

Lyon REC News



July 2011

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.

Keep the sun
out to stay cool



One of the best ways to keep your house cooler during the summer is to keep the sun and the heat outdoors.

You'll be able to inch the thermostat up a few degrees, so you could see a reduction in your cooling bill this summer. Plus, your family will feel more comfortable.

A few tricks:

- Replace your window curtains with a style that has a white backing on the window side, and then close them during the day. The U.S. Department of Energy says the heat-deflecting white can reduce the amount of heat that gets into the house by up to 45 percent.
- Hang window awnings on south-, west- and east-facing windows. DOE says you can reduce solar heat gain on the hottest days by up to 65 percent on south-facing windows and 77 percent on west-facing windows by covering them with awnings.
- Try sun screens. These are different from insect screens. Sometimes called solar shades, they are made from see-through mesh that's woven tight enough to block a lot of heat and UV rays, but transparent enough that you can see through them, so they don't block your view.
- Plant shade trees near windows that get the most sunlight during the summer. A young tree won't keep you cool this year, but as it grows, it will keep more sun out and allow your home to stay cooler all day.
- Caulk around windows and doors to keep your air conditioned air in the house and the hot air out. Also, look for and patch other holes in indoor walls that are on the perimeter of the house—especially around electrical, cable and phone outlets.



BIG TVs
are BIG
energy hogs



The next TV you buy probably will be bigger than the last—way bigger. And the bigger the TV, the more energy it uses.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that high-resolution, direct-view (not rear-projection) TVs use as much electricity in a year as a refrigerator.

So the Federal Trade Commission is requiring TV manufacturers to post a yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label on every new TV.

The removable label estimates how much you will pay in energy costs to operate the TV for a year and compares that cost with other models with similar-size screens.

You've seen the label before; the FTC has long required it on appliances like washing machines and refrigerators.

How much energy a TV uses varies widely depending on the brand, the size, and whether it's a plasma TV or an LCD TV.

Another label to look for when you shop for a new TV: The Energy Star label. This one's not required, but TVs that qualify to display it use about 40 percent less energy than others.

Outdoor lights can keep bad guys away



Adding outdoor lights around your home is one of the best ways to protect it from break-ins. You can add safety and style with a few well-placed lights. Some tips:

- Place a light at every entry point to your home: above or beside windows and doors, including the garage door.
- Mount lighting fixtures on exterior walls near first-floor and basement windows to discourage burglars.
- Illuminate your front, back and side yards with floodlights so nobody can skulk around without being seen.
- Light up your driveway with pathway lights and another light above the garage door to lower the chances someone will break into your car.
- Send a message to prowlers that the neighbors will notice them. Mount lanterns in trees to pour light into your yard and onto your deck. Likewise, post uplights at the base of trees and shrubs.
- If you have a security camera or a security system warning sign, train a light on it so it's visible to intruders.
- Arrange outdoor lights so they're high enough to be out of the reach of vandals. Security experts say that's nine feet off the ground.
- Rig your outdoor lights to a timer so they come on at dusk and off at dawn. That way, you'll have light around your house all night.
- Take care with placement so light doesn't glare into your home or your neighbor's.
- If your lights are rigged to motion detectors, set them so they "see" what's going on near your house, but so they're not sensitive enough to trip when birds, bats or bugs buzz around them.



DIMMING lights can SAVE energy



If you're looking for a quick way to save on your electricity bill, install a dimmer switch.

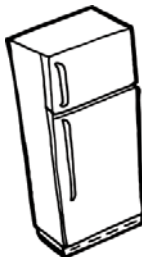
Dimmer switches reduce a lamp's wattage, which can save you money while giving the room a cozy feel.

If you have already switched to energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, choose those that are labeled as compatible with dimmer switches. It's not safe to use an incompatible compact fluorescent with a dimmer, even if you keep the dimmer on full light.

And be aware that not all CFLs can be dimmed. Read the package's label.

You'll find dimmer switches at any hardware or home store, and they're easy to install. Before you start, cut off the circuit breaker to that switch and use a voltage tester to be sure the circuit is dead.

