

Lyon REC News



October 2018

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop

Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You Will See a New Line Item on Your Electric Bill

When you receive your bill in mid-December for your November electric use, you'll see a new line item for the Energy Efficiency Adjustment Clause (EEAC). While this charge has been included in your electric bill as part of the energy charge since 2008, we are now showing it as a separate line item for your information and awareness. **Your bill amount will not increase or decrease due to this line item addition and Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will continue providing energy efficiency programs and encouraging our co-op members to use electric energy efficiently.**

Earlier this year, the Iowa Legislature passed Senate File 2311 which requires investor-owned utilities to line item the costs of energy efficiency programs on customer bills, claiming that embedding the program costs in rates represents a hidden tax. Prior to this legislation, Iowa law prevented investor-owned utilities from disclosing energy efficiency program costs on customer billings without approval from the Iowa Utilities Board.

While member-owned electric cooperatives in the state are not required to line item energy efficiency program costs, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has elected to show the EEAC as a separate line item for our members' knowledge.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has promoted energy efficiency programs for more than 30 years, long before Iowa utilities were mandated to do so. We are committed to helping our members use energy wisely.

Beginning with your December electric bill, which includes charges for your November electric use, your bill will look similar in format to this sample of a Farm and Residential bill:

Facility Charge		\$ 15.00
Energy Charge	1567 kWh	107.48
Demand Charge		0.00
P.C.A. (Power Cost Adjustment)		53.76
Water Heater Credit		(3.00)
EEAC (Energy Efficiency Cost Adjustment)		3.00
Sale Tax		1.76
Total Bill		\$ 178.00

If you have any questions about this new line item, please contact our office at 712-472-2506 or info@lyonrec.coop. **Again, your bill amount will not increase or decrease due to this bill format change and Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will continue providing energy efficiency programs and promoting energy efficiency.**

As always, we are proud to be a member-owned cooperative that powers lives and empowers the communities we serve with accountability and transparency.

October is Cooperative Month

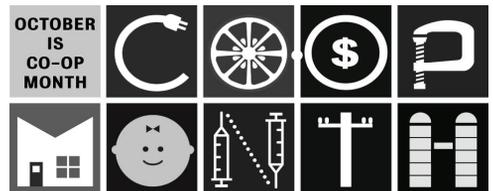
There's an annual celebration every October at your electric cooperative-and at electric cooperatives around the country. October is Cooperative Month.

That's when consumer-members and employees of cooperatives celebrate being part of businesses that are consumer-owned and community-run.

This October, resolve to become more active with your electric cooperative. Plan to attend the utility's annual meeting, to vote in board of director elections, to sit on a volunteer committee or even to run for the board yourself.

Cooperatives are owned and controlled by the consumers who do business with them. That means you are not just a customer-you're a member and an owner. That gives you a vote in how the business operates.

Get to know more about your cooperative by participating in it. When a utility operates as a cooperative like yours does, every member is equally important.



REMEMBER
SAFETY
FIRST
THIS
HARVEST
SEASON!



AUGUST OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
KWH Purchased	9,545,755	10,357,783
KWH Sold	9,387,392	10,239,271
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.82%	2.73%
Total Demand	17,954 KW	18,695 KW
Average Farm Consumption.....	2,231 KWH	2,480 KWH
Average Farm Bill.....	\$228.23	\$243.24
Income Per Mile	\$1,027.94	\$1,077.79
Expenses Per Mile.....	\$1,015.49	\$1,044.91
Miles Energized.....	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) ..	6.61¢	6.28¢

BE A LIGHT BULB FOR HALLOWEEN

Believe it or not, not everyone has gotten the message that LED light fixtures and compact fluorescent light bulbs are way more energy efficient than those old, incandescent bulbs that we used to use around the house.

Make sure your neighbors know this Halloween by dressing up as an energy-efficient light bulb when you take your kids out to trick-or-treat.

You can make your own costume by dressing in a solid color as the background, such as all white to blend in with the bulb, or all black to make it stand out. Next, create the base of the bulb out of two large pieces of cardboard—one for the front of you, and one for the back. Use silver spray paint and black markers to create the illusion of spirals. Attach both pieces to a belt and tie around your waist.

Now it's time for the white spirals of the bulb. There are several things you can use, depending on what you have around. Try using sturdy wire or strong pipe cleaners and bend them in twists around your torso, starting from the base of the bulb. Glue white pillow stuffing around the wires to make them thick and white. Or try using a foam noodle pool toy, spray-painted white and fastened to your costume at the shoulder.

Whatever the heights of the twists, leave space between each so that you can see clearly and your arms can move freely.

And if you're decorating your home with orange and black lights this season, choose ultra-efficient LED lights.

SLAY YOUR ENERGY VAMPIRES



Even when your electronics are turned off, they still use energy if they're plugged in.

They use something called "vampire energy."

