

# Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : [www.lyonrec.coop](http://www.lyonrec.coop)  
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rock Rapids ■ April 2025

## REMINDERS

### Annual Meeting:

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on March 31, 2025 at the Central Lyon High School in Rock Rapids. Approximately 490 people were served at the evening meal that was catered by Tony's Catering. Before the business meeting, Ryan Loomans shared a presentation about his experience traveling to Guatemala to help restore power. Members attending the business meeting were entered into a drawing for numerous prizes and following the meeting they all received a complimentary gift. David DeBoer was reelected for Director of District 6. Rodney Mogler was reelected for Director of District at Large. A big thank you to all who voted and attended the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative annual meeting.



### 2025 Board of Directors

(L to R):

*David Huff (District 7),  
David Griesse (District 4),  
David DeBoer (District 6),  
Allen Poppens (District 1),  
Damon Pedersen (District 5),  
Jesse Roemen (District 2),  
Rodney Mogler (District-At-Large West),  
Jeremy Mulder (District 3), and Nolan Kooiker (District-At-Large East)*

## Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative Board Announces Upcoming Rate Adjustment

At its March 2025 meeting, the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors reviewed results from our most recent cost-of-service study and approved a rate adjustment that will take effect July 1, 2025. This is the first rate adjustment since 2001, 23 ½ years, except for two \$10.00 increases in facility charges and the yearly change in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). This rate adjustment is necessary to ensure that your electric co-op manages financial stability as we maintain the local distribution system to deliver safe, reliable power to you.

One component of the rate adjustment involves the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge. The PCA is a line item on your bill that reflects an adjustment for the actual cost of wholesale power during each billing period—above or below Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative's base rate. Beginning July 1, 2025, 5 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) from the PCA will shift over to the residential base rate per kWh. Effective July 1, 2025, the PCA will be reset to 0 cents per kWh for the rest of 2025. In January 2026 the PCA will be recalculated based on the actual cost of

## Celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day: April 14<sup>th</sup>

Every day, dedicated lineworkers work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our lights on, our homes safe, and our communities connected. They are on the front lines of maintaining, repairing, and upgrading the electrical grid that powers our everyday lives. On April 14th, we have a special opportunity to honor their hard work and unwavering commitment. It's Lineworker Appreciation Day—a day to recognize the critical role these professionals play in our communities.

Lineworkers are the backbone of the electrical industry. Whether it's restoring power after a storm, upgrading aging infrastructure, or ensuring the electrical grid operates safely, lineworkers are always there. They face extreme weather conditions, hazardous environments, and long hours to ensure that electricity flows safely and reliably to homes and businesses.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is

## Rate Adjustment *continued*

power purchased in 2025 compared to the budgeted cost and any increases anticipated in cost of power purchased for 2026.

Additionally, the cost-of-service study indicated that Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative must increase our monthly fixed facility charge per residential/farm account to better recover the costs of infrastructure maintenance and modernization. The cost-of-service study shows that the actual cost for service to each service to be just about \$100.00 per month. It has been the practice of your Cooperative to bill less than the calculated cost for service and this practice will continue with these new rates. Beginning July 1, the monthly facility charge for Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative residential/farm accounts will increase from \$35 per month to \$45 per month. The last facility charge increase was January 1, 2023.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative will also remove the declining block rate pricing effective July 1, which provides lower kWh rates for higher tiers of electric use. Members who use over 1,000 kWh per month will experience an increase in their monthly bill due to this change. Declining block rates have been deemed to be a rate type to encourage more energy use instead of encouraging members to reduce their energy consumption. We will share more details on how removing declining block rates will impact bills in an upcoming newsletter article.

As much as we try to manage our expenses, there are some factors beyond our control that are influencing the need for this rate adjustment. Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative's electric system spans hundreds of miles, connecting our rural communities and ensuring every co-op member has access to safe, reliable power when they need it. Maintaining and upgrading this system is essential to ensuring long-term reliability and strengthening the cooperative's infrastructure for future generations.

Members can control the energy cost portion of their bills by reducing their electric use. We encourage members to take advantage of our energy efficiency rebates for new appliances, electric water heaters and heat pumps, rebates for recycling old appliances and rebates for wall or ceiling insulation to help reduce electric consumption. We also encourage members to sign up for our budget billing program to minimize month-to-month bill fluctuations.

For additional ways to reduce your energy use, please contact us at 712-472-2506.

At Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, we exist to serve you, our members. Every decision we make is focused on providing safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable power. This rate adjustment is necessary so we can continue meeting your needs while maintaining a strong and resilient system. We will share more details about the July 1 rate adjustment in upcoming member newsletters.

