



# news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON

## ARE YOU?

**N**ow that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but we want you to know that Lincoln Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

### Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

- In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when

power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

- Listen to local news or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Lincoln Electric's Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

- After the storm, avoid downed powerlines and walking through flooded areas where powerlines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.


See **STORMS**, next page

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE APRIL 2024	YEAR TO DATE APRIL 2023
KWh SALES	57,455,033	56,231,540
REVENUE	\$5,558,749	\$5,130,590
COST OF POWER	\$2,721,081	\$2,331,351
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$1,740,306	\$1,674,979
MARGINS	\$525,046	\$612,543
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,225	5,111
NUMBER OF METERS	6,614	6,443
MILES OF LINE	1,016	1,005
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$39,938,010	\$38,706,464
MEMBER EQUITY	\$14,976,838	\$13,721,169
APRIL AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,268	1,345
APRIL AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$149.23	\$145.02

# STORMS

*Continued from previous page*

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and like our Facebook page to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Lincoln Electric, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. 

## BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

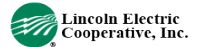
The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on May 20. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved the ratification of an email vote to approve labor donation for the Lion's Club park.
- Approved the hire of Matthew Quinn as LEC's general manager.
- Approved Resolution 2024-7, assigning Matthew Quinn as a Director of PNGC and 2024-8, assigning Matthew Quinn as the designated PNGC membership representative, and Tina Taurman as the alternate.
- Approved Resolutions 2024-9 through 2024-14 to assign check signers on the checking accounts held at Glacier Bank.
- Approved a \$3,000 donation to Kidsville.
- Approved a \$500 donation to Heritage Days.
- Approved a line upgrade donation request to Moose Horn Club (Pinkham Schoolhouse).
- Approved a letter of resignation from Becky Evins, Trustee - District 6.
- Approved various travel for board education.
- Approved Marianne Roose as the voting delegate for CFC and NSCS, with Sandi Mason as the alternate.

**PLANNED POWER OUTAGE FOR MEMBERS NORTH OF DICKEY LAKE**  
INCLUDING TREGO, FORTINE, EUREKA, REXFORD, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**POWER OFF AT 10:00 PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 AND BACK ON BY 4:00 AM THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024**

Outage required for our power supplier, Bonneville Power Administration, to perform critical maintenance.



**MEMBERS SOUTH OF DICKEY LAKE**  
INCLUDING STRYKER, OLNEY, WHITEFISH, AND SURROUNDING AREAS, WILL HAVE TWO FIVE MINUTE INTERRUPTIONS ONE AT THE START & ONE AT THE END OF THE OUTAGE

### LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### CONTACT

1-406-889-3301  
info@lincolnelectric.coop  
www.lincolnelectric.coop  
Secure Payments: 1-833-890-6258

#### ALWAYS REPORT OUTAGES TO:

1-406-889-3301

#### OFFICE

312 Osloski Road  
PO BOX 628  
Eureka, Montana 59917

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tina Taurman  
President

Joel Graves  
Vice President

Sandi Mason  
Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel  
Rodney Kane  
Rick Peterson  
David Purdy  
Marianne Roose

Matthew Quinn  
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:**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2024**



**Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

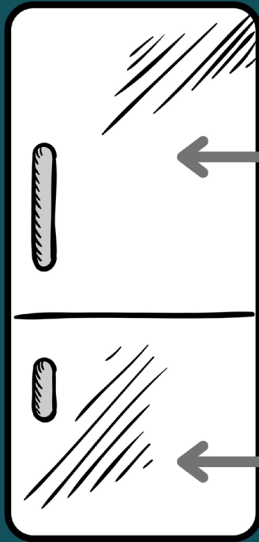
**HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?**

**SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:**  
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

# Keep Food Safe

## During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4  
Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48  
Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

### Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

### When in doubt, throw it out!



## Keep Food Safe during power outages

**S**evere winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food-safety measures to take to avoid illness.

Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

### Before an outage

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items such as bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice

— just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

### During an outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless *absolutely* necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

### After an outage


If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have

an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40-plus degrees:

- Hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- Butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- Taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- Peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/) food. 

# A Full House of Energy Savings

## ATTIC

In many homes, attic insulation is one of the easiest, least expensive and most effective ways to reduce your energy use. Contact us to find out how much insulation is right for your home. In colder regions, a properly insulated attic also reduces the chance of ice dams.

## DEN/OFFICE

Plug all electronic gadgets such as phone and laptop chargers, printers, gaming consoles and BluRay players into a power strip with an on/off switch. When not in use, turn the power strip off to eliminate all those energy vampires.



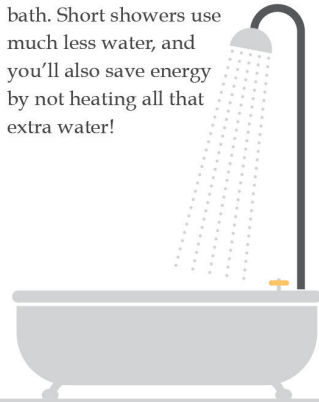
## BEDROOM

Ceiling fans can help save energy all year long! In the summer, fans should rotate counter clockwise to push air down creating a cooling flow. In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise to help draw cool air up toward the ceiling and push the warm air that naturally rises down to you and your family.



## BATHROOM

Take a short shower instead of a bath. Short showers use much less water, and you'll also save energy by not heating all that extra water!



## LIVING ROOM

Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.



## KITCHEN

Make sure your burner isn't bigger than the pan, and use flat-bottomed pans to maximize surface contact with the burner. Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.



***Want to learn about additional ways to save energy?  
Contact us for more energy efficiency tips!***