrigerator or dishwasher even though they're still in pretty good condition, don't send them to the landfill. You have multiple environmentally friendly options.

First, your regular refuse collector is unlikely to accept appliances as part of your regular household garbage collection.

Recycling might seem like a good idea, but even if an appliance fits in the same bin as the one you dump paper, plastic and glass in, don't put it in there.

Instead, check with your city or town to ask when the next special pickup for unwanted appliances—large or countertop-sized—is. Sometimes special pick-ups are free and sometimes the city will charge a fee.

Or, you might be able to find a service that will pay you \$50 or so for a working appliance—and come and pick it up.

Another option is to donate your working refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave oven or countertop appliances to a charity. Or gift any dorm room-sized devices to a neighborhood college student or club.

If you're buying new large appliances, the store that sold them to you might haul away your old ones for free. It's worth asking.

Finally, consider listing your old stuff—as long as it works—for sale on Facebook Marketplace, eBay or Craig's List if you're able to get it outdoors so the buyer doesn't have to come into your home.

Store Holiday Decorations Safely

The presents are unwrapped and company has gone home. What did you do with your holiday decorations?

If you shoved them into a damp garage, you might want to find another place for them. The best storage places for heirloom ornaments and electric lights are dry.

A few other storage tips:

- ▶ Inspect your decorations before packing them away for another year. Toss any that are damaged, especially those that have electric cords.
- ▶ Store your boxes out of reach of children and pets, and away from

heat sources.

- ▶ Create a system for logically organizing your decorations so you won't have to search for them next year. For example, group fireplace decorations in one box; tree ornaments in another; wreaths in a third.
- ▶ Store cloth decorations in sealable bags so moths and other bugs don't get to them over the summer.
- ▶ If your storage space is brightly lit, consider protecting your decorations by putting them in fabric bags. Items can lose their color if they're exposed to too much light while in storage.



Fireplaces: A Room-Heating Challenge

If you turn down the thermostat and gather around a crackling wood fire to keep warm on chilly winter evenings, you could send your heating bill soaring.

Because you have to open the damper to let smoke escape through the chimney, you're sending heated air from your home up the chute with it

If you must use a wood-burning fireplace, try these tips to reduce your home's exposure to air leaks.

1. Have your fireplace inspected and your chimney cleaned, both for safety and energy efficiency.

If you haven't used your fireplace since last winter, a professional cleaning by a certified chimney sweep will remove any debris and soot that may have built up.

2. Add an airtight fireplace insert, like a glass door or fireplace cover. They fit tightly around the opening and prevent heat loss when you're not burning wood in the fireplace.
3. Use dry firewood. Wet wood doesn't burn as hot, so you have to add more wood over a shorter time. Wet wood also creates more creosote, which can stick to the glass door and the flue—and cause a fire in the flue.
4. Install a ceiling fan and set the blades to spin in reverse. The fan can help distribute the heat generated by the fireplace around the room.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: energy.gov

'Tis the Season to Help Your Neighbors

Your electric utility is a cooperative; that is, it operates using a business model that makes the consumers the owners of the organization.

Cooperatives follow a set of principles that include, among other guidelines, "cooperation among cooperatives" and "concern for the community."

As a member of your consumer-owned cooperative, you can incorporate those values into your own life.

For example, you could translate "cooperation among cooperatives" into "cooperation among neighbors." Are any of the people who live near you elderly, disabled, on their own or struggling? How about offering to shovel snow from their sidewalks, drop off a meal every now and then, offer to drive them or run their errands, or invite them over for game night?

Charity starts at home, after all.

Cooperative members can show their own "concern for community" by volunteering with local organizations that deliver meals to senior citizens. Or you could donate food to your local food bank.

Your cooperative serves the community by following a set of people-first values. You can serve your community by taking those values to heart.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



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, 2025.

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

	2023	2024
KWH Purchased	10,899,015	10,282,405
KWH Sold	10,518,321	9,922,679
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.02%	2.81%
Total Demand	18,173 KW	19,113 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,296 KWH	2,918 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$359.62	\$334.30
Income Per Mile	\$1,194.47	\$1,153.87
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,093.99	\$1,164.85
Miles Energized	872.86	885.19
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.12¢	6.55¢

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