



From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

Today's members want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many members are looking for the most economical way to power their home, while other members are looking for green energy sources. In both situations we are here to help. Our energy supplier, Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI), does an excellent job providing power from a number of sources. AECI uses coal, natural gas, hydro, and wind. If you would like to assure that your power is coming from a green source you can contact our office and we can sign you up for our green energy program. Members can purchase green energy from us for an additional monthly charge. If you are interested or have any questions simply call the office and we would be glad to help you.

The interest in solar power in our area is at an all-time high. Many of you may have been contacted by a solar dealer trying to sell you solar panels at your farm, home, or business. This is being driven by the rich financial incentive programs in our surrounding states. Be sure to make sure when you are talking to these sales people that they are quoting you the prices for Missouri residents and not Iowa. There are currently a number of solar dealers targeting clients in Northeast Missouri using the sales pitch, "You will never have to pay your electric provider again." This is a false statement. According to current Missouri Statute your utility will always bill you for your service availability and security lights, therefore, you will still have a monthly bill from your utility. Missouri currently does NOT offer incentives like our neighboring states do, which can have a major effect on the bottom-line price that you pay for a solar system. I want to caution you on the financing options offered by these companies as well. I have seen companies offering low interest up front, no money down, financing options for solar, but when you read the fine print after 24 months the financing will jump as high as 25% APR.

If you are thinking about solar, please, give me a call and let me talk to you about our net metering agreement and policy. Unlike the solar company that has one objective - to sell their products and services - we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine if solar is right for you. Members must have a net metering agreement in place with Lewis County REC, prior to installation of an alternative energy source. When assessing solar options, it is an excellent time to examine other potential ways to increase the energy efficiency of your farm, home, or business. It is a perfect time to assess the entire energy use puzzle and take a look at insulation, HVAC systems, etc. Lewis County REC recognizes that member interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their options. If I can help you in any way give me a call at the office 573-215-4000.



MEMORIAL DAY

IN HONOR OF OUR HEROES

***Our office will be closed on
Memorial Day May 31st.***

SAFETY FIRST!

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and now is a good time to take a look at your electric wiring to ensure it is up to today's standards. A lot has changed over the years, and there is a good chance your wiring has not kept up. Contact an electrician to have your home inspected soon.



Net metering 101: What cooperative members should know



Missouri's net metering act requires retail electric suppliers to make net metering available to customers who have their own electric generation units that meet certain criteria, one of which is that the unit is powered by renewable energy resources.

Net metering is where the customer gets credit for the electricity he/she generates in lieu of electricity supplied by the electric utility. Net metering provides the best of both worlds for consumers who choose to invest in renewable energy technology: they have the security of grid connection, but are also compensated for the excess power they produce that's fed into the grid.

Lewis County REC has a net-metering agree-

ment for interconnection of a distributed generation source. Our policy, agreement and application reflect the standards set by the Net-Metering and Easy Connect Act (ECA).

Net metering is available to customers on a first-come, first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of the net-metering systems equals 5 percent of the utility's single-hour peak load during the previous year.

Simple interconnection procedures that standardize interconnection for all Missourians are necessary to promote the use of renewable energy in Missouri. The ECA makes it easier and more cost-effective for Missourians to connect small renewable energy systems to the grid.

Lewis County REC supports sound renewable energy. We just ask that our members do their homework before spending thousands of dollars to add solar, wind or any type of renewable energy source to their home. For more information, please contact the cooperative at 573-215-4000.



**Mark your calendars
for Lewis County
REC's 84th Annual
Meeting Thursday,
August 5, 2021 at
Lewis County REC's
office, Lewistown, MO.
A Hybrid meeting will
be offered this year.**



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Don't let your lights and appliances add heat to your home. On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside. Install efficient lighting that runs cooler. Only about 10 % to 15 % of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485
(LOCAL) 215-4000

24 HOURS A DAY

CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER
DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES

Before calling:

- Check your breakers or fuses
- 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