



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LEC Brings Food & Education to Our Members

In July, Lincoln Electric took the party to our communities. We held four community meetings and free barbecues in different areas on our system.

One of the primary reasons for the meetings was education of our members - one of the seven principles of cooperatives. There have been many changes in power supply over the last several years, as well as upcoming issues in the future, that will affect rates - especially rate structure.

However, it was not just education driving the gatherings. Lincoln Electric are

proud supporters of our communities. We donate money to non-profit organizations and fund raisers, administer scholarships funded by unclaimed capital credits, volunteer our time to those causes that mean the most to us.

But in recent history, we have not brought ourselves as a unit out into our communities. These meetings and barbecues were a start to rectifying that oversight.

By getting out and interacting with our members, we help to solidify our concern for community - another one of the seven cooperative

principles. We want to know what our members think. Your feedback is crucial to the continued success of your cooperative.

If you were unable to attend one of the meetings but want to know what was discussed, please continue to check our website at www.lincolnelectric.coop. We are developing a video and information sheet containing what was discussed at the meetings.

We will also continue to

provide you with valuable information right here in the Rural Montana. So keep reading and feel free to contact the office at 406-889-3301, info@lincolnelectric.coop or stop by 312 Osloski Road in Eureka with any questions or concerns.

Thank you to all the members who came out and shared an amazing meal with us! We look forward to seeing you out in our communities again soon.



Community meetings clockwise from top left: West Kootenai, Eureka, Trego, Olney



A Survey in Your Future - Please Help

Please be aware that Lincoln Electric is conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members this fall. This survey asks about your home, your appliances, energy efficiency measures, and your opinions about energy use and related topics. Only a small portion of our residential members will receive a copy of the survey in the mail. If you receive a survey, we ask that you take 10 minutes to complete it and return in the postage-paid envelope provided. We appreciate your help!

In late September, some of you, as members of Lincoln Electric will receive a survey in the mail asking about the specifics of your electricity use. This survey is part of an ongoing effort to help us plan for your future energy needs.

If the survey shows up in your mail, please take a few minutes to fill it out and mail it back. Your timely input will help with decisions regarding power supply and conservation efforts coordinated both at the cooperative level and at the wholesale power supply level.

Lincoln Electric has also included a brief survey for our members. This is to help us evaluate how you, our members, feel we are doing. We want your feedback on where you think we are doing well and the areas in which we can improve.

There are also questions to help us with future communication efforts. With all the new technology advancements, we may be able to utilize different channels of communication, including email and text messages. These would only be used for relaying important information, such as planned outages, meeting announcements, rate

changes, etc. However, before we further research these methods, we would like to know if our members are interested in receiving information from Lincoln Electric in any of these ways.



Manager's Notes
by Ray Ellis

Only a small random number of our residential members are receiving this survey. This makes your response very important to us. Your responses are held in the strictest confidence; you will not be identified in any way. Once the data from all the returned surveys is tallied up, we will report back on what we learn. Please don't hesitate to give us a call at 406-889-3301 or get in touch via email info@lincolnelectric.coop if you have any questions or concerns.

Remember by completing this survey you are helping in Lincoln Electric's goal to ensure a stable supply of electricity at the lowest rates for all our members.

Thanks for your membership,
Ray

News & Views

Published monthly by Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees hold regular meetings monthly at the Eureka office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any items of interest, please contact the general manager prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, September 19, 2016

Board of Trustees

- **Mike Workman** - President, Dist. 5, Koochanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Wesly Loughman** - Vice President, Dist. 4, Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Courtney Pluid** - Secretary, Dist. 3, Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Myra Appel** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Joel Graves** - Dist. 5, Koochanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Tom Klyver** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Marianne Roose** - Dist. 3 - Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Tina Taurman** - Dist. 2, Trego-Stryker
- **Terry Utter** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Ethel White** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains

General Manager Ray Ellis

**In case of power outage:
Always call 406-889-3301**

312 Osloski Road
PO Box 628
Eureka, MT 59917
www.lincolnelectric.coop
info@lincolnelectric.coop

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on July 18, 2016. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Appointed Trustee Joel Graves as the NRECA Voting Delegate for 2016.
- Approved a donation of a \$750 to Kidsville.
- Approved that a loan agreement could be created between LEC and RPS for up to \$175,000.

