

Lyon REC News



June 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 CFLS FROM BURNING OUT TOO SOON



It's not cheap to switch your energy-efficient incandescent light bulbs to long-burning, compact fluorescent lamps, but you'll save money in the long run by replacing the bulbs less often and by using less electricity to burn them.

So if you've noticed that your CFLs are burning out too soon, it could be that you're buying the wrong kind.

Normal CFLs aren't designed for use with dimmers. And they don't last as long if you use them in enclosed areas or where there's excessive heat, vibration or fluctuations in power.

Some tips:

- Before you buy a bulb for a dimmer or another special use, check its label to learn if it's made for that. Some CFLs work in dimmers, motion sensors or three-way sockets, for example. But not all of them do.

- Buy the right size bulb for the fixture. Using a larger bulb or one that burns brighter than recommended for a lamp or ceiling fixture can cause the bulb to overheat and burn out prematurely.
- Avoid placing CFLs in enclosed indoor fixtures. The lack of air circulation and increased heat can reduce its life.
- Choose a special, more-durable CFL for use in an overhead fan light, which can vibrate and disturb the bulb.
- If you're using CFLs outdoors, find bulbs designed for exterior use, and check the package to learn if the bulbs can withstand cold temperatures. Placing them in protected fixtures.
- Turning a CFL on and off frequently can shorten its life. Try to leave the CFL on for at least 15 minutes at a time.

With normal use, CFLs typically last for 10,000 hours--13 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Have
a
Fun
and
Safe
Summer!



happy
Fathers
DAY
June 19, 2011

Good a/c tech has proper credentials



Don't trust just anyone to look after your home's air conditioning system. Base your choice of a service technician on three important criteria:

Reputation. Ask each contractor you are considering for a list of customers, and call a few of them. Check with the Better Business Bureau to learn if other customers have filed complaints about the contractor. Consider contractors who are members of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association or another professional association. Ask your neighbors to recommend any good techs they use.

Credentials. Look at the tech's state contractor's license. It should indicate that the contractor is licensed to perform work on your heating and cooling system.

Experience. Pull out an old phone book and look up your contractor. A service provider who has been around for at least five years has proven a commitment to the job. You want to hire someone you can count on to return year after year.



Cut cooling bills with new a/c



If your home's cooling bill has been inching up over the years, high energy prices might not be the only culprit.

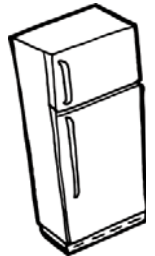
An air conditioning system that is more than 10 years old could be costing you a bundle in unnecessary cooling bill.

Same goes for a furnace that's 15 years old. A new one could cut your heating bill substantially.

Heating and cooling your home accounts for more than 40 percent of your energy costs, so if you replace an older, energy-efficient air conditioning system or furnace with a modern model that uses energy more efficiency, you could save big bucks.

Energy Star estimates that you can save up to 20 percent by replacing an inefficient a/c with one that has the Energy Star label, which guarantees that it's energy efficient. Get a unit that's even more energy efficient, and you could cut your bills by up to half.

Appliance Recycle Program



Appliance recycling—participate in our appliance recycling program and turn you 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.

Call before you dig!

A black and white photograph of a shovel digging into the ground, with soil being displaced.

1.800.292.8989

\$\$\$ Raise the temperature a little; \$\$\$ SAVE A LOT

The U.S. Department of Energy says you can save 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply setting your thermostat 10 degrees higher in summer or back in winter—for eight hours. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing a programmable thermostat.

But cranking your thermostat way up whenever you leave the house won't necessarily reduce your air conditioning bill.

Here's what doesn't work:

1. Changing the thermostat setting for short periods several times a day. If you'll be gone for less than six hours, leave your thermostat where it is.
2. Lowering the thermostat to 60 degrees when you get home to kick the a/c into high gear and cool the home quicker. That doesn't cool your home off any faster, but it will use more energy than if you set the thermostat to a reasonable temperature.

Your best bet: Set it and forget it. If you replace your old thermostat with a programmable model, you can set various schedules for work and sleep on weekdays and weekends—and let the thermostat “remember” when to change for the most efficient—and comfortable—result.

A caution: Don't use a regular programmable thermostat with a heat pump.

APRIL OPERATING STATISTICS

	2010	2011
KWH Purchased	6,766,930	6,825,469
KWH Sold	6,441,974	6,594,886
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	4.25%	4.11%
Total Demand	12,466 KW	11,618 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,108 KWH	2,039 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$187.04	\$186.55
Income Per Mile	\$603.19	\$637.58
Expenses Per Mile	\$570.42	\$588.12
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)...	4.52¢	4.56¢

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.



Schools

Out



watch for kids!
Remember, safety
first this summer!

APRIL 2011 OUTAGE REPORT

<u>Substation</u>	<u>#Meters</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1 George	52	Equipment	04/4/11	1 Hr. 13 Mins.
2 George	4	Storm	04/4/11	1 Hr. 17 Mins.
3 George	6	Planned	04/5/11	1 Hr. 22 Mins.
4 Larchwood	36	Other	04/18/11	33 Mins.
5 Larchwood	2	Equipment	04/23/11	1 Hr. 5 Mins.
6 Larchwood	36	Storm	04/29/11	47 Mins.

What happens to that Pull-the-Plug appliance after you get the check?



So what exactly happens to all the refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners that are picked up by Environmental Services of Iowa?

The appliance collected by ESI will not be reconditioned or resold. All components are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Refrigerant (Freon) is pumped from the appliances into holding tanks. The tanks are shipped to a refrigerant recycler. The amount of refrigerant that can be reused is determined by the purity of the material in the tanks.

Capacitors are removed and if they contain PCBs, they are placed in separate containers for transport to the incinerator. That's the most environmentally friendly means of disposal.

Any **mercury** switches present are removed and again placed in separate containers. The majority of this material is recycled.

Fluorescent bulbs are removed and placed in specially designed holding boxes to prevent breakage during shipping to the recycler. Virtually all parts of these bulbs can be recycled into new bulbs.

Oils are drained and stored for use in recycled oil heaters.

Copper and **aluminum** are separated from the steel and sold as non-ferrous scrap metal.

The **steel** is then compressed into bales and taken to a metal shredder to be recycled into other appliances, car parts, etc.

The process is documented throughout the entire cycle, beginning with paperwork at the pickup site. The pickup serial number is logged into a database when it is delivered to ESI's facility. As the hazardous components are stripped out, the pickup serial number accompanies the tanks of Freon, PCB, and mercury switches as they move on to handling companies in other states. With this process, members could find out exactly when and where the components from their appliances ended up.

How much recyclable material was created by Pull-the-Plug in 2010?

Over 1740 appliances were recycled through Pull-the-Plug in 2010. Aside from the energy savings, REC members kept over **238,500** pounds of recyclable and/or hazardous material from entering landfills and ultimately soil and groundwater!

A breakdown (in pounds) of the totals looks like this:

Mercury: 15.55

Freon: 531

Capacitors: 395

Recycled metals: 237,554

Non-recyclable material: 67,787*



We were very pleased with our first year as partners with the RECs on Pull-the-Plug and 2011 is looking to be even more successful. With your help, we will remove and recycle in even greater numbers of high energy use appliances. Help preserve our natural resources, prevent contamination and get a check – Pull-the-Plug today!

*On average, appliances contain about 15-20% non-recyclable material. Appliances containing refrigerant have a higher percentage of non-recyclable material due to the amount of insulation required. New technology is being developed to allow recyclers to capture more of these materials for recycling in the future.