

Lyon REC News



February 2012

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.

2012

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA)

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative has used a PCA to adjust its rates to reflect the changes in the cost of the power it purchases from L & O Power Cooperative (L & O). L & O purchases bulk power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). Basin Electric has raised their rates for 2012 early, effective as of October 1, 2011, to L & O, who in turn has increased its rates to Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative. Thanks to the efforts of L & O Power Cooperative offsetting this increase for the three months in 2011, no increase in the PCA was required for 2011. WAPA rates remained the same for 2012.

In the December 2011 newsletter, I provided estimated PCA rates for 2012. The PCA rates for 2012 have been calculated. The PCA rate for regular energy will be \$0.02754 per kWh. The 2011 PCA was \$0.02275 per kWh. The cost for 1,000 kWh will be \$4.79 more in 2012 over 2011 costs. The Base Year or year this calculation is based on was 2006.

The 2012 PCA for dual fuel and electric heat will be \$0.01120 per kWh. The 2011 PCA was \$0.0090 per kWh. The cost for 1,000 kWh will be \$2.20 more in 2012 over 2011 costs for dual fuel and electric heat. The Base Year is 2006.

The 2012 PCA for Casino Resort will be \$0.01356 per kWh. The 2011 PCA was \$0.00440 per kWh. The cost for 1,000 kWh will be \$9.16 more in 2012 over 2011 costs for the Casino Resort. The Base Year is 2010.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

2012 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is coming soon. Contact your high school guidance counselor for more information.

2012

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (EEAC)

In 2010, Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative began collecting an EEAC to implement its Energy Efficiency Program as filed with Iowa Utility Board. This plan was required by legislation passed by the Iowa Legislature. Each year the EEAC will be recalculated by first looking at the amount collected in the previous year (2011) compared with amount paid out for program expenses for that year (2011). The under collection or over collection will be added to or deducted respectively from the estimated expenditures needed to meet the program goals for 2012. Based on these calculations, the 2012 EEAC will be as follows:

Farm and Residential	3.37%
Small Commercial	1.08%
Large Commercial	1.08%
Novartis Animal Health	2.35%
Public Buildings	0.00%
Casino Resort	1.31%
Electric Heat / Dual Fuel	3.37%



Don't fall for 'energy-saving' scams

You can cut your heating bill without investing a dime in equipment or materials.

Lots of companies are advertising expensive home improvements that they claim will save you huge sums on your electric bill. But if you read the fine print, you'll often learn that one product on its own rarely has such power, and that most of them take years—even decades—to deliver the promised savings.

Save your money. It doesn't have to cost you much—or anything—to stay toasty warm indoors this winter and shave a few bucks from your heating costs. Five examples:

- Change your air filter. The filter's job is to collect dust, pet hair and other particles that live in your home's air so they can't get into your furnace and clog it up. But if your filter is covered in particles, air can't get through either, and your furnace needs air to operate properly. If it can't operate properly, it will run too often or too long, and it might leave you feeling cold and tempted to crank up the thermometer. So clean or replace your air filter every few months (more often if you live someplace with dusty or dirty outdoor air). Do the same with your air conditioner's filter in the summer.
- Turn on your ceiling fans—yes, in the winter! Set it to the "winter" or "reverse" setting so the blades create a subtle updraft, which pushes the warm air that naturally rises to the ceiling back down into the room. The fan doesn't actually warm up the room, but it makes the air feel warmer so you'll be more comfortable. And that means you won't reach for the thermostat to crank it up.
- Open the blinds. If it's sunny outside, that natural warmth will radiate into the house through your windows, which means your heating system won't have to work so hard to keep the house comfortable. Close them up when the sun goes down to keep the cold out.
- Get out your caulk gun. A hole or a crack in a wall, window or door sends your cozy, conditioned air right outside—and invites cold outdoor air indoors. Plug them with caulk or weather-stripping. A tip: Hold a lighted candle or stick of incense near a window or door and notice if it sways. If it does, you've got a draft that needs sealing.
- Turn your thermostat down at bedtime. If you set it back 10 degrees for eight hours at a time and do it every night (and reverse it in the summer), you can slash around 10 percent your heating and cooling bills, the Department of Energy estimates. A tip: If you have a programmable thermostat, set it to do this consistently so you won't forget.

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.

Leap Year 2012

FEB

29

** REMINDER **

Beginning in January 2012, we will begin calling members with water heater controls to setup a time to enter the house to change the water heater controller. This is a large task as we will be changing about 900 controllers. This work will be done during our regular working hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office staff will be calling the members to arrange for the house to be open so that our linemen can change the controllers.

We ask for your cooperation and patience as we do this work. The linemen will need to respond to outage calls and may not be able to meet the times setup by the office staff, so please remain flexible with your expectations of when the controller is changed.

Thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding as we undertake this controller change out program.

PLAN YARD WORK AROUND SAFETY

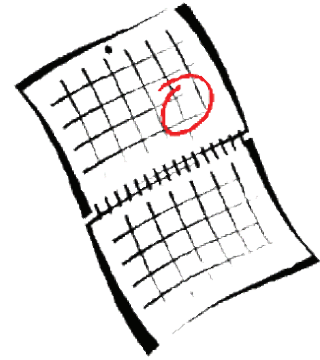
The lure of spring weather means planting, pool cleaning and tree trimming. You'll stay safer if you make it a habit to look up before you begin any kind of work anywhere in your yard.

