

Lyon REC News



May 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.

SAVE ENERGY AND STAY COMFORTABLE THIS SUMMER

Just as you can cut back on driving to save energy, you also can limit the amount of electricity you use at home by cutting waste. Here are nine ways you can reduce your energy consumption this summer without feeling uncomfortable:

1. Replace your old, manual thermostat with an electronic model. New thermostats have automatic settings that can slightly change indoor temperatures at strategic times of the day. For example, you can program your thermostat to move the temperature a little higher right after the family leaves the house in the morning, and to lower it again just before everyone gets home
2. Schedule a tune-up of your air conditioning system. A licensed a/c tech will check the levels of refrigerant in the system and determine whether any of its parts are wearing out or running inefficiently. The better you maintain your system, the less it will cost you to operate it.
3. Close the blinds during the hours when direct sunlight hits your house. The less sun that shines into your home, the cooler it will stay. That means your air conditioning won't need to kick on as often.
4. Run your dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer after dark. Most people do all of that during the day, so demand for electricity soars when they're also running their air conditioners all day. The result: Electricity costs more during those peak hours. Call your electric cooperative to learn if you qualify for special rates for using less electricity during peak daytime hours.
5. Turn off the lights, computer, TV and battery chargers. Don't waste electricity by allowing your appliances to use it when you're not using your appliances.
6. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use less energy, last longer and emit less heat.
7. Air-dry your laundry. Hang clothes outside on a clothesline when the weather is nice. They'll dry quicker and smell better than they do when you dry them in a clothes dryer.
8. Microwave your dinner. A microwave oven uses less energy to cook the same food as the cook top or the oven.
9. Shop smart. If you're replacing any of your home's appliances this summer, choose Energy Star-rated models. They're guaranteed to be more energy-efficient than appliances that don't qualify for the label.

REMEMBER TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!

1-800-292-8989



Give Mom the gift of a clean house

It's easy enough to dust and vacuum and make visible surfaces in the home sparkle and shine. But a surface-cleaned home isn't a truly clean home. Look up and look underneath, and you'll find plenty of built-up dirt, dust and grime.

This Mother's Day, give Mom a gift that she'll really appreciate. Offer to clean the hard-to-reach areas in her home.

Take your mop and sponges to these neglected areas of the home:

Ceilings. Use a step ladder to get as close to the ceiling as possible, and check every corner and crevice for cob webs. If you have a long enough vacuum cleaner attachment, use it to suck the dust and cob webs away.

Ceiling fan blades. The dust up there is probably thick enough to write your name in with your finger. Vacuum your blades with a brush attachment on an extended arm. Don't use water; fans are electric.

Cabinet tops. Nobody sees the tops of Mom's cabinets or the surface of her highest shelves—and so nobody remembers to clean them. Stand on a stool or step ladder and peer downward. You'll see plenty of dust.

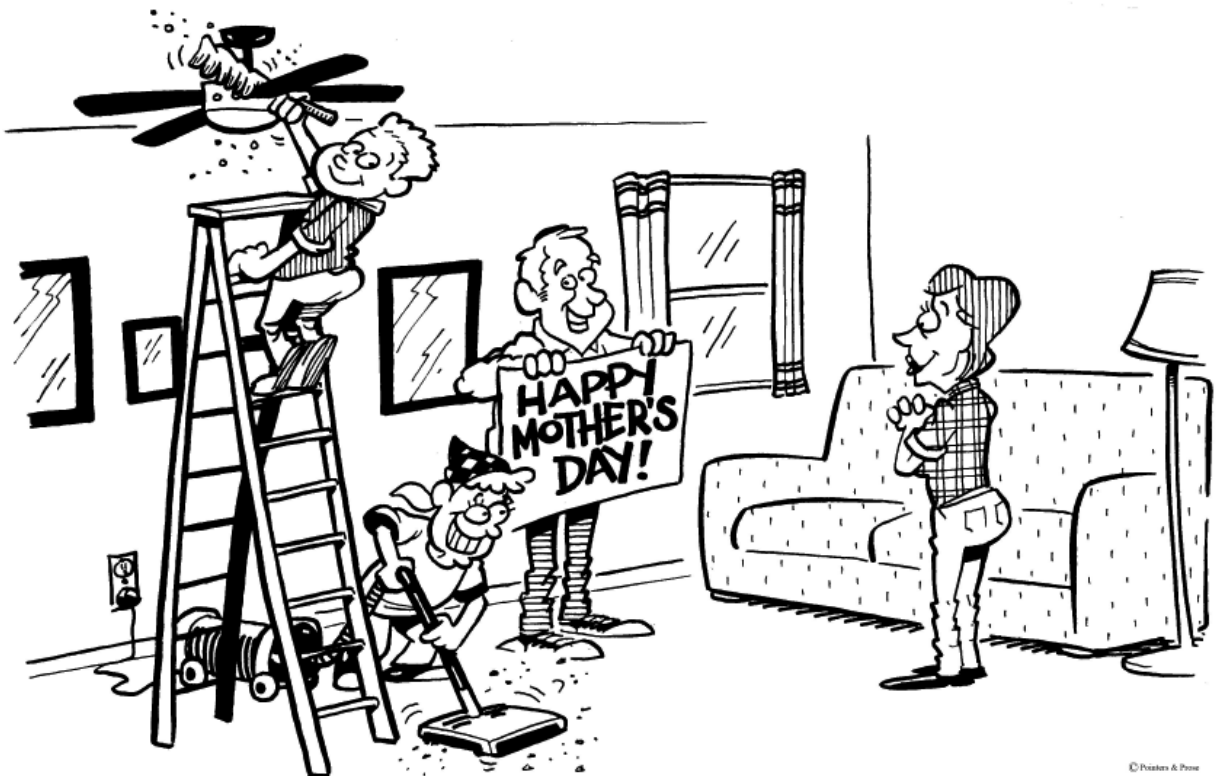
Molding. Mom probably dusts the chair rails because they're at a height that makes them easy to see. But the molding around the top of the walls or over the doorways collects dust that rarely gets removed. Stand on a stool and dust them off for her.