Appliance Recycle Program

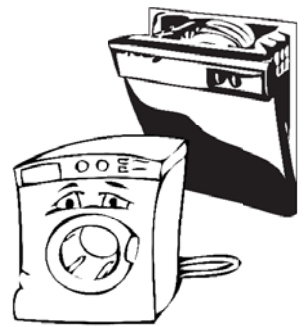


Appliance recycling—participate in our appliance recycling program and turn your old refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner in for a \$25 rebate per appliance. Limit three appliances per member. Appliance MUST still work. Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has a contract with Environmental Services of Iowa from Adel, Iowa to participate in this program. First you need to contact Lyon Rural Electric and a form needs to be filled out, that form gets sent to Environmental Services of Iowa, and they in turn will contact you for a pick up date. At that point they will plug in the appliance to make sure it does run and then will give you a check. Call Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative if you want to participate in this program.

Clean your cleaning machines

The worst household odors can come from the appliances that help you keep things clean.

You might not think you need to clean your garbage disposal, dishwasher or washing machine because it seems they would clean themselves as they wash dishes and clothes or swirl food scraps down the drain.



But an occasional cleaning will keep residue from food, dirty clothes or standing water from stinking. It also will clear away soap scum, grease, bacteria, germs and limescale caused by “hard” water.

Every month or so, load your kitchen sink drain with a cupful of ice cubes mixed with white vinegar. Run the disposal. The disposal will crunch and chomp, but it’s OK; the pulverizing of the ice cubes will sharpen its blades.

After the ice cubes are gone, pour a capful of cooking oil into the drain. The oil will clear away leftover noises and rough spots.

Next, tackle the dishwasher. Use a small scrub brush or even a toothbrush dipped in hot, soapy water. Use a non-abrasive cleanser if you need something stronger to remove grime and stains. Scrub the folds in the rubber seal around the door and the bottoms of the dish racks. Loosen debris that has collected around the drain; it can scratch your dishes. Wipe the whole thing down with a wet sponge to remove the junk you’ve loosened and to rinse off the soap.

Place a dishwasher-safe cup filled of white vinegar on the top rack of the dishwasher. Run the otherwise-empty dishwasher on its hottest cycle. The vinegar will cut through any leftover grease and grime and will neutralize odors.

And once a year, fill your empty washing machine tub with hot water. Pour in three cups of vinegar and half a cup of baking soda. Remove the fabric softener receptacle and bleach dispenser and soak them in hot, soapy water. Nudge stubborn dirt and stains with a Q-tip.

Use vinegar and a washcloth to wipe down the machine’s exterior surfaces.



Prices Effective January 1, 2011

	PRICE	TAX	TOTAL	REBATE	FINAL
MARATHON WATER HEATER					
50 Gallon	\$680.00	\$47.60	\$727.60	\$ 0	\$727.60
85 Gallon	\$850.00	\$59.50	\$909.50	\$200.00	\$709.50
105 Gallon	\$940.00	\$65.80	\$1005.80	\$200.00	\$805.80
NEW CONSTRUCTION/GAS REPLACEMENT					
MUST BE APPROVED FIRST - Residential year round homes only - requires load control device installed					
50 Gallon Marathon	\$680.00	\$47.60	\$727.60		\$727.60
85 Gallon Marathon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
105 Gallon Marathon	\$90.00	\$6.30	\$96.30		\$96.30
GAS REPLACEMENT					
50 Gallon Marathon	\$680.00	\$47.60	\$727.60		\$727.60
85 Gallon Marathon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
105 Gallon Marathon	\$90.00	\$6.30	\$96.30		\$96.30

Marathon
www.marathonheaters.com
1-800-321-6718



To get the rebate, you must agree to have load control installed, and allows for you to receive \$3.00 monthly credit on your electric bill.

MAY OPERATING STATISTICS

	2010	2011
KWH Purchased	6,853,353	6,890,573
KWH Sold	6,751,427	6,608,962
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	3.77%	4.04%
Total Demand	13,861 KW	12,674 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,144 KWH	1,860 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$184.88	\$171.86
Income Per Mile	\$621.57	\$633.08
Expenses Per Mile	\$606.13	\$619.56
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)...	4.79¢	4.85¢

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.



MAY 2011 OUTAGE REPORT

<u>Substation</u>	<u>#Meters</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1 George	5	Other	05/03/11	33 Mins.
2 Larchwood	2	Other	05/14/11	36 Mins.
3 Larchwood	74	Fault	05/16/11	55 Mins.
4 Larchwood	2	Animal	05/23/11	48 Mins.
5 Rock Rapids	1	Fault	05/27/11	2 Hrs. 17 Mins.
6 Rock Rapids	13	Other	05/29/11	43 Mins.