

Lyon REC News



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SOLAR DECK LIGHTS ADD AMBIENCE, SAVE ENERGY

If you want to skip some wiring and cut the cost of a deck-lighting job, consider mixing solar fixtures in with low-voltage outdoor lamps—or using them instead.

Here are six things to consider before investing in solar lights for your deck or balcony:

1. Manage your expectations for light output. You might think solar lights will glow as brightly as traditional, low-voltage deck lighting, but they don't. One manufacturer estimates that incandescent lights are 10 times brighter. The reason: A limited number of LEDs can fit into the tiny solar collection panel of a post cap solar fixture. The fewer LEDs in the fixture, the dimmer the light.

2. Rely on solar lighting more for ambience than function. Consider solar for soft accent lighting.

3. Don't write off solar fixtures just because your deck is in a shady yard or it's not sunny every day. On a summer night following a bright day, most solar fixtures will stay charged from dusk until dawn, manufacturers estimate. After a cloudy day—or if the fixture is in a shady spot, it might run for six hours instead of all night. For most people, that's long enough.

4. Solar fixtures are simple to install: Screw them onto the railing post, activate the batteries and walk away.

5. Batteries need changing about every three years, manufacturers estimate.

6. You'll pay more per fixture for a solar light than for a typical incandescent lamp, but you'll save on wiring and power supply, so the cost comes out about the same for both.

7. Because solar lighting requires no wiring, it requires no electrician or building permit.



Good Luck
Students in the
2011-2012
School Year!





FTC POSTPONES LIGHTING FACTS LABELS TO JANUARY



New labels that let consumers know all about the light bulbs they're buying will start appearing in January.

The Federal Trade Commission had said it would require the labels to start appearing on light bulb packages in July, but postponed it to give manufacturers more time to comply.

The labels will help consumers choose among traditional incandescent bulbs and more efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

The new labels will appear on the back of each package of light bulbs and will reveal information about the bulb's brightness—measured in “lumens,” how much it will cost to operate the bulb, and whether it contains mercury.

At the same time, the federal government will start to phase out incandescent light bulbs in an effort to encourage consumers to use more energy-efficient lighting.

STAY COOL STAY COOL STAY COOL

JUNE OPERATING STATISTICS

	2010	2011
KWH Purchased	6,828,556	7,868,998
KWH Sold	6,641,642	7,622,866
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.62%	3.85%
Total Demand	13,538 KW	16,586 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,084 KWH	2,016 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$182.93	\$185.03
Income Per Mile	\$616.53	\$715.65
Expenses Per Mile	\$624.95	\$676.54
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)...	4.75¢	5.25¢

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.

NOTHING COMPARES

to the Iowa State Fair
August 11 - 21, 2011.



NOTHING COMPARES

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of your local electric cooperative—the place
for innovation, accountability, integrity and
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Fall planting can save energy next summer

Most of us plant trees and shrubs in the spring, but cool temperatures and lots of rain make fall a good time for planting, too.

Planting shade trees near the windows on the sunny side of your house can block heat and damaging UV sunrays from getting inside during air conditioning season. Evergreens near the house can block the wind and keep it from blowing through windows when you're trying to keep your home warm in winter.

A few tips for fall planting:

- Plant in September and early October to allow enough time for roots to establish before the cold weather stops the tree from growing.
- Start your trees and shrubs in burlap or containers rather than planting their bare roots into the ground in the fall.
- Ask a landscaper or an expert at your garden center which varieties of trees do well when planted in the fall. Some, like red maple, birch, poplars and some oaks do much better when planted in the spring.
- Water plants frequently and thoroughly after planting. They need about an inch of water a week until the ground is frozen.
- Wrap the trunks of young trees with burlap or plastic in late November to protect them from frost, sunburn and animals. Remove the wrap in the spring.
- Spread a thick layer of mulch around newly planted trees so freezing and thawing of the soil won't heave them out of the ground.



Make a fall 'energy checklist'

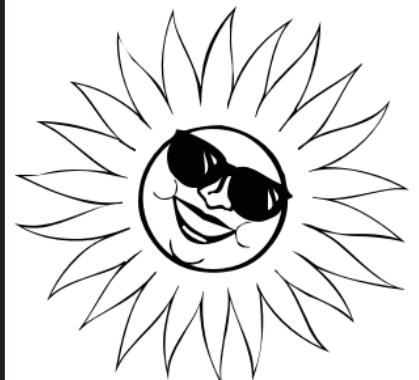
The best time to make sure your house is ready for winter is long before the cold weather arrives.

Here is a fall energy checklist:

- Call a licensed, qualified heating technician to service your furnace or boiler.
- Change the filters in your heating system to ensure air can pass through and your heater will work efficiently during the winter.
- Caulk and weather strip around windows and doors to keep heated air from leaking out through cracks or gaps.
- Have a chimney sweep clean and inspect your wood-burning fireplace before you light the first fire of the season.
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms before you use your gas or wood fireplace. Change their batteries.
- Replace the batteries in your digital or programmable thermostat before heating season begins.
- If you don't have a programmable thermostat, consider having one installed at the time of your heating system inspection. It can help you save energy and money on your heating bill by automatically turning the heat down every day when you leave for work or go to bed.

JUNE 2011 OUTAGE REPORT

<u>Substation</u>	<u>#Meters</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1 George	14	Animal	06/18/11	45 Mins.
2 Larchwood	2	Animal	06/19/11	45 Mins.
3 George	6	Storm	06/20/11	1 Hr. 25 Mins.
4 Rock Rapids	6	Storm	06/26/11	1 Hr. 7 Mins.
5 George	1	Storm	06/26/11	1 Hr. 42 Mins.
6 Little Rock	41	Equip.	06/30/11	50 Mins.
7 Larchwood	45	Fault	06/25/11	5 Hrs. 20 Mins.



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.

Saving water can save energy

The less water you use, the less energy is required to get that water to your home. If it's hot water you're saving, you also could see a dent in the water-heating portion of your energy bill.

Here are seven ways you can save water in your home:

1. Replace your old toilets. If your toilet is from 1992 or earlier, it probably uses 3.5 gallons of water for every flush. Newer models use as little as one gallon. Those that use less than 1.28 gallons per flush—60 percent less than your older toilet—can save a family of four more than \$90 a year on the water bill.
2. Fix leaky faucets. One drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year. Even if you don't see a leak, check your water meter twice over two hours. If the two readings don't match, you probably have a leak.
3. Stop your toilet from running. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day. Here's how to tell if it's leaking: Place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows up in the water in the bowl before you flush, you have a leak.
4. Buy a high-efficiency washing machine. The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load, while high-efficiency models need less than 28 gallons. To save even more, run the washer only when it's full.
5. Take a shower. It takes 70 gallons of water to fill a bathtub, but you'll only use 10 to 25 gallons during a five-minute shower.
6. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth. Two gallons of water flow out of a faucet every minute it's turned on. That's water down the drain if you're letting it run while you brush your teeth. You could save 240 gallons of water a month if you turn off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime.
7. Switch to "drip" irrigation. If you're running a sprinkler system to water your lawn, about half of the water it sprays is "watering" your patio, driveway or street. A drip irrigation system, which literally drips water right on the plant that needs it, uses between 20 percent and 50 percent less water. You could save more than 2,000 gallons of water over the drip irrigation system's lifetime.