	Year to Date 06/30/2016	Year to Date 06/30/2015
Year to Date kWh Sales	53,562,414	55,032,455
Year to Date Revenue	\$ 4,860,728	\$ 4,869,586
Year to Date Cost of Power	\$ 2,346,634	\$ 2,402,850
Year to Date Operating Exp	\$ 2,389,927	\$ 2,222,605
Year to Date Margins	\$ 134,261	\$ 260,421
Number of Members	4,451	4,354
Number of Meters	5,763	5,658
Miles of Line	951	946
Total Utility Plant	\$ 32,943,697	\$ 31,901,213
Member Equity	\$ 8,794,032	\$ 8,561,270
June Average Residential Use (kWh)	764	728
June Average Residential Billing	\$90.11	\$87.43

Don't Be Fooled By Common Energy Myths

By Abby Berry

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that

reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting www.togetherwesave.com or calling 406-889-3301.

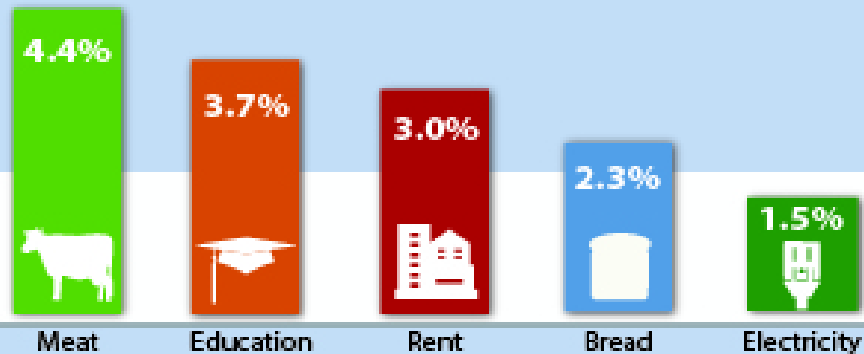
Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

 **Average Annual Price Increase 2010-2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

The World Turns More Energy Efficient

By Paul Wesslund

People aren't just talking about energy efficiency. It's actually happening across the globe – and there is a way to measure it.

It's called energy intensity, and it is calculated by comparing energy consumption to the measure of a country's economic production—its Gross Domestic Product. In other words, energy intensity measures how much energy it takes to produce a dollar of economic activity.

In the past 25 years, energy intensity worldwide has dropped by one-third, says the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA). There can be a lot of reasons for a decline in energy intensity: more efficient lighting options, energy use habits, standards for vehicle fuel economy and building codes, and economies based

more on services and less on industrial production.

“Energy intensity has decreased in nearly all regions of the world,” says EIA, “with reductions in energy intensity occurring both in the more developed economies ... and in the emerging nations.”

EIA predicts energy efficiency will continue to improve.

The agency's International Energy Outlook 2016 forecasts that over the next 28 years studied in the report, world energy intensity will decline almost 2 percent a year, from 5.8 thousand British Thermal Units of energy for each dollar of Gross Domestic Product in 2012, to 3.5 by 2040.

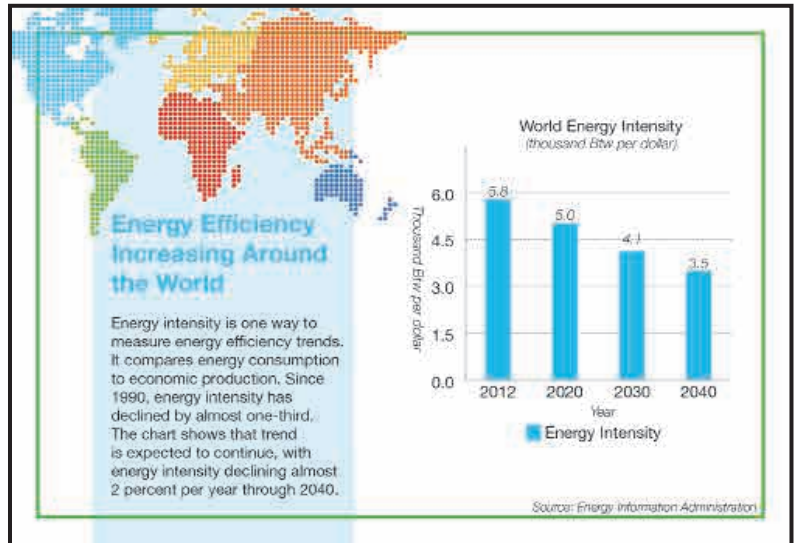
According to EIA, more

economically developed countries tend to have lower energy intensities because they “have transitioned from relying on energy-intensive manufacturing to using more services-based economic activities which are less energy intensive.”

EIA says that in 2015, developed economies used 12

percent less energy per dollar than developing countries.

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign!
Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.
Their jobs are dangerous enough – help us keep them safe!

AMERICAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES