



# LEWIS COUNTY REC

573-215-4000 • Toll Free: 1-888-454-4485

Lewistown, Missouri 63452

[www.lewiscountyrec.coop](http://www.lewiscountyrec.coop)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

January 2025

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



Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. What a blessing it was at our house to spend time with family. The magic of the holiday season gives relief to the everyday pressures of life for a moment and allows each of us to count our many blessings. 2024 brought many blessings, life changes, and challenges to each of us, I guess

that is why they call it life. It is not about the challenges that each of us face, but rather how we choose to deal with those challenges.

As we look forward to 2025, let's hope that some of the challenges in this country begin to ease. Supply chain pressures still have not eased in the electric industry as we struggle to get materials, transformers, poles, and equipment. Operations is having to order some equipment with 3-to-4-year lead times. If you are planning a new construction or expansion project in 2025, please reach out now to our operations department so they can plan ahead and make every effort to have the materials needed for your project. Not only do we continue to feel the pressure of long lead times receiving materials, but we are also feeling the pressure of increased costs on those materials. We have had to absorb increases in materials ranging from 67% to 98%. Our mission remains the same to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our member owners and planning ahead helps us do that. If you are thinking expansion in the future, include us in your initial planning stages.

From top to bottom our 3-Tiered System, Associated

Electric (Generation), Northeast Power (Transmission), and Lewis County REC are all feeling the effects of the supply chain and price increases. I like to compare budgets to a household sponge; the sponge can only absorb so much before it begins to run off and can absorb no more. The sponges on all three levels are filling fast just like many of your household budgets. While it was a hard decision to make the rate adjustment that goes into effect with your January usage it was necessary. Our sponge is shedding water, and the sponge just can not hold up in that state. Your Board of Directors and management team do everything we can to operate in the most efficient ways possible to achieve our mission and believe me we don't like rate increases any more than you do.

Remember we do offer leveled billing to help ease the pressure of your household budget. Leveled billing ratchets up and down in small increments as your electric usage changes, but at the same time stays more level to allow you to budget more efficiently. If you are interested in leveled billing give Brandi or Kindy a call in the office and they will be happy to see if you qualify and get you set up. Be proactive not only if you are planning an expansion, but also if you see that you are going to have challenges paying your electric bill. Do not wait until the last minute to call the office regarding your bill. If you see challenges ahead, be proactive and communicate with our billing department before you get a disconnection notice.

Who knows what 2025 is going to look like, but the one thing you can continue to count on is Lewis County REC's Board, Management, and Employees will do every we can to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to YOU, our member-owners. Here's hoping that 2025 brings love to your hearts, health to your bodies, and peace and joy to your homes.

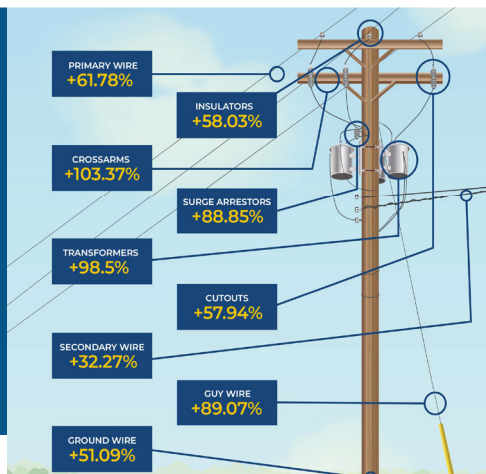
### BREAKING DOWN THE RISING COSTS FOR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

#### Overhead Equipment Price Changes

January 2020 to May 2024

These percentages are a general representation modeled after a typical Electric Cooperative Distribution system.

Source: CEEUS



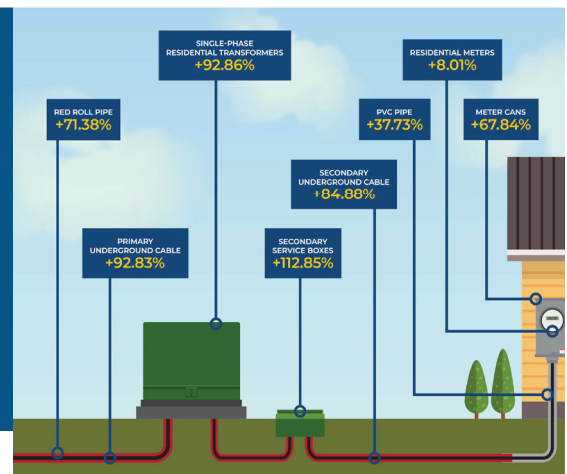
### BREAKING DOWN THE RISING COSTS FOR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

#### Underground Equipment Price Changes

January 2020 to May 2024

These percentages are a general representation modeled after a typical Electric Cooperative Distribution system.

Source: CEEUS



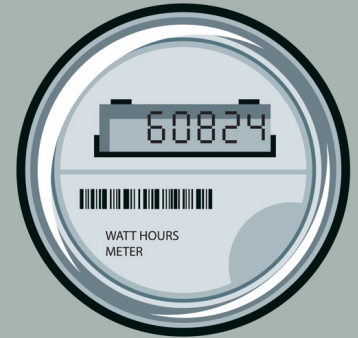
# Engine Block Heater Efficiency

With the frigid temperatures several of you are probably plugging those engine block heaters in. You can save yourself money by purchasing a timer and setting it to turn the block heater on 2-3 hours before you are going to need to start your engine. Letting block heaters run continuously uses several kilowatts and will cause sticker shock when you get your electric bill. Timers are relatively inexpensive and are available at any of the local hardware stores. Keep warm and stay safe.

## DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.



If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

## 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 manufacturers to produce more energy-smart products.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

### Let the sunshine in!

For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

## SAFETY FIRST

Every year, nearly 20,000 residential fires are linked to fireplaces. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these tips to help you keep your family safe:

1. Consider scheduling a fireplace inspection and cleaning by a certified professional.
2. Install a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home. These devices offer low-cost protection and provide early warnings of potential problems.
3. Keep flues, dampers, firestops, flashing and chimney caps in good condition.
4. If you have small children and/or pets, consider a secondary screen. A glass screen can reach temperatures of 500 degrees, so an extra barrier can protect them from serious burns.

## 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