## Lineworker Appreciation *continued*



**From left to right: Larry Wibben, Bryan Herum, Patrick Wubben, Dustin Timmerman, Tanner Church, Tony DeSmet, Gavin Johnson and Trevor Koll**

needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative invites all members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do.



Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine August 20-22. In addition, tour the Garrison Dam.

We will depart from Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative August 20 on an air-conditioned charter bus. We will have plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day.

The big tour day is August 21. We will depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the Garrison Dam, power plant and mine. Take an elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather permitting. In the evening, we will enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River.

On August 22 we head back home. We will have frequent rest stops to break up the day. We will return back to Lyon Rural Electric in the early evening.

The cost is only \$150.00 per person. The fee includes the cost of the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat and snack breaks. Lyon Rural Electric shares the tour bus with two other cooperatives so just 15 seats are available. Sign up today or register to win an all expenses paid tour at our annual meeting, March 31. Call Lyon Rural Electric today at 712-472-2506 or 800-658-3976 to reserve your seat!





# Get Your House Ready for Spring

It won't be too long until you can open the windows and start enjoying fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are five items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

1. Call a qualified service technician to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying \$100 or so now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment.
2. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.
3. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.
4. Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old windows.
5. Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.

**APRIL 21-25**

NATIONAL

**WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK**

## Operating Statistics

	FEBRUARY	
	2024	2025
KWH Purchased	10,480,849	11,965,679
KWH Sold	10,157,299	11,534,261
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.43%	3.60%
Total Demand	19,162 KW	23,046 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,171 KWH	3,859 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$352.71	\$426.97
Income Per Mile	\$1,165.74	\$1,330.24
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,150.11	\$1,330.06
Miles Energized	872.86	914
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.27¢	6.70¢

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

# Warm Weather Brings Out Scammers

Your electric cooperative will never send anyone to your house to ask you if you need work done. And when someone does come for a legitimate reason, you'll see a uniform, a truck with the cooperative's logo on it and valid identification.

Springtime is scam season. Don't be surprised if you get telephone calls, uninvited visitors looking for work and loads of door hangers offering landscaping, roofing, painting and home-repair services.

Your best bet: Say no to all of them. If you need work done around your house, visit the website of the state agency responsible for licensing contractors or join a contractor referral network that recommends only contractors who are licensed, insured, bonded and experienced.

A few other tips:

- Be wary of contractors with out-of-state license plates or detachable, magnetic company signs on their trucks. These could be "travelers," who follow the warm weather from state to state and hire themselves out as home-improvement contractors. They're almost always unlicensed in your state, and if you discover a problem with their work later, they'll be long gone.
- Do not pay in cash, and do not pay up front. Instead, work out a payment schedule that allows you to pay in increments as the work is completed.
- Get bids from three reputable companies before you start. If you get one offer that's way lower than the other two, something is probably amiss.
- Don't fall for these two lines: "I just finished a job at your neighbor's house and I'll give you a good price if you hire me today because I'm already in the neighborhood" or "I have leftover materials from a job I just did and I'll sell/install them here for a deep discount because I don't need them."
- Hiring contractors can be expensive. Don't waste your money on one who's not licensed and legitimate.

# Dryer Needs Cleaning Beyond Lint Trap

You probably peel the lint out of your clothes dryer's lint trap after every load of laundry. But that's not enough to keep the appliance from posing a fire hazard for your home.

Add a few more maintenance checks to your laundry-day routine, including:

- Notice how long it takes the dryer to dry your clothes. If they're still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle, or if it's starting to take longer to dry clothes, your lint screen or exhaust duct is probably blocked.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct at least once a year. The duct is the coil that sends the hot dryer air to the outdoors. The vent is the hole where the hot air leaves the house. Both can get clogged with lint and overheat, send dirty, moist air back into your home, or even catch on fire. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.
- Sweep behind your dryer regularly. Lint can accumulate there and also underneath. Move the dryer and clean the back of it. This might be a job for a service technician rather than for a "do-it-yourself"-er.
- If your exhaust duct is plastic or foil, replace it with a rigid or corrugated, semi-rigid metal duct. Plastic and foil are too flexible and trap lint easily. They're also easier to crush, which will prevent air from flowing through to the vent.
- Avoid throwing gasoline-, oil- or chemical-soiled clothes and towels into the dryer. Instead, wash them several times and line-dry them. If you have to use the dryer for them, choose the lowest setting, and remove them the minute the cycle is finished. Even washed-and-dried clothes that have come into contact with volatile chemicals can ignite. Best bet: Consider the clothes ruined and safely dispose of them.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm.

*Source: Utilities United  
Against Scams*



### Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)