

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

Lyon Rural Electric will be closed on May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day.

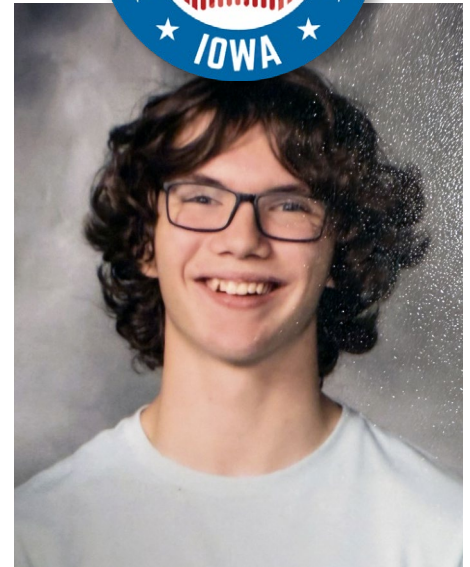


A Belated Administrative Professionals Day



from left to right: Deb Heitritter, Beth Kruger and Amy Korthals

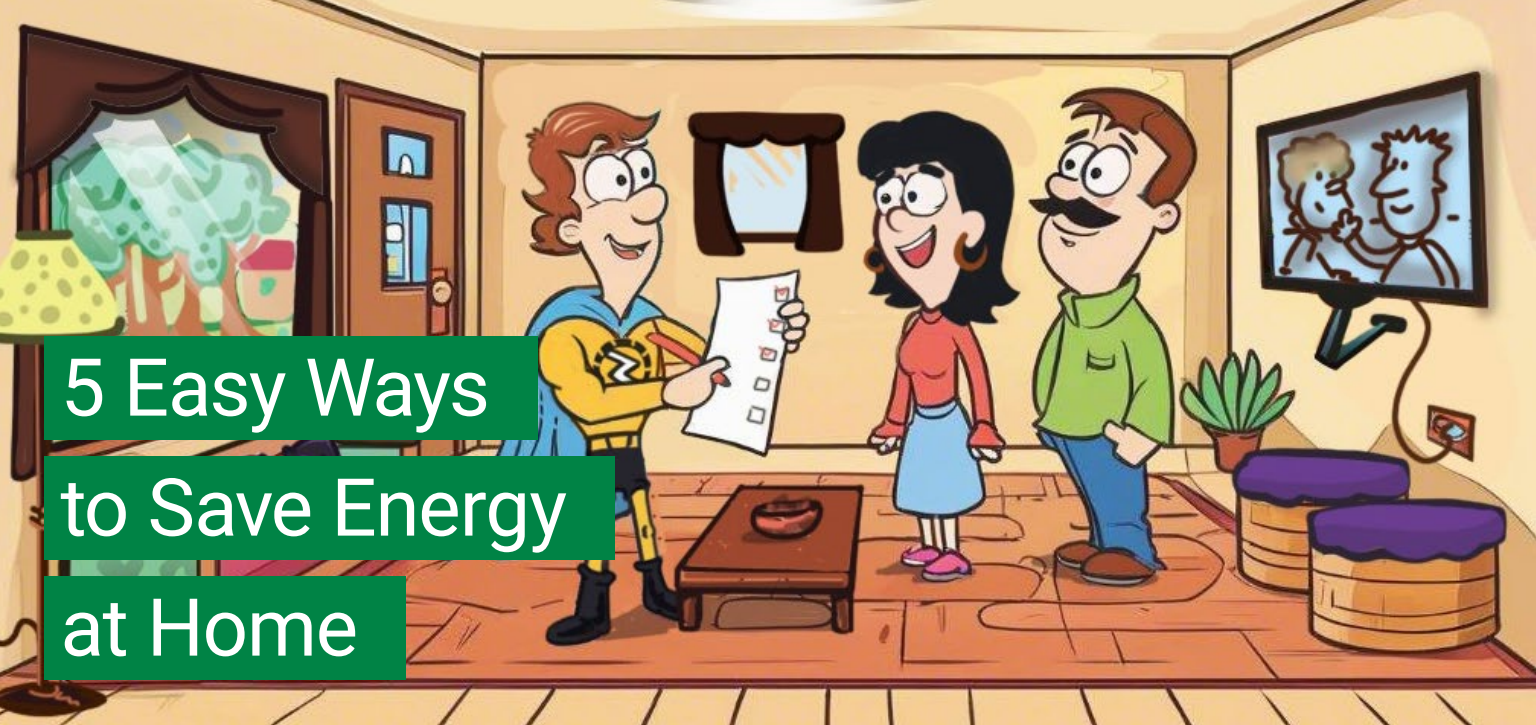
Though Administrative Professionals Day may have passed, our appreciation remains just as strong. We want to take a moment to recognize and thank our incredible administrative professionals for everything they do. Their hard work, organization, and dedication don't go unnoticed!



