

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

Holiday Closures:

We will close at 11:30 a.m. on December 22, 2023 and will be closed on December 25, 2023 for Christmas.

We will close at 11:30 a.m. on December 29, 2023 and will be closed on January 1, 2024 for New Year's Day.

General Manager Comments



ROSS LOOMANS
GM

We have printed an excerpt of the bylaws that pertain to the nomination and election of members to the Board of Directors in this newsletter. The Board of Directors will be appointing the Nominating Committees for District 4 and District 5. District 4 includes Riverside, Midland and Elgin Townships and is currently represented by David Griesse. District 5 includes Rock and Garfield Townships and is currently represented by Damon Pedersen.

At the end of each year, we also receive the new rates for our purchased power. We have been notified by L & O Power Cooperative that there will be an increase in the cost of purchased power effective with usage as of January 1, 2024 for general energy purchases due to inflation and the cost of rebuilt substations and transmission lines. Preliminary PCA rates have been received and the estimated rates are as follows:

Please remember that these are estimated amounts and that the final PCA will be calculated in January 2024 for usage as of January 1, 2024 once the December 2023 bills are calculated and mailed to you. Also, please remember that the PCA calculation looks back at the cost of purchased power for 2023 and compares it to the amount collected by the PCA for the same period and the PCA is adjusted for over or under collections.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Employees, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2024. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in 2023 and look forward to serving you again in 2024.



Happy Holidays

Operating Statistics

OCTOBER

	2022	2023
KWH Purchased	10,867,598	10,887,258
KWH Sold	10,482,403	10,353,755
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.76%	2.97%
Total Demand	18,105 KW	19,965 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,992 KWH	2,947 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$326.74	\$335.11
Income Per Mile	\$1,190.56	\$1,201.27
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,165.35	\$1,125.26
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.29¢	6.56¢

	2024	2023
General Energy (per kWh)	\$0.04312	\$0.03911
Electric & Dual Fuel Heat (per kWh)	\$0.01530	\$0.01430
Casino (per kWh)	\$0.01627	\$0.01533



Deck the halls— with Energy Efficiency

Before you climb on the roof in your quest to have the most outdoor holiday lights in your neighborhood, and before you string any bulbs on your tree, take a moment to consider how energy efficient your Christmas decorations are.

Here are five ways to save money on electricity without giving up the holiday glitter this season.

1. Switch to LED lights. If your strands are so old that the bulbs are incandescent, toss them. New holiday lights are made from LEDs—and they're way better than the old-fashioned kind. They shine brighter, last longer, and they're cool to the touch, so they're safer. A bonus: Prices of LED light strands are way lower than they were even a few years ago.
2. Connect your lights to timers. Set the timers to turn the lights on when the sun sets and off at bedtime. There's no need to leave them on all night.

3. Invest in a few good power strips. Plug all of your strands and lighted decorations into power strips rather than directly into wall sockets, both indoors and out. That way, you can turn everything on and off with the flick of a single switch.
4. Turn off unneeded lights. If the outside of your home is laden with so many lights it looks like daytime after dark, don't turn on the porch lights. Same goes for indoors. In rooms where you have Christmas trees or other lighted decorations, turn off some of the lamps.
5. Go old-school. Instead of decorating your indoor rooms and your tree with lights this year, how about dusting off some family ornaments or organizing an ornament-making evening with your children. Don't skimp on the glitter; along with some tinsel on the tree, your home can sparkle and shine without using any extra electricity at all.

Give the Planet a Gift This Season, Too

At a time when fancy gadgets and electronics are all anyone wants for Christmas, you can be the friend or loved one who thoughtfully chooses presents that are good for the planet.

Some ideas:

1. If you select a battery-operated toy or device, choose a model that is rechargeable. The person who is receiving the gift might appreciate not having to stock up on disposable batteries.
2. Look for an energy-efficiency rating on any electric gifts you give. Compare the energy efficiency on various models of computers, sound systems, large-screen TVs and even kitchen appliances.

The gift recipient will pay less for energy if the gift doesn't use any more energy than is necessary.

3. Consider shopping for non-electric gifts, like sports equipment or craft supplies.
4. Bake your gifts this year. Mostly everyone appreciates home-made cookies and muffins packed in a festive tin or wrapper.
5. Shop for gifts made from recycled materials or items that can themselves be recycled once they're used up.
6. During the season of giving, make thoughtful choices that will help your friends and family be kind to the environment.

Why Waste Energy?

The biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy efficiency, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories are:

1. Buying oversized heating and cooling appliances. Too many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. HVAC sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more, in the long run, on heating and cooling bills, than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
2. Ignoring leaks. When you replace your heating and air conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most efficient, most-expensive system won't perform at peak if heated or air-conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.
3. Neglecting to insulate. Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space, and walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
4. Skipping fans. Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air-conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break—and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, but they can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

Going on a Winter Vacay? Leave the Heat On.

If you're traveling this holiday season, leave the heat on at home.

The same goes if you have a vacation home that will be vacant for even a day during the winter. A house without heat is a burst pipe—and a big flood—waiting to happen.

You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container – including metal and plastic pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode and cause flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home and vacation home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

CALL MID-SIOUX TO SCHEDULE LIHEAP APPOINTMENT

The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill; original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member; and proof of the household's income for the past month (4 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or most recent tax return. Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed at the right. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280

For families with more than five members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact your local outreach office, info@midsioux.org or 800-859-2025

Hearing Impaired call 711

Heat for the Holidays

Did you skip your annual HVAC maintenance this fall? Are you sure you want to risk a breakdown during a time when it will be hard to find a contractor who's available during the holidays?

It's not too late for a fall checkup. When you call to schedule it, choose a reliable contractor.

Here are five ways to find a good HVAC contractor:

1. Do your homework. Know which kinds of licenses and insurance the state requires for the specialists you need to hire. Also, learn about your HVAC system; the more you know, the more you can tell potential contractors.
2. Ask your friends. If someone you trust trusts a certain contractor, you might, too.
3. Check them out. Always call the contractor's

references. If the tech can't provide any, find a different tech.

4. Take your time. Don't rush your decision when hiring. And then, don't rush the contractors when they come over to give you an estimate. To make a fair evaluation, an HVAC contractor needs to spend some time inspecting the system you already have; checking out your ducts, windows and insulation; and asking you questions about your family's needs.
5. Get it in writing. Ask for written, itemized estimates. Then, compare each contractor's bid for cost, energy efficiency and warranties. The lowest price isn't always the best deal. Before any work starts or money changes hands, sign the contract, and insist that the contractor sign it, too.

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