

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mammoth Discovery

**Coal Miner Finds
Mammoth Tusk**

Pages 8-9

A Golden Harvest

Pages 12-13

Summer Safety & EPA Updates



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

We have our Annual Meeting recap in this month's newsletter, so please take some time to read about what took place at this year's membership meeting.

Dale Fier, Board President, and I gave a joint report to the membership, and we started the report with a safety message. This is something that we have focused on over the years and will continue to start our report off with a safety message and reminders to stay safe when working with and around electricity.

You will notice that we try to include at least one electrical safety article in our newsletter each month. We do our best to try and time the articles with different activities that are happening when the newsletters are sent out. If you would like more of this type of information, you can visit our website at www.llec.coop and click on the Safe Electricity tab at the top of our home page. The link will take you to the [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) website. Our friends at Safe Electricity have information under their education tab where you can find more tips on working safely around electricity.

With summer activities in full swing, we would like to provide another reminder for everyone to be safe when working around electric lines and electricity. If your project includes digging, please contact 811 and have your underground utilities located. This will allow you to know where the facilities are located and provide you with peace of mind when completing your project.

One other item that gets brought up when the temperature gets warmer, and the air conditioners are running is power supply. This topic has received additional attention this year as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has come up with regulations that will impact how power is generated across the country. As a quick reminder, your cooperative supports an all of the above approach to power generation and feels that baseload power generation is necessary to meet the power needs of our members in a reliable

and affordable way. Let's just say that the new regulations developed by the EPA focus less on reliability and affordability and more on transitioning the country away from baseload fossil fuel generation to carbon dioxide free renewable energy and batteries.

Please don't read the last sentence and think that your cooperative is in any way against the transition to carbon free energy sources. **While we believe in an all of the above energy approach, we also believe that carbon free resources will play a large role in our future power supply.** We want to make sure that the technology is commercially viable and won't result in higher electric bills and less reliable power. The proposed EPA regulations don't provide us with any reassurances that they will provide that focus and therefore, our national trade organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and 27 other states have filed a lawsuit to stop the implementation of the rules.

The lawsuit will take time to go through the courts, so NRECA and the states have asked the courts to stay the rules or put them on hold until court decisions can be made. The last time new rules were introduced, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the rules and ultimately ruled that those rules could not be implemented because of the impact that they would have on the electric industry and Congress did not give the EPA the authority to regulate what they wanted to regulate. NRECA feels that these rules are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable and will continue to work to make sure that any rules focus on affordability and reliability.

We will continue to watch this issue and others that impact our members by working through our power suppliers, statewide and national trade organizations, and with those that are proposing the changes.

Have a safe and fun summer!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

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www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Summer

hours are 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Monday thru Friday

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, 205 W. Hwy. 14, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178. Electric co-op members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tyler Post Office, Tyler, MN 56178 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178; Telephone (507) 247-5505; Toll Free 1-800-927-6276; Fax (507) 247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

Electricity Provides Powerful Value

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, let's take a look at some common daily expenses: A morning latte costs \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink will set you back \$10, and your Netflix subscription is about \$20 each month but the average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. You could brew your own coffee, cook your own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits like allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Lyon-Lincoln Electric does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. Heath Houselog - 1359701. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

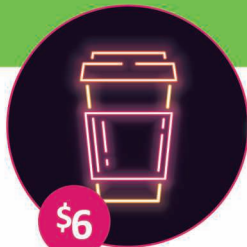
The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Lyon-Lincoln Electric always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

Extreme Heat Preparation

Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
 - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
 - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
 - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

Source: American Red Cross



Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Summer SALADS

MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

Ingredients:

Salad

2 cans diced carrots
1 can green beans
1 can yellow beans
1 small can peas
1 can cut baby corn

Drain all the vegetables

Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper
1 cup diced celery
1 diced medium onion

Dressing

Combine in a saucepan
1/2 cup oil
1 1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/3 cup cider vinegar
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan
and boil until clear*

Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

Debra Clow
Harrisburg, S.D.

