



Lewis County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



573-215-4000 • Toll Free: 1-888-454-4485 • www.lewiscountyreco.org

Lewistown, Missouri 63452 • February 2026

From the desk of Travis Mathes

Manager of Member Services



FEbruary is a month that naturally draws our attention to the heart. With Valentine's Day right in the middle of the month, it is a time to reflect on what matters most—family, community, and the people we care about. At Lewis County REC, this theme rings true every day of the year. Our members are at the heart of every decision we make.

As a locally governed cooperative, we exist for one reason: to serve you. From long-term infrastructure planning to day-to-day operations, every choice is guided by what is best for our members and the communities we call home across rural northeast Missouri. Your trust in us is something we value deeply, and we work hard to honor that trust by providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

February also reminds us that winter is far from predictable. Mother Nature often keeps us guessing this time of year, with conditions that can range from mild one week to bitterly cold the next. That uncertainty makes energy efficiency especially important. Simple steps—such as sealing air leaks, replacing furnace filters regularly, using programmable or smart thermostats, and ensuring adequate insulation—can help manage energy use and keep homes comfortable no matter what the forecast holds. Being mindful of efficiency not only helps control energy costs, but it also supports the long-term reliability of the electric system we all share.

We also understand that managing household expenses can be challenging, especially during months when heating needs fluctuate. That is why we offer levelized billing, which averages your energy use over the year to help provide more predictable monthly bills. Many members find this option helpful for budgeting and avoiding seasonal bill swings.

In addition, we strive to make paying your bill as convenient as possible. Payments can be made 365 days a year, 24 hours a day through our website, our mobile app, or by phone. These options are designed to give you flexibility and control, allowing you to choose what works best for your schedule.

As we move through February and the rest of the winter season, please know how much we appreciate the opportunity to serve you. You are not just customers—you are members, owners, and the very heart of this cooperative. Thank you for being part of our cooperative family and for allowing us to serve you today and into the future.

WEATHER PROVERBS

- **Stick to your winter flannels till your winter flannels stick to you.**
- **Violent north winds in February herald a fertile year.**
- **If the bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.**
- **There is always one fine week in February.**
- **If February gives much snow, a fine summer it doth foreshow.**
- **If you walk on snow, you cannot hide your footprints.**

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home.

Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!



Mind the thermostat.

If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.



Get cozy.

Add layers of clothing for additional warmth and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.



Don't block the heat.

If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.



Take advantage of sunlight.

Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.



Block air leaks.

Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Source: Source: NRECA

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**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Mid-winter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating—these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.