



# LEWIS COUNTY REC

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



I don't know where this year has gone. I truly don't think I have ever had a year fly by as fast as this year has. I will complete 23 years of working here at Lewis County REC in January. I truly don't know where the years have gone. I have seen lots of changes and challenges in that 23 year period, but the past 3 years far out shadow the

changes of the prior 20 years. As I reflect back on 2022 I will always remember the number of challenges that we have had to face in this industry. Supply chain has caused a huge amount of stress throughout this nation regardless of the industry, Covid has continued to rear its ugly head, rising prices of everything has people across this country making decisions about how to spend and save their money and make each penny go as far as it can.

Everyone is feeling the affects of supply chain issues. From going to the grocery store, filling up your vehicle, or trying to get parts to fix farm equipment we are all feeling the squeeze in our wallets. Here at Lewis County REC we are feeling the affects as well. Since January 2019 electric poles have increased in price by 67%, wire on average has increased 76%, transformers depending on size, have increased from 92% to 98%, and transportation expenses have doubled. Not only have the prices all increased, but lead time on receiving these items has also increased. For example, if we were to order a transformer today the soonest we would receive it is 70 weeks, yes that is right almost a year and a half, while in 2019 twelve weeks was the max. Large bucket trucks are taking as long as 3 years to get after they are ordered. Bucket trucks used to take 12 months to be built. To make matters worse there is no price lock guarantee on any of these items, so when you order them you are gambling on what the cost will be.

Life and budgets are much like a kitchen sponge. The sponge absorbs all it can before finally the water begins to run off. Everyone's sponges are shedding water right now, but rest assured we are doing all we can to control costs here at your cooperative. With that said, we do ask that if you are increasing

your load size, for example adding grain bins or a new piece of equipment, let us know before you start using those things so you don't burn up your transformer. It is better to be proactive, because at this time reactive can be delayed for a long time. Also, if you are planning on building any time in the future go ahead and reach out to us so we can make sure we have the materials ordered and on hand by the time you are ready for them. Advance planning and communications with us will help prevent delays in us being able to serve your electric needs in the future.

I wish I had a crystal ball to predict the future, but unfortunately, I do not. If I did there would be a cure for cancer and winning lottery numbers under the Christmas tree this year. Rest assured as we navigate through these unprecedented times that all of us at your cooperative have your best interest in mind. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all, and here's hoping that 2023 brings love to your hearts, health to your bodies, and peace and joy to your homes.

### 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**



*Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors,  
Management and Employees  
of Lewis County REC!!!!!!!*

*Our office will be closed December 23rd  
and 26th in observance of Christmas and  
January 2nd in honor of New Year's.  
Have a safe, healthy, and  
happy holiday season.*

## Net Metering

The following is an explanation of the Missouri statute that sets out the guidelines for net metering and interconnection with the utility grid. Any Lewis County REC member/owner who is interested in applying for interconnection should first contact our office for specific information.

On January 1, 2008, a law took effect in Missouri mandating that all electric utilities offer net metering and interconnection to consumers generating 100 kilowatts (kW) or less of electricity from renewable resources.

Net metering enables the consumer-generator to "export" power to the utility's grid that is in excess of immediate on-site needs to offset an equal amount of power supplied by the utility at a different time in the billing period. When this situation occurs, the consumer-generator is billed by the utility for the "net" amount of power used in excess of the power the consumer generates on-site.

During the billing period, if the consumer generates more power than the total amount of kilowatt-hours (kWh) used (a combination of the amount generated on-site and the amount supplied by the utility), the utility provides the consumer a "credit" for the surplus power. The credit is based on the cost the utility would have incurred to purchase an equal number of kilowatt-hours – this is called avoided cost. The consumer is still responsible to pay the monthly fixed charges for service.

The law applies to only generating systems which are powered by renewable resources. These resources may include, wind, solar or any other sources of energy certified as renewable by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Consumer-generators with qualifying generating systems are required to complete an application. The application must be accompanied by a plan that includes a wiring diagram and specifications for the generating system, and must be approved by the utility. The consumer-generator must also submit certification from a licensed electrician or engineer indicating that the installation meets the intercon-



### Bright ideas

Stumped for gift-giving ideas? Sometimes the best gifts save money later. Take appliances for example. Older appliances typically use more energy than their modern counterparts. When shopping, always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It assures you that you are purchasing the most efficient product possible.



nection requirements of the various safety codes, and other requirements.

The consumer-generator is responsible for all costs and expenses to install, operate, maintain, repair, and periodically test the generating system. The cost of special metering equipment is also the responsibility of the consumer-generator. For safety purposes, the generating system is required to have a lockable, visible disconnect, accessible to utility personnel. The system must also have controls that prevent it from supplying power to the utility's grid when the generating system is not energized or operating normally.

The Application and Agreement for Interconnection and Net Metering contains other important terms and requirements. For more information or to request an application, and discuss the required non-standard engineering study, please contact Travis at Lewis County REC 573-215-4000.