FRESH SUMMER SALAD

Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided
1 tbsp. lime juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

Barb Selland
Mitchell, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsps. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

May Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, May 20, 2024. Directors present James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, Mike Longtin, Jared Dritz, Joel Buyck, Galen Grant, and Mary Gunnink. Also present: General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, Brian Jeremiason, Line Superintendent, Lyle Lamote and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending March 31, 2024. The Board reviewed information received from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (East River) concerning the 2024 Capital Credit Retirement, reviewed with the Board the Subscriber's Agreement and Power of Attorney (SAPOA) that had been received from Federated Rural Electric

Insurance Exchange, and was provided an explanation about State Disaster Funds that had been received as a result of the December, 2022 ice storm.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report for the month of April, 2024. He also reviewed with the Board the monthly Safety Meeting which was held on April 29, 2024, by Colton Sanderson from East River concerning the topic of Annual Switchman Training. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen were doing the following work some of which had been completed and some was still in the process: continuing line maintenance activities, performing underground jobs, and changing overhead lines to underground lines in Lyon-Lincoln's service territory.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his report as follows: review solar information and inquiries and informed the board on his involvement in a series of Ransomware Training Sessions through NISC. Some of the key points that are being discussed are the importance of domain security and management, using multiple layers of security and sources of support, having a backup, and utilizing Cloud based storage solutions and having cyber insurance.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his Manager's Report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: the Board reviewed the April power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, and provided a review of upcoming meetings and notices.

The Board reviewed the April 2024 Cyber Security Program Report presented by East River Cyber Security Department dated May 6, 2024. The Board then reviewed The East River monthly video report which included the Basin Summary. Vice-President, Mike Longtin, gave a report concerning the East River monthly board meeting.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, reminded the Board that the 2024 Annual Meeting would be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. Headquarters Building in Tyler, Minnesota. With registration from 5:00 to 6:30 o'clock P.M., dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 o'clock P.M., and a business meeting from 6:45 to 7:45 o'clock P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am.

Beyond opening the box: Take steps to operate a generator safely

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

But first, homework

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Safety tips

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.



installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

When not in use

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Generators can be deadly

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch

WIN MONEY

FIND YOUR NAME & MEMBER #

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Co-op Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Co-op Connections, Jacob Hovey & Christine Krusemark and Michael McInain were listed and will receive an energy credit if they spotted their names and called the office. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energystar.gov



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

Mammoth Discovery

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey



85TH ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

A run through of your Annual Meeting

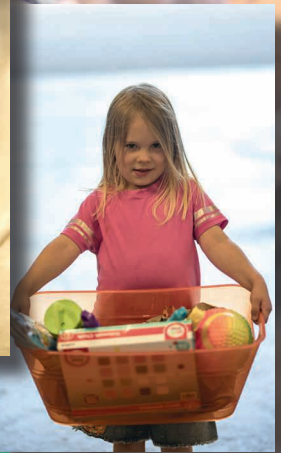
The 85th Annual meeting of the member-owners of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held at the Tyler Headquarters on June 5th, 2024. The evening started off with welcoming our membership to a porkchop dinner prepared by the Lincoln County pork producers and side dishes provided by The Country House in Lake Benton. A bounce house obstacle course was also set up for the children in attendance.

During the business meeting, five members were on the ballot to fill three seats on the board and represent their fellow member-owners in setting policy for the cooperative. This is the most important part of the meeting as it gives an opportunity for members to participate in the democratic process of their cooperative.

In Districts 1, 2, and 3, incumbents Mary Gunnink, Joel Buyck, and Jared Dritz were all re-elected to the board. The cooperative would like to thank District 1 candidate, Jason Piercy and District 3 candidate, Darin Brink, for vying for a board position and being an active cooperative member.

After the election, cooperative staff provided updates of the past year including the cooperative's financial report and discussed initiatives that the cooperative is exploring in the future. Operation RoundUp® and Basin Scholarship winners were then announced. When the meeting concluded, it was time for the popular door prize drawings for children and adults alike. Included in the drawings were a children's bicycle and Summer fun baskets together with electric grills, energy credits, LED yard lights, and numerous gift certificates from our local businesses, just to name a few. Its participation like this that has made us a strong organization for 85 years which will continue to thrive in the future.

Thank you all for attending the annual meeting! Member participation is an important principal of the cooperative business model.



A GOLDEN HARVEST

The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.

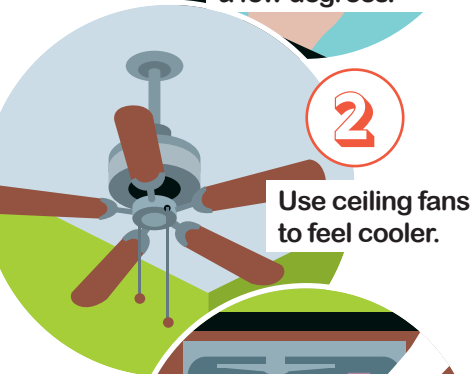


TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.



