



## From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

The season of thankfulness is upon us again. 2020 has been a whirlwind adventure for all of us with many of us having to adapt to a continually changing environment. This year, more than ever before, we all need to reflect back on the abundance of blessing in our lives. Here at Lewis County REC we have tried to roll with the punches as they have come along and make the changes that we needed to make to ensure the safety and health of our employees, their families, and you our member/owners. During this season of thanks, I would like to thank you for your membership in Lewis County REC and the patients you have had with us as we have had to make changes during this past year. Lewis County REC is your cooperative and we strive everyday to improve the lives of our member/owners and the communities that we all live in. At Lewis County REC we are thankful for each of you and your families.



I am thankful for our cooperative employees, who many times are out in all types of weather, working diligently to assure that when you flip the switch your lights come on. This past year not only have they worked hard to keep your lights on, but have also taken time away from their families to help out other cooperatives in both Iowa and Louisiana, after storms left thousands of cooperative members without power. To those that both traveled to other states, and those that stayed here to fill the void of their absence, we are thankful for all of you and the sacrifices you have made. As you sit around your table on Thanksgiving remember these individuals. If they get a call in the middle of their Thanksgiving meal that you are out of power, they will leave the table and their families and jump into action to assure that you and your family have power to enjoy your holiday celebrations. From working on the line, to answering your outage calls, our employees go above and beyond to serve our member/owners and we are thankful for each and every one of them.

During this month of giving thanks, I would like to thank each and every person that has served our country in the military both here and abroad. We honor each of you this month on Veteran's Day. I challenge each of you to take time out to stop and thank a Veteran for their service this month. We honor each and every one of you, not only on November 11th, but each and every day of the year. Thank you for serving our Country.

This year more than ever before, family has come back to forefront in many households. My wife and sons help keep me in line and remind me everyday how blessed I truly am. As long as we are all healthy and together, we are truly rich. As you sit around your table this Thanksgiving take time to appreciate your countless blessings, as well as, the blessings that are sitting around that table with you. May this season of Thanksgiving bring love to your hearts, health to your bodies, and peace and joy to your homes.

# SAFETY FIRST!

Space heaters can take the chill off of a seldom-used room, but should never be your first choice for home heating. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away. Plug directly into the outlet. Never leave a space heater unattended. You can find more electrical safety tips online at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

- Here's some tips to save on those winter heating bills:
- Take advantage of the sun. On sunny winter days, open curtain and drapes on south-facing windows, and close them at night.
  - Cover drafty windows with tight-fitting drapes, plastic sheeting or storm windows to keep the cold air out.

**We will be closed on November 11th  
in observance of Veteran's Day.**

**We will be closed on November 26th and 27th  
in observance of Thanksgiving.**

## Scholarship Information

1. This is a \$1,000 Scholarship to be paid upon enrollment directly to the school.
2. The applicant must be a senior graduating from a school in Lewis County REC's coverage territory.
  - a. Two scholarships will be awarded in the coverage area of Clark/Scotland County, two in the coverage area of Knox/Shelby/Adair County, and two in the coverage area of Lewis/Marion County.
3. The applicant's parent or legal guardian's primary residence must be connected to Lewis County REC and the parent or legal guardian must have a membership in their name.
4. The applicant must attend an accredited institution of higher learning including Vocational School, Technical School, Junior College, or University.
5. The applicant must write a one page essay concerning their post-secondary goals and how those goals directly relate to their field of study or career and explain how this scholarship will help them achieve those goals.
  - a. Lewis County REC Scholarship Selection Committee will make all of the final decisions on recipients of the scholarships based upon the completion of the scholarship application, essay, and high school transcripts.
6. The completed application, essay (typed), and high school transcript must be delivered or postmarked by January 22, 2021. The official completed application (attached), high school transcript, and essay constitute application.
7. Relatives of the Board of Directors or employees as defined in the By-Laws will not be eligible.
8. The applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of Lewis County REC.

Questions or correspondence may be directed to:

Lewis County REC  
Travis L. Mathes  
PO Box 68  
Lewistown, MO 63452  
573-215-4000

## Lewis County REC Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

### Contest Rules

1. Eligibility:
  - A. A high school student enrolled in the 11th year (junior) in high school at Lewis County C-1, Canton R-5, Knox County R-1, Heartland Christian Academy, Clark County R-1 or home school equivalent are all eligible. Students from other schools are eligible if their parents or legal guardians are members of Lewis County REC.
  - B. Students may participate in only one REC Youth Tour Contest.
  - C. The student may not be an immediate family member of a Director or Employee of Lewis County REC.
  - D. The student must complete the information forms supplied to them and turn them in to their English instructor, or mail them to arrive no later than December 22, 2020.
2. Sequence of events leading to final determination of the winner:
  - A. Student receives an information packet from participating school or Lewis County REC.
  - B. Student writes an essay of not over 500 words on the topic "Electricity and Life". Essays must include a title page with the entrant's name, school, and teacher's name.
3. The winning essay will be determined based upon points accumulated in the following areas:
  1. Originality/Creativity 35 points
  2. Composition 25 points
  3. Grammar 20 points
  4. Neatness 20 points

The decision of the Judges is final. Individual results of the judging will not be disclosed.