Accidentally clipping an overhead power line with a ladder, a long-handled pool-cleaning tool or a tall load in the back of your pickup can result in shocks, electrocution or a power outage at your house.

So be aware of where the power lines on and near your property are located--and stay far away from them. Here are five tips:

1. Stay at least 15 feet away from overhead power lines. Don't try to cut tree limbs that are closer than that; call your electric cooperative for help instead. Don't try to sneak a tall load or a ladder under a line if it will come within 15 feet of the line. Find a detour.
2. Same goes if you're working on your roof. You might be up there blowing off a winter's worth of debris, repairing gutters or repositioning your satellite dish. If any of those chores brings you within 15 feet of a power line, call a pro to do the job. It's worth paying someone who is trained and familiar with power line safety.
3. Before you trim limbs or bushes, inspect them on all sides. Power lines are easily hidden by foliage. Know if that's the case before you start climbing or cutting so falling branches don't send a live electrical wire flying in your direction.
4. Before you dig in your yard, make a phone call. Call 811, the national Call Before You Dig number, to learn where underground utility lines--from electrical to cable to natural gas--are buried. Make the call before you plant trees or shrubs, break ground for a new deck or even install a mailbox. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you could harm yourself, disrupt utility service in your neighborhood, or damage buried equipment that you might have to pay for later.
5. When you're tossing a ball around with your kids, or flying a kite or a model airplane, choose a play area free of overhead power lines. And teach your children the dangers of climbing and playing too close to electrical wires.

Mark your calendar for the
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting



on March 19, 2012

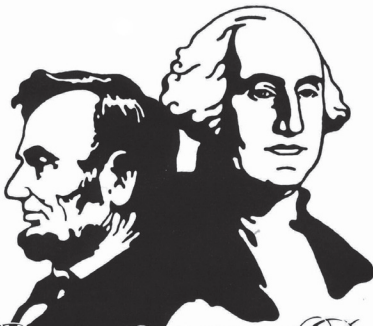
Plan to Attend!!!

DECEMBER OPERATING STATISTICS

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
KWH Purchased	9,237,724	9,608,924
KWH Sold	8,842,410	9,350,256
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	3.52%	3.36%
Total Demand	16,247 KW	17,241 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,042 KWH	2,737 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$244.75	\$234.30
Income Per Mile	\$701.68	\$842.14
Expenses Per Mile	\$697.55	\$782.82
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)...	4.22¢	4.38¢

DECEMBER 2011 OUTAGE REPORT

<u>Substation</u>	<u>#Meters</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1 Larchwood	45	Fault	12/08/11	1 Hrs. 4 Mins.
2 Rock Rapids	15	Planned	12/08/11	26 Mins.
3 Stateline	16	Equip.	12/14/11	1 Hr. 8 Mins.
4 West Lyon	12	Equip.	12/19/11	1 Hr. 35 Mins.
5 Larchwood	74	Fault	12/23/11	1 Hr. 47 Mins.
6 George	48	Fault	12/30/11	1 Hr. 10 Mins.



*P*RESIDENTS *D*AY

February 20, 2012

Spring-clean kitchen appliances

Don't just knock the dust around the kitchen this year while you're doing your spring cleaning. Roll up your sleeves and give your appliances and other electrical equipment a good once-over.

Here's where to start:

Refrigerator. You know when the inside of the fridge needs scouring; you can see it when a bottle of sticky syrup or fruit spills, and you can smell it when the container of leftovers that you pushed to the back has outlived its expiration date. But when's the last time you looked behind or underneath your refrigerator? Ask a friend to help you push your refrigerator away from the wall so you can unplug it and clean the entire floor underneath of it. Then, use a bottle brush or a long, narrow vacuum hose to clean the coils under the unit. Vacuum and scrub the floor and the wall that hides behind the refrigerator before carefully moving it back into place.

Washing machine and dishwasher. They work hard all year to clean your clothes and dishes, but they don't do a good job of cleaning themselves. Mold and mildew can breed in any machine that uses water. Clean your dishwasher with hot, soapy water. Then place a cup of white vinegar on the top rack and run the otherwise empty dishwasher on the hottest setting to wash away grime and odors. To sanitize your washing machine, fill it with hot water until it begins to agitate. Add a few cups of white vinegar and half a cup of baking soda. Turn it off and let the mixture sit for an hour. Turn it back on, let it complete the wash cycle and wipe it down, inside and out, with a damp cloth.

Garbage disposal. To keep your disposal's metal blades sharp, pour a couple of cups of ice cubes and a cup of rock salt or white vinegar into it every now and then. Turn on the cold water and run the disposal for about 10 seconds. Next, plug the sink drain and fill the sink with about four inches of water. Remove the plug and immediately turn on the disposal. This will flush the drain line that whooshes water and debris out of the disposal. Finally, peel an orange, grapefruit or lemon and throw the rind into the disposal while running the cold water. The citrus peels will deodorize your disposal and leave the sink and kitchen smelling fresh.

Springtime a/c check well worth the money

The best way to save on energy expenses this summer might be to pay \$100 or so to have your air conditioning system inspected right now.

A professional HVAC technician will inspect all of the components of your system and let you know if any need repairing so you'll have a heads-up before the cooling season begins and you're stuck without any air conditioning on the hottest day of the summer with an unexpected breakdown.

A note: It's usually cheaper to pay per inspection rather than to sign an annual contract for a/c and heating maintenance.

Either way, paying a pro to maintain your heating and cooling system is worth the money.



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.