Jaden Gukeisen was chosen as the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative 2025 Youth Tour Representative. Jacob will travel to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with nearly 2,000 other students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Scholarship Winners:

Sam Christensen – Rock Rapids, IA
Kylie Schiermeyer – Rock Rapids, IA
Claire Metzger – Larchwood, IA



5 Easy Ways to Save Energy at Home

It's not unusual to see a spike in your energy bills as the warm weather temps you to start using your air conditioning. Stay cool and keep your electricity use in check by following a few tips:

- ▶ Use ceiling fans. Ceiling fans can be a great alternative to air conditioning. Make sure your fans are set to rotate counterclockwise during the warmer months to create a breeze that cools you off without overloading your AC.
- ▶ Keep blinds and curtains closed. Sunlight streaming through your windows can quickly heat up a room. Close blinds or draw curtains during the hottest part of the day to keep your home cooler, especially on windows that face the sun directly.
- ▶ Switch to energy-efficient light bulbs. If you haven't already, consider replacing any old incandescent bulbs you still have with LED bulbs. They use a fraction of the energy and last much longer, helping to reduce electricity use.
- ▶ Unplug electronics when not in use. Many electronics and chargers still draw power even when they're turned off. Unplug devices like chargers, TVs, and computers when not in use, or use a power strip to easily disconnect multiple devices at once.
- ▶ Set your thermostat higher. During warmer weather, try setting your thermostat a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree you raise it can save energy and reduce your cooling costs. If you're not home during the days, consider investing in a programmable thermostat that automatically turns the a/c up a bit as you're leaving the house and back down just before you get home in the evening.
- ▶ Use your appliances efficiently. When running appliances like the dishwasher or washing machine, only run full loads and use the energy-efficient settings to minimize your use of electricity.



Basin Bus Tour – August 20-22

Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine August 20-22. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam.

We will depart from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative August 20 on an air-conditioned charter bus. We will have plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is August 21. We will depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take an elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather permitting. In the evening,

we will enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On August 22 we head back home. We will have frequent rest stops to break up the day. We will return back to Lyon Rural Electric in the early evening.

The cost is only \$150.00 per person. The fee includes the cost of the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat and snack breaks. Lyon Rural Electric shares the tour bus with two other cooperatives so just 15 seats are available. Sign up today or register to win an all expenses paid tour at our annual meeting, March 31. Call Lyon Rural Electric today at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 to reserve your seat!

Get Your Home Ready for Warm Weather

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, it's time to prepare your home for the warmer months ahead. After a long, cold winter, your house may need some attention to get it ready for spring. Here are a few simple tips to help you get started:

- Inspect and clean your gutters. Winter weather can lead to debris buildup, and spring showers can cause clogs. Clear out leaves, twigs and other debris to ensure proper drainage and prevent water damage to your home's foundation.
- Check for air leaks. Cold weather can cause seals around doors and windows to deteriorate, letting in drafts and raising your energy bills. This is the perfect time to check seals and apply weatherstripping where needed to keep your home comfortable and efficient.
- Clean your windows. After months of snow, dirt and grime can build up on your windows. Take the time to wash both the inside and outside of your windows, allowing for more sunlight to enter and brighten your home.
- Change your air conditioning filters. Even better, invite an HVAC technician to your home to inspect your filters and your whole-house system. This way, you can fix small problems before they become more expensive or serious.
- Freshen up the lawn and garden. Rake up leftover leaves and debris from the yard and get your gardens ready for planting. Add mulch around flower beds to help retain moisture and protect plants from unpredictable spring weather.