### Contest Awards - 2021

A. WINNERS YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C. - Five delegates, one from Lewis County C-1, one from Canton R-V, one from Clark County R-1, one from Knox County R-1, and one from Heartland Christian Academy will be attending this conference all expenses paid. The all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, will be held June 15-19, 2021.

For more information contact:  
Travis Mathes  
Lewis County REC  
1-573-215-4000

## Lewis County REC CYCLE Conference

(Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience)

### CONTEST RULES

1. Eligibility:
  - E. A high school student enrolled as a sophomore in a high school or home school equivalent.
  - F. Students may participate in only one CYCLE Contest.
  - G. The student may not be an immediate family member of a Director or Employee of Lewis County REC.
2. Sequence of events leading to final determination of the winner:
  - C. The student must provide a list of personal accomplishments and write an essay of 500 words or less on why they feel they should be chosen to attend this conference.
  - D. The student must turn these items in to their Guidance Counselor, or to Lewis County REC to arrive no later than December 22, 2021.
  - E. Students will be judged both on the essay and items listed on the personal accomplishment forms. A total of 50 points are possible on the essay and a total of 50 points are possible from rating items on the personal accomplishment form.
  - F. Decisions of the judges are final and individual scoring will not be disclosed.

### 3. Contest Awards: COOPERATIVE YOUTH CONFERENCE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

July 21-23, 2021 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Five delegates, one from Lewis County C-1, one from Canton R-V, one from Clark County R-1, one from Knox County R-1, and one from Heartland Christian Academy will be attending this conference all expenses paid.

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PO Box 68  
Lewistown, MO 63452

# Electric Tankless Water Heaters

When you first look at an electric tankless water heater, it would appear that it is a win-win situation for the member and for the cooperative. The consumer only pays for electricity when hot water is used and the cooperative only supplies power when electricity is needed to heat the water when used. But if we look into whole house tankless water heaters (TWH) a little further, we see that they are actually a lose-lose situation.

There is no doubt that a whole house TWH will reduce the standby losses of a tank water heater. Standby losses are when a tank of water loses heat through its side walls and through its bottom. According to the National Food and Energy Council, standby losses account for 10-15% of total energy use of a tank water heater. That equates to \$2.70-\$4.00 every month in savings. So over a 1 year period, you would save no more than about \$50 by installing a TWH.

In a whole house unit, you will not reduce your line losses. Line loss is the heat lost in the water line between the tank and the point of use like the faucet. For a TWH to serve a whole house, it would have to be centrally located in the house about the same place a tank water heater would be located. So the line losses would stay the same.

So those are the savings, now we will talk about some of the costs. Many of the whole house TWH requires (4) double pole 30 amp breakers in your electrical panel. So a

200 amp service to your residence is a minimum. Depending on the size of the house and if it is all electric, a 200 amp service may not be large enough. You would have to contact an engineer at the cooperative to determine if a larger service would be required. If a service upgrade is required, you will have extra costs from electricians performing the work as well as additional costs from the cooperative. The cost of TWH themselves are more expensive than tank heaters. The cost on installing them may also be more expensive from the contractor. According to Consumer Reports, TWH's can cost an extra \$1,300 to buy, install and maintain. So your savings of \$50 per year for a TWH vs. a tank heater will take more than 25 years to pay back. (Most manufacturers offer a 3 or 10 year warranty on the heat exchangers in these units.)

There are a few other considerations you may want to look at when comparing TWH to a tank heater. Your tank water heater is not only a heater but it is also a storage tank in case of emergency. You always have 40-50 gallons of hot water in storage in case of emergency or in case of a power outage. With a TWH, if you do not have power, you will not have hot water. Another big consideration is sediment in your water. Your tank is a settling point for calcium in your water. With a TWH, the sediments flow through it to your appliances like your dish washer, shower heads, faucets and washing machines. This in turn

reduces the life of these appliances. One more consideration is blinking lights. When a TWH comes on to heat the water they can demand an enormous amount of electricity causing lights to dim in the house. There have been reports of sensitive electronics in the house such as computers, stereos and TV's being damaged by this demand.

The demand is a big reason why cooperatives do not like TWH. Cooperatives have to pay an extra demand cost for power. So when a TWH turns on and demands a higher amount of power, the demand on the cooperative goes up as well as the price the cooperative is paying for that power. When cooperatives can keep their demand charges down they can keep the rates lower for their members.

So the next time you see an advertisement for an electric tankless water heater, think about all of the other considerations before you think it is a good idea. Electric tankless



**Please follow us  
on Facebook to keep  
up to date on what is going  
on at Lewis County REC,  
as well as,  
learn about safety,  
and energy efficiency.**

## 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: