



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Get smart about home lighting

By **ABBY BERRY** | For Lincoln Electric

GONE are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Energy efficient

Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Convenience, control

Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, such as Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Personalize lighting

Bright, warm, purple, green – whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the

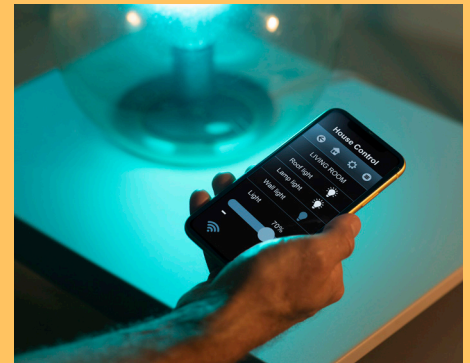


perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. This is to ensure the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge



Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, such as Amazon Alexa. | **PHOTO BY FREEPIK.COM**

and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, such as the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option, and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping! **RM**



Education, training and information

I would be remiss if I didn't wish you all a safe and happy summer. Our communities are bustling with visitors and people are busy with summer work in preparation for winter. But I hope you don't forget to take advantage of all the great recreation we have in our special corner of the world. Your member-owned cooperative is busy with system maintenance and connecting to new services this time of year. I hope you can make the most of your summer.

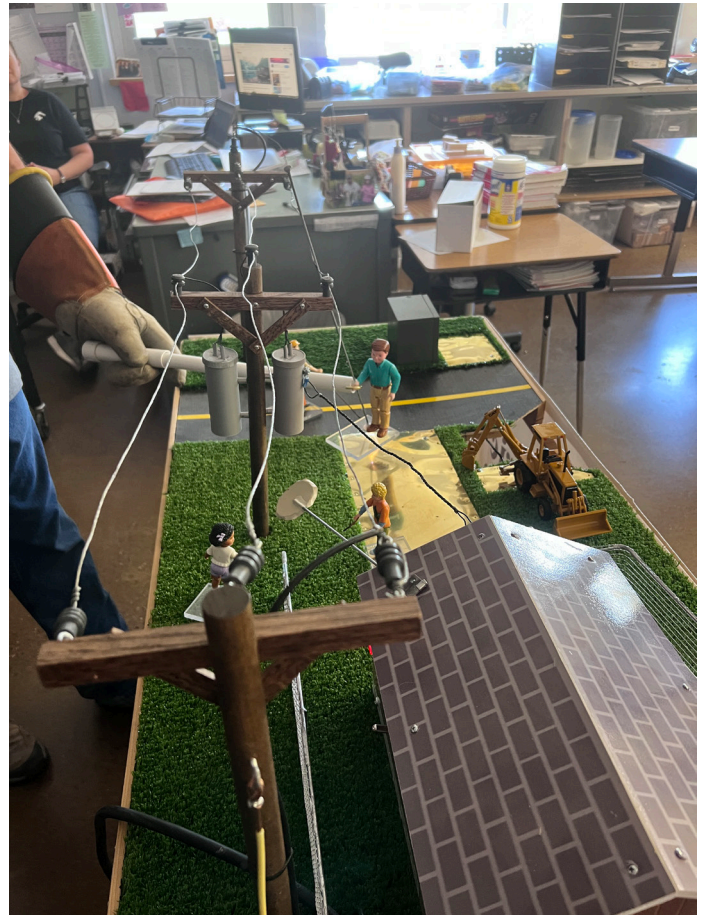


**Manager's Notes
by Telly Stanger**

Cooperatives all strive to follow the Seven Cooperative Principles. With school right around the corner, I wanted to talk about Cooperative Principle number five, Education, Training and Information. At Lincoln Electric Cooperative (LEC), training and education is highly important to our success as your member-owned cooperative. In an ever-changing industry, it is imperative our employees are trained using the latest information needed to do their jobs at the highest possible level. Our linemen continually attend trainings as refreshers on how to do their work safely and effectively. Our office staff stay abreast of new technologies and methods to help them improve our processes and offerings – ultimately helping you.

Your democratically elected trustees attend trainings held by institutions such as our national trade organization National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and LEC's finance organization, the National Rural utili-

See MANAGER'S NOTES, next page



Lincoln Electric's manager of safety performs an electrical safety demonstration for Eureka Junior High fifth graders. | LINCOLN ELECTRIC PHOTO

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tina Taurman
President

Becky Evins
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Rick Peterson
Marianne Roose
Ethel White

Telly Stanger
General Manager

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees holds regular monthly meetings at the boardroom in the cooperative office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. 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, AUGUST 21, 2023



**Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2023	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2022
kWh SALES	63,491,412	61,177,935
REVENUE	\$6,046,548	\$5,792,347
COST OF POWER	\$2,581,656	\$2,939,179
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$2,057,828	\$1,786,154
MARGINS	\$755,787	\$390,426
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,133	5,011
NUMBER OF METERS	6,452	6,426
MILES OF LINE	1,006	996
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$38,857,291	\$37,384,156
MEMBER EQUITY	\$13,850,648	\$12,443,444
MAY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	861	1,099
MAY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$116.37	\$124.40

Manager's Notes

Continued from page 5

ties Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), just to name a couple. They bring home new ideas from other utilities and discuss if these innovations could work to benefit LEC and our members.

Cooperative Principle Five does not only apply to how we run your cooperative, but also extends into educating our members and students in our communities. Near the end of the school year, LEC staff held an electrical safety demonstration at Eureka Junior High. We also attended lunch at Eureka Elementary and discussed electrical safety with the younger students. We do our best to continuously inform our members on our programs, rates and procedures through various media channels. As always, LEC will continue to seek ways to educate our membership.

This coming fall, you will see LEC employees in the

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on June 26, 2023. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved the member count by trustee district.
- Approved a donation report form to be sent with donation funds.
- Approved changes to Policies 204 – Qualifications for Trustees, 205 – Oath of Office, 209 – Legal Representation and Use of Attorneys, 211 – Conflict of Interest, and 212 – Code of Ethics.
- Approved the review of Policies 213 – Subsidiary Board Appointments and 418 – Capitalization Guidelines.
- Authorized the submission of verbiage to legal for review for a potential bylaws change proposal to eliminate the need for a mail-in ballot for an uncontested election.
- Approved sponsoring a hole at two Chamber of Commerce golf tournaments.
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 in unclaimed capital credits to the Lincoln County Library Foundation.
- Accepted the resignation of trustee Mike Garner from the LEC Board of Trustees.
- Appointed Sandi Mason the LEC Board of Trustees Secretary/Treasurer.

community at football and volleyball games. We plan to use these opportunities to answer your questions and get involved with the school. It will be a great opportunity for you, our members, to make sure you understand what we are doing for the membership and what to be watching for, specifically with LEC's rates. I would encourage you to stop by, say hi and ask your questions.

Your Board of Trustees and Management of LEC take training and education seriously, and will continue to educate our employees and trustees. We will also look for additional opportunities to educate our membership now, and in the future. RM

Telly



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counter-clockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS

DID you know that as a co-op, Lincoln Electric Cooperative operates a little differently than other utilities? Our decisions are made locally, by trustees who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, such as our annual meeting and member appreciation event, so we can hear from you. We conduct routine surveys to gather your feedback on co-op programs and

services so that we can plan and adjust for the future.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.


- Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy – and supply chain issues – throw at us.

- Lincoln Electric continues to strive to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our free energy audit program, as well as efficiency and propane appliance rebates.

If you want to receive important

information from Lincoln Electric, such as power restoration updates and tree-trimming crew alerts, sign up for our text message notifications through SmartHub. You can also stay in the know through our website, monthly newsletter and Facebook.

Please know that you – the members of Lincoln Electric – are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. 

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

THESE ARE THE WORDS WE LIVE BY



1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.



6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.ELECTRIC.COOP