Spring cleaning isn't just for inside your home—it's a great opportunity to ensure your house is prepped for warm weather.

Operating Statistics		
MARCH		
	2024	2025
KWH Purchased	10,664,586	10,929,331
KWH Sold	10,278,511	10,532,419
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.49%	3.61%
Total Demand	18,429 KW	18,794 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,149 KWH	3,165 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$353.19	\$375.82
Income Per Mile	\$1,214.77	\$1,242.30
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,325.88	\$1,305.76
Miles Energized	872.86	914
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.31¢	6.80¢



During Change of Seasons

During the in-between months of winter and spring, it can feel tricky to manage your home's temperature. It's not cold enough for the heater, but it's also not warm enough to rely on air conditioning. Luckily, there are several ways to save electricity during this transitional period without sacrificing comfort. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of this in-between weather:

- Use natural ventilation. Open windows and doors when the outside temperature is comfortable to let in fresh air and create a cross breeze. This can help naturally cool down your home without relying on air conditioning or fans.
- Adjust your thermostat. For mild temperatures, you can often get away with not using the heater or air conditioner. Set your thermostat to off or turn it down to a neutral temperature, like 70 degrees, and dress in layers to stay comfortable. A programmable thermostat can automatically adjust to the changing temperature, so you don't waste energy.
- Use fans to circulate air. If it's a little warm inside, ceiling or box fans can help move air around and make the space feel cooler. Place fans strategically to create a cross breeze, and remember to turn them off when you leave a room to avoid wasting energy.
- Seal any drafts. Even though it's not freezing outside, drafts can still make your home feel colder than it is. Check windows and doors for gaps and seal them with weatherstripping or caulk to prevent warm or cool air from escaping. This will help maintain a consistent indoor temperature and reduce the need for heating or cooling.
- Limit appliance use during peak hours. Appliances like ovens, stoves and clothes dryers can generate extra heat. Use them during cooler parts of the day or in the evening to prevent unnecessary heating of your home. If you're cooking, consider using a microwave or slow cooker instead.
- Turn off lights when not in use. As the days get longer, it's tempting to keep lights on longer. Make sure to turn off lights in rooms you're not using, and use energy-efficient LED bulbs to reduce energy use.

By making a few simple adjustments, you can keep your home comfortable without running up your energy bills during those in-between months.

Electric Cooperatives Offer Benefits for Their *Members*

You belong to an electric cooperative, which is different from the electric companies that serve your friends who live in or close to big cities.

Cooperatives operate under a different model than electric utilities that serve larger populations. Most important: You are more than a customer of your electric cooperative. You're a member and an owner. Here are some of the benefits of that:

- **Local control and decision-making.** As a member of an electric cooperative, you have a voice in how the cooperative operates. Most cooperatives hold annual meetings where members can vote on important issues or even run for a position on the Board of Directors. This local involvement ensures that decisions are made with the community's best interests in mind.
- **Profit-sharing benefits.** Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives are not focused on making a profit. Instead, any surplus revenue is often returned to members in the form of capital credits. This means that over time, you may receive a refund or credit on your electric bill, which can help lower your energy costs.
- **Reliable service with a personal touch.** Cooperatives are known for their personalized service, as they're focused on the needs of their local members. Because cooperatives are smaller and more community-oriented than a big-city utility, you're likely to receive quicker responses during outages or service issues, ensuring a more reliable connection.
- **Focus on sustainability.** Many electric cooperatives are committed to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Cooperatives often contribute to environmentally friendly practices, like solar or wind energy projects, that benefit the planet and the local economy.
- **Community involvement.** Electric cooperatives often play a significant role in their local communities, supporting initiatives that promote economic development, education and social well-being. As a member, you're helping support the long-term growth and prosperity of your area.

Complaint Procedure

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative values our members and their membership. Should you have concerns regarding your membership, electric service, or other issues, please contact Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative at 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 and our staff will be happy to assist you.

If your complaint is related to the Lyon REC service rather than its rates, and Lyon REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll free 1-877-565-4450, or by writing to: 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: *energy.gov*

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠

If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*