

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Rock Rapids ■ October 2025

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.

Powered by Purpose

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the General Manager of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Lyon Rural Electric crews

are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer—you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative

REMINDERS

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

Please join us in celebrating

Please join us in celebrating the upcoming retirement of our General Manager, Ross Loomans. We will be holding an Open House Thursday, October 30th from 1-3 at Lyon REC. Come help him celebrate 39 years of service and wish him well in retirement.



Watch out for energy vampires

The little vampires who ring your doorbell on Halloween night aren't the only ones with tricks up their sleeves. Your home could be full of vampires all year round—energy vampires.

Even when they're turned off, many of your home's electronics are still quietly using electricity.

These energy vampires include TVs, cable boxes, coffee makers, computers and phone chargers, along with anything else with a display or standby light. Over time, that wasted electricity adds up.

You can stop this silent drain by unplugging devices when you're not using them. If that's not practical, plug them into a smart power strip that cuts off power automatically when the electronics are not in use.

In the kitchen, unplug the toaster, coffee maker and microwave if you only use them occasionally.

In your home office, shut down your computer completely—don't just let it sleep—and unplug your printer.

Phone chargers are another offender. They continue to draw power even when your phone isn't connected.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that standby power use accounts for up to 10% of household electricity use and could waste \$100 or more every year.





October energy checklist: Prep now, save later

Fall is the perfect time to get your home ready for cooler weather. A few simple chores as fall approaches can help lower your heating bill and keep you comfortable all winter long.

- Start with your windows and doors. Feel for drafts and seal any gaps with caulk or weatherstripping. Even small leaks can lead to big energy losses.
- Reverse your ceiling fans so they spin clockwise. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling and can make a room feel warmer without raising the thermostat.
- Schedule a furnace tune-up. A technician can make sure it's running efficiently before you need it every day. Replace the air filter if it's dirty. That helps airflow and keeps your system from overworking.
- If you have a fireplace, close the damper when you're not using it. Keeping the flue open is like leaving a window open.
- Inspect your insulation, especially in the attic. If you can see the ceiling joists, you may not have enough.

- Adjust outdoor lighting timers as the days get shorter. Switching to LED bulbs in porch lights and yard fixtures can save energy year round.

Spend a little time now, and you'll spend less on your power bill later.

Operating Statistics		
AUGUST		
	2024	2025
KWH Purchased	12,051,498	12,037,985
KWH Sold	11,446,544	11,709,708
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.15%	2.76%
Total Demand	22,007 KW	21,387 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,188 KWH	3,335 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$362.57	\$436.37
Income Per Mile	\$1,320.09	\$1,538.46
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,309.6	\$1,165.72
Miles Energized	884.82	872
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.15¢	7.49¢

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

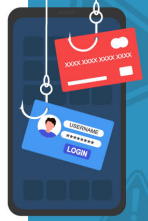
Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Do you know the warning signs of an energy scam? Scammers will often use **high-pressure tactics** that create a sense of urgency. They may also ask for **unusual payment methods** such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. **Dodgy communication** is typically associated with a scam, including poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. If you spot any of these warning signs, take a moment to pause and determine if it's legitimate or if it's a scam.



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.

'Smart' gadgets can save you money this fall

Looking to save energy and still stay comfortable at home this fall? A few small tech upgrades could make a big difference.

- ▶ Smart plugs can help you control when appliances and lamps are on — even when you're not home. Set schedules or turn devices off from your phone.
- ▶ Smart thermostats learn your habits and adjust the temperature automatically, saving energy without sacrificing comfort. Some models also give you detailed reports on your energy use.
- ▶ LED strip lights are a trendy way to light up kitchens, bathrooms and even outdoor areas. They use little electricity and last a long time.
- ▶ Smart power strips stop electronics like TVs, computers and game consoles from drawing power when they're turned off.
- ▶ Motion-sensor lights work indoors and out. Try them in hallways and entryways to prevent leaving lights on by accident.

With daylight hours getting shorter and temperatures dropping, now's a great time to explore smart tech that helps save money while keeping your home cozy.

Keep Halloween electric-friendly and safe

Halloween is all about spooky decorations and glowing pumpkins. Don't let your power bill give you a fright as well.

If you use string lights to decorate your porch or yard for Halloween, opt for LED bulbs. They use up to 80% less electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs and last longer, so you'll save money and hassle.

Set your Halloween lights on a timer so they only run during prime trick-or-treat hours. Leaving lights on all night wastes energy and costs more.

Be cautious when using electric candles or lighted decorations inside your jack-o'-lanterns. Battery-operated LED candles are safer and more energy efficient than real candles or electric bulbs that get hot.

If you plan to use fog machines, animatronics or sound effects, check the wattage and try to limit how long they run. These devices can draw a surprising amount of power.

For outdoor decorations, make sure all cords and plugs are rated for outdoor use to avoid electrical hazards.

Turn off all decorations before going to bed to prevent fire risks.

Make this year's Fright Night festivities fun and energy-smart Halloween without any scary numbers on your power bill.

You own your electric cooperative

You get your power from an electric cooperative, which means you're not just a customer. You're a member and an owner.

Unlike for-profit electric companies, cooperatives are not owned by shareholders or investors. They are owned by the people they serve. That often means lower rates, better customer service and a local focus.

Electric co-ops also return profits to members. Instead of paying dividends to investors, cooperatives issue capital credits to their member—essentially a refund based on how much electricity you used.

You'll also find that cooperatives are more transparent with their consumers. Because they're governed by a local board populated and elected by members like you, decisions are made with your best interests in mind.

Most cooperatives also invest in the local community, supporting schools, scholarships, economic development and broadband access in rural areas.

As a consumer-member of an electric cooperative, you're not just paying a bill. You're part of a business that you help run. That's the cooperative difference.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



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