Behind the toilet. Everyone scrubs the bowl and the seat, but does Mom really get on her hands and knees to clean the back of the base and the floor behind it? If not, she could be inviting mold and mildew. Use a stiff broom to sweep behind the toilet and then wipe it down with an antibacterial cleaner.

Under the couch. If you can, recruit someone to help you move the couch so you can vacuum under and behind it. If you're on your own, use a broom handle to fish out anything that's hiding under there and then reach your longest vacuum cleaner attachment underneath to pull away the dust.

Around wires and cables. That tangled mess behind Mom's entertainment center or computer desk is a dust magnet. Unplug everything and clean the cords with a dry dusting cloth every couple of weeks. Use the same cloth to wipe down the computers, stereos and TV sets while you're at it.

Under the kitchen sink. That's home to cleaning supplies—but few people ever clean it. Take it all out, wipe it down with a damp sponge and put everything back.



You can still get a tax credit for energy-efficient home improvements

The 30 percent tax credit for energy-efficient replacement windows, insulation, roofs and other home products expired at the end of 2010, but a new, smaller credit is good through this year.

You can take a credit on your 2011 taxes for the same items, although the amounts are lower. To qualify, you have to have the product installed by Dec. 31, 2011.

The products must meet government-set energy-efficiency standards, which you will find at www.energystar.gov. Here are some of the products that qualify for a 2011 tax credit:

Heating, air conditioning or ventilating fan. Tax credit is \$50 to \$300, depending on the kind of equipment you buy.

Insulation. Credit covers 10 percent of the cost of the product—excluding installation—up to \$500.

Metal and asphalt shingle roofs. Take 10 percent of the cost of the product—excluding installation—up to \$500.

Electric heat pump water heaters. Qualify for a \$300 tax credit.

Windows. Tax credit is for 10 percent of the costs—excluding installation—up to \$200.

MARCH OPERATING STATISTICS

	2010	2011
KWH Purchased	7,987,222	8,126,376
KWH Sold	7,616,343	7,762,743
Percentage of Line Loss		
(Year to Date)	4.11%	3.53%
Total Demand	13,120 KW	15,063 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,568 KWH	2,583 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$216.10	\$223.62
Income Per Mile	\$686.74	\$712.59
Expenses Per Mile	\$631.57	\$753.39
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) ..	4.20¢	4.64¢

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
CLASS OF *2011*
GRADUATES!!!



MARCH 2011 OUTAGE REPORT

Substation	#Meters	Cause	Date	Duration
1 West Lyon	12	Unknown	03/11/11	44 Mins.
2 George	1	Storm	03/20/11	1 Hr. 15 Mins.
3 George	31	Animal	03/20/11	1 Hr. 5 Mins.
4 Rock Rapids	11	Fault	03/23/11	43 Mins.
5 Lester	10	Other	03/24/11	3 Hrs. 50 Mins.
6 George	31	Equipment	03/30/11	1 Hr. 9 Mins.

Automatic Payment

Automatic withdrawal for payment of your electric bill is available.

Contact Lyon REC for details.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR



Appliance Recycle Program

When you bought your new refrigerator, did you put the old one in your basement or garage to use for overflow items and during parties?

You're paying dearly for it if you did.

Older refrigerators and freezers use up to twice the energy of new, energy-efficient models, especially if the new one has an Energy Star label. In fact, it could cost you up to \$100 a year on your electric bill to run that old energy hog.

Plus, using a refrigerator in a garage is even more inefficient. When it's hot outside, it gets really hot in the garage, which probably is not insulated or air conditioned. So your refrigerator has to work overtime to keep cool inside.

The solution: Have your refrigerator hauled away to a place that recycles older models. Buying a small, new unit to handle your overflow will be worth it as it saves money on your electric bill over its life.

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.



Have a safe and fun summer!

New windows might cut your air conditioning bills

You'll know you need new windows when...

...You realize the ones in your house have single panes of glass. You can't even buy those anymore because they're so energy-inefficient. Replace them with double- or triple-pane windows, which will help lower your heating and cooling costs and make your home feel more comfortable.

...You see condensation on the inside of the glass on double- or triple-pane windows. That's usually an indication of a seal failure, which will render the window far less efficient. You might not need to replace the whole window, but you should replace the glass.

... You have trouble opening or closing the window. Windows that are hard to move, won't stay open or are hard to lock need replacing.

... Your house is noisy—from the outside in. If you live near a busy street and can hear every car that passes by, new windows will help solve your problem. Thicker glass keeps out more noise.