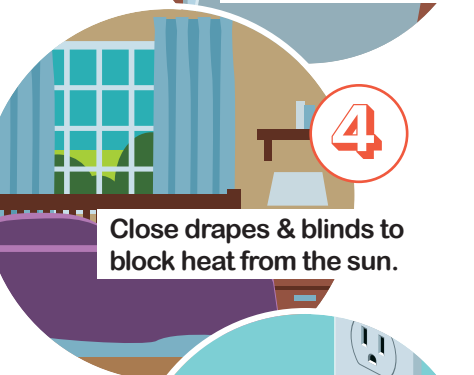
1 Raise the thermostat a few degrees.



2 Use ceiling fans to feel cooler.



3 Avoid using major appliances.



4 Close drapes & blinds to block heat from the sun.



5 Turn off & unplug non-essential electronics and lights.

ENERGY SAVINGS

Watch the Clock to Lock In Energy Savings

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Lyon-Lincoln Electric members stay cool and connected.

August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, Lyon-Lincoln Electric must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production—whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources—and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and re-balance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy—just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, Lyon-Lincoln Electric can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone in our community saves.

Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity.

There are many ways to lower your home energy use. Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.
- Speaking of raising the thermostat, did you know ceiling fans can make you feel 4 degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.
- Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
- Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.
- Close drapes and blinds during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.

When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

MAY OUTAGE REPORT 10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

5/03/24- 117 consumers were off 1 hour 30 minutes in Ash Lake, Loran R. Haas - 765600, and Lake Stay Townships. The cause was broken pole top pins from lightning.

MINNESOTA FARMFEST

August 6-8, 2024
Redwood Falls, MN

*Farm.
Family.
Fun.*



Visit Lyon-Lincoln Electric, along with other Touchstone Energy Co-ops, at Farmfest 2024 & enter for a chance to **WIN A GRAND PRIZE!**

Bring this coupon to booth #2201

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

*MUST be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



METER TAMPERING IS NOT WORTH IT



For your safety, never try to tamper with or pull (remove) a meter. Illegally accessing a meter can result in an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network. Only electric utility crews can properly and safely disconnect a meter. They are trained in safe and proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

A FEW METER FACTS

- Tampering with a meter is illegal in most states.
- Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- Accessing the backside of a meter could generate high voltage. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering. Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or dedicated disconnection point. There is no guarantee that a structure will be deenergized by pulling a meter.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON APRIL 2024

	April- 2023	April- 2024
Total Revenue	\$3,917,754	\$3,631,054
Cost of Power	\$2,035,635	\$2,132,187
Operating Expenses	\$1,531,295	\$1,660,391
Operating Margins	\$350,824	\$(161,524)
KWH's Purchased	38,829,994	34,807,277
Services in Place	4,123	4,124
Miles of Line	1,670	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$2,346	\$2,173

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION FROM A MISPRINT IN THE JULY CONNECTIONS

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON MARCH 2024

	Mar.- 2023	Mar.- 2024
Total Revenue	\$3,100,437	\$2,870,883
Cost of Power	\$1,560,645	\$1,696,607
Operating Expenses	\$1,167,220	\$1,260,878
Operating Margins	\$372,572	\$(86,602)
KWH's Purchased	31,230,623	28,046,978
Services in Place	4,123	4,125
Miles of Line	1,670	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$1,857	\$1,718

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



AUG. 2-11
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD
www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

AUG. 2-4
Arlington Days
Arlington, SD
605-690-5717
Follow Arlington Days, South Dakota on Facebook & Instagram

AUG. 3
Prairie Fest
Armour, SD

AUG. 3
Bloomin' Quilt Party
12-5 p.m.
Bennett Barn
Aurora, SD

AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

AUG. 14-18
Lyon County Fair
Rodeo on Thur. & Fri.
Demo Derby on Sat.
Marshall, MN

AUG. 7
Ag Appreciation Day
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10
Perseid Meteor Shower
Palisades State Park
Garretson, SD

AUG. 10
Camaro Fun Days
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park
Brookings, SD

AUG. 10-11
Fur Trader Days
Geddes, SD
605-680-2160

AUG. 17
6th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race
3 hour race, 10 a.m.
6 hour race, 8 a.m.
Northern Hills Area CASA
Spearfish, SD

AUG. 18
Arlington Car Show
Arlington, SD
605-203-0728

AUG. 20-22
Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

AUG. 22
61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2
South Dakota State Fair
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

SEPT. 8
Homesteader Day
1-4 p.m.
Beaver Creek Nature Area
Valley Springs, SD

SEPT. 14-15
2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival
Delmott, SD

SEPT. 17
EV Expo
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 17
Co-op Month Celebration
Cherry Rock Farms
Brandon, SD

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.