

Lyon REC News



September 2017

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.

Cooperative Technology has a Statewide Stage

Everywhere we look, technology continues to change our lives. From the industrial revolution to the digital revolution, technology and innovation continue to improve our quality of life. The same is true for the electric industry. Some of the changes are clearly visible while others are happening behind the scenes. Every advancement centers around our member-owners' expectations for electricity that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

In June, one of Iowa's electric cooperatives had the pleasure of hosting Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg to showcase the many progressive ways technology is being implemented in all of Iowa's 99 counties that we collectively serve.

One of the ways electric cooperatives are investing in technology can be seen in the transportation and infrastructure area. This area that has always been a priority for Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, and it's also a core pillar of Iowa's Energy Plan, which was released in 2016. The Iowa Energy Plan is an ongoing collaborative effort among stakeholders from around the state, including state agencies, industry organizations and members of the public. The plan builds on Iowa's energy successes and sets the framework to reaffirm Iowa's energy leadership into the future by collaborating locally, growing sustainably and leading nationally.

We're hard at work on many of the transportation and infrastructure goals within the plan, which are to:

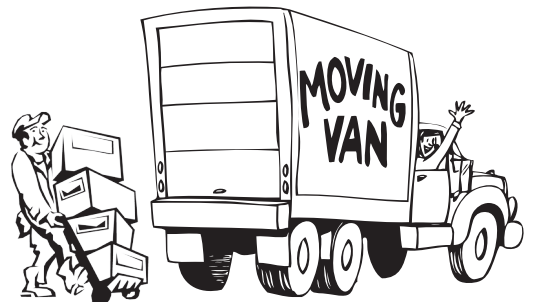
- * Enhance the reliability and safety of Iowa's energy systems.
- * Utilize smart grid and other technologies to modernize Iowa's electricity systems.
- * Encourage the prudent maintenance and development of energy delivery infrastructure.
- * Expand the use of alternative fuel vehicles in Iowa.
- * Optimize the movement of freight and people in Iowa to reduce energy use.

Operationally, we're implementing technology solutions to save money and to be more efficient, which ultimately impacts system reliability and in many cases, safety. It takes a balanced approach to integrate new technology in a way that is financially responsible and makes good business sense.

Rest assured that while implementing new technology is an essential business function, your electric cooperative is conscious of making changes at a responsible pace. We will never lose sight of your expectations for reliable and safe service at an affordable price.

MOVING?

Remember to notify the Cooperative when you move off of the Lyon Rural Electric service area and inform the new owner of their responsibility to then get signed up for service.



BRACE FOR THE COLD



Stay cozy indoors this fall and winter without sending your energy bills soaring. Here's how:

- ➔ Tape heavy-duty, clear plastic sheets to the inside of the frames of draft windows. Or purchase drapes or shades that fit snugly into the window frame.
- ➔ Lower the thermostat by 10 or 15 degrees for eight hours a day to save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling bills. Try it overnight or while you're at work all day. Or install a programmable thermostat that will automatically set itself back at the times you want.
- ➔ Lower the dial on the water heater to 120 degrees. Heating water accounts for 18 percent of the energy your home uses, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- ➔ Scour the house for gaps around plumbing pipes, and cables for TVs, routers and landlines, where cold air can get into the house and heated air can escape. Caulk or weatherstrip those gaps, and around doors and windows.
- ➔ Close the damper to your wood-burning fireplace when you're not burning wood in it. Better yet, avoid using it. Those old fireplaces suck the warm air right out of a room and send it outdoors.

Automatic Payment

Automatic withdrawal for payment of your electric bill is available.

Contact Lyon REC for details or go to our website for the form.

Keep safety first during fall chores

After Labor Day summer's over, schools are open, and it's time to prepare your house and lawn for fall and winter.

The first thing to prepare: power tools and electrical cords-including extension cords- in the home, garage, shed, and yard.

Before you begin any outdoor project, check that your power tool is designed for outdoor use and that there are no damages to its wire. Never carry a power tool by the wire or use it near water. Check to see that the tool is in good working condition before use. If it's not, don't repair it yourself. Bring it to a licensed electrician or send it back to the manufacturer.

And don't overlook extension cords. Some tips for safety:

- ➔ For outdoor jobs, use extension cords designed for outdoor use. They are thicker, more durable and have connectors molded on them to prevent moisture damage.
- ➔ Don't buy a longer cord than you need.
- ➔ Check the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it is high enough to meet the power demand of the tool you are using.
- ➔ Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs. Never cut the third prong off of a power tool to make it fit a cord.
- ➔ Push plugs all the way into outlets to ensure complete connection.
- ➔ Do not plug one extension cord into another. Buy the proper length.
- ➔ Never leave an open extension cord that is plugged into an outlet. Unplug it when you're finished using it.
- ➔ Store extensions cords in the garage so they won't be exposed to snow and cold weather.

JULY OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
KWH Purchased	10,452,579	10,974,227
KWH Sold	10,333,990	10,885,015
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	3.42%	2.98%
Total Demand	19,859 KW	18,598 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,638 KWH	2,726 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$247.85	\$268.03
Income Per Mile	\$1,034.95	\$1,159.18
Expenses Per Mile	\$997.10	\$1,035.25
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) . . .	6.05¢	6.31¢

WHAT TO DO IF THE POWER CUTS OUT

The house goes dark, and everything inside is silent. No fans whirring, microwaves beeping or TVs broadcasting the daily news. Your power has just gone out, perhaps because of the raging storm outside.

During a power outage, stick to the following safety procedures:

- »→ Use flashlights, not candles, which can start a fire if you drop one in the dark.
- »→ Keep your refrigerator door closed, and it will keep food cold for four hours. A closed freezer will stay cold for up to two days without electricity.
- »→ Dress in layers indoors when it's cold outside and your heater has stopped.
- »→ Never, never heat your house with the oven or a charcoal grill. Instead, see if a family member or friend can take you in temporarily.
- »→ Unplug appliances and electronics in case of a sudden surge of power surge, which can damage your equipment.
- »→ Your backup generator belongs outdoors, not in your house or garage. The carbon monoxide in the exhaust could be hazardous to your family.

Once the power comes back on:

- »→ Toss out food that has been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours. Also, get rid of anything that smells or feels like it has spoiled.
- »→ Restock emergency supplies, like batteries and canned food.



**REMEMBER
SAFETY
FIRST
THIS
HARVEST
SEASON**

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.



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 _____

Please mail to: RECare | Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 629 | Rock Rapids, IA 51246

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing 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.

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, 2018**. **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	\$ 21,105
2	\$ 28,420
3	\$ 35,735
4	\$ 43,050
5	\$ 50,365

For family units with more than five members, add \$7,315 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 30 days preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return 2016 or 2017.
 - **Self-Employed / Farmers:** A copy of your 2016 or 2017 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
or 712-225-3322
Thursday
8:00 – 4:30

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.”