What better time to slay those vampires than Halloween? Here's how:

1. Unplug any appliance or electronic device whenever you're not using it, unless there's some reason to leave it plugged into the wall. It's not practical, for example, to unplug your cable box and wireless router. But you can unplug your TV, stereo, laptop, countertop kitchen appliances and cell phone chargers when they're not in use.
2. Use power strips. Plug the devices that can be turned off into power strips so all you have to do is turn one thing off instead of going around the room switching everything off one at a time.
3. Setting computers and video game consoles to sleep mode in case you forget to unplug them at the end of the day will save some energy.
4. Choose new appliances and electronics that use less "standby" power than your old ones. Any equipment marked with the Energy Star seal has that feature.



Have a Safe & Happy
Halloween

WHERE ARE THEY?

Lyon REC, PO Box 629, Rock Rapids, IA. 51246, is holding unclaimed property resulting from uncashed patronage dividend checks due to the persons listed below. Please contact our office at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 if you have any information on these people.

These members, or their authorized representatives, have until October 31, 2018, to contact us so that the checks can be reissued. After that time Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law and Board Policy.

Doug Claus
Timothy & Robin Jager
Roy Palmer Jr
Kenneth Borman
Todd Meyeraan
Stanley Olson
Virgil & Diana Hagel

Dan Harris
Randy McFadden
Elizabeth Riebeling
Edward P Bruns
Bill Fisher
Rob Nelson & Troy Rubin



It's time for an HVAC check-up

Every fall before it gets too chilly outside, call a qualified heating and air conditioning technician to give your central heating system a once-over.

In fact, it's important to have your heating system professionally maintained every fall.

Regularly maintaining your heating will help prevent a breakdown on a cold night during the dead of winter.

Between annual check-ups, you can head off trouble by paying attention to your heating system. Here's how:

Replace your system's air filters once every three months. Dirty filters can get clogged and prevent air from flowing through them. That will make your system work harder, which is energy inefficient.

When you turn the heat on for the first time this fall, listen for banging, rattling or other unusual sounds. They could be a symptom of a malfunction-in-the-making. Call your tech back to check it.

If your windows are steaming up or you see rust or a lot of dirt on your heating vents, something is wrong. A professional can diagnose the problem.

And if some rooms in your home feel cold, while others are comfortable, that's a sign that something's not quite right. Call for help.

What Does Co-op Ownership Really Mean?

At Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, we often say that those who receive electricity from the co-op are also members of the co-op, but what exactly does that mean? If you own your home or car, you have the keys and can access your property any time you want to. As a part owner of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, you don't exactly get a set of keys to the office, but you do receive some great benefits.

One of the most important benefits of being a co-op owner is that you have a voice in how the co-op operates. Consumer-members like you democratically elect the co-op's local board of directors, who must also be consumer-members. These directors serve your local interests in governing the cooperative. If you'd like to learn more about serving as a director, please contact our office at 712-472-2506. Make sure to attend our annual meeting each year in March to exercise your right to vote as a member. During the meeting, co-op consumer-members vote in director elections, review the cooperative financials and vote on any other cooperative business, such as proposed bylaw amendments. You also have an opportunity to talk directly to co-op staff and your board of directors.

As a consumer-member of Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, you are also accumulating equity in the co-op as you use electricity each month. In fact, each consumer-member has a patronage capital allocation account on file which tracks the credit or equity accumulated each year. The cooperative is a not-for-profit organization, but when we experience additional income over expenses - referred to as profits or margins - at the end of the year, we allocate that extra money back to our members in relation to how much electricity each consumer-member used during the year. These funds are allocated to your patronage capital allocation account and returned to you over time when the board determines that it is financially feasible to do so. You should receive a patronage capital allocation notice from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative in June each year which details your specific account information. To date, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has returned more than \$7 million to our consumer-members over the years.

As an electric cooperative, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative truly belongs to the local communities we serve and any profits are shared back with our consumer-members over time. While we can't give you a set of keys to the office, co-op ownership does have its privileges!

Mid-Sioux Opportunity to help with HEAT bills!

Your local Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. office will be taking applications for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) **until April 30, 2019**. **Please call your local outreach office or 800-859-2025 for an appointment time to apply.**

ELIGIBILITY

A household may qualify for assistance in this program if the total household income falls within the income range listed below:

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
1	\$ 21,245
2	\$ 28,805
3	\$ 36,365
4	\$ 43,925
5	\$ 51,485

For family units with more than five members, add \$7,560 for each additional member.

APPLICATION

- **Social Security Card or I-94 Card** - We require a copy of the original card for each household member.
- **Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill** - This may be two separate bills.
- **Proof of Income.** This includes total household gross income from all sources. We must have complete proof of income to process your application.
 - **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.
 - **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for one month preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return 2017 or 2018.
 - **Self-Employed / Farmers:** A copy of your 2017 or 2018 Federal Income Tax Return.
 - **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

****Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LiHEAP:**

Ida County
712-364-2175

Thurs
9:00 – 4:00

Cherokee County
712-225-3322

Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00 – 4:30

Plymouth County
712-546-6603
or 712-225-3322

Tues & Thursday
9:00 – 4:00

Sioux County
712-722-3611

Mon-Tue-Th-Fri
8:00 – 4:30

Lyon County
712-472-3746
or 712-722-3611

Wednesday
9:00 – 4:00

Visit us on the web at www.midsioux.org
Central Office 1-800-859-2025 / Hearing Impaired call 711

Non-Discrimination Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.