



LEWIS COUNTY REC

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Lewistown, Missouri 63452

www.lewiscountyrec.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2023

From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services



February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a

particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card. So, in that vein, I've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Lewis County REC.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable energy. Simply put, Lewis County REC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1936 to bring power to rural Northeast Missouri when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to give back to our community through donations made with our round up program through the Lewis County REC

Cares Foundation. When you choose to round up your bill to the nearest whole dollar it makes a huge impact on the amount of money that can be donated back to community organizations that help the greater good.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Lewis County REC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.

5. You and other Lewis County REC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. Here's hoping that Mother Nature takes it easy on us this month and that you all have a healthy, happy, and safe February!! And guys, now is the time to get out and get that Valentine's Day gift bought to keep peace in your homes. Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Lewis County REC.

Mark your calendars for
Lewis County REC's 85th Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 3, 2023 at
Lewis County REC's office, Lewistown, MO.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Take control of your electric bill by putting energy wasters to sleep. When you're all done with your electronics for the night, cut power to devices that are using energy even when they're off. These include chargers, TVs, Wi-Fi routers and some appliances. Plug them into advanced power strips or smart plugs for automatic savings.

Secret Energy Wasters

Cell-phone chargers, iPods, remote-controlled televisions, and DVD players gobble up energy even when they are turned off.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program, 15 percent of the average home's energy use goes to power home electronics. A whopping 40 percent of the electricity used by those appliances is used when they are idle. A computer left on night and day eats as much electricity as an efficient refrigerator – 70 to 250 watts each day.

Nationally, the amount of electricity used to power our home electronics every day in "off" mode equals the output of 17 generations plants. Americans spend \$1 billion a year to power TVs and VCRs while they are off. Big screen TVs are the worst offenders of gobbling up 30 kWhs daily when turned off, using power to maintain features like the clock and channel settings.

So what can consumers do, short of running around the house unplugging things every morning and night and reprogramming electronics every time they use them?

- Unplug cell phone chargers and other adapters when they are not in use.
- Consider unplugging spare appliances, such as extra that extra refrigerator in the garage that is only used at the holidays, or that clock and television in the spare bedroom.
- Purchase Energy-Star products when it's time to replace appliances and electronics.
- The Federal Government is moving in the direction of setting industry-wide standards that require manufactures to produce more energy-smart products.

Rebates

Lewis County REC offers rebates to their members on:

Electric Vehicles: \$1,000 rebate toward the purchase of a 2020, 2021, or 2022

Electric Vehicle Home Charging Stations: \$500 bill credit for a Level 2 Charger

Electric Water Heaters: \$250 bill credit

Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$750 per ton rebate (New Installation Only)

Air to Air Heat Pumps: \$200 per ton rebate

Dual Fuel Heat Pumps: \$150 per ton rebate

For more information, contact Travis, 573-215-4000.

Take a minute for a safety checkup

Electrical hazards often go unnoticed until it's too late and problems occur. Take a minute to follow these tips:

- Check every outlet for loose-fitting plugs or broken wall covers.
- Check cords on appliances. Look for cracks, frayed wires and broken plugs.
- Extension cords are for temporary use. If you need to use one because you don't have a nearby outlet, have one installed by a professional electrician.
- If an appliance or tool trips a circuit breaker, stop using it until the problem has been repaired.



TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

**CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485
(LOCAL) 215-4000 24 HOURS A DAY**

Before calling, check your breakers or fuses and check with your neighbors to see if they have power

When calling please give the following information:

Your name • Meter number and/or location number (if known)

Cell Phone or Telephone Number affiliated with the account

CALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30-4:00)

FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES