LEWIS COUNTY REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Visit our web site @ www.lewiscountyrec.coop

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Lewistown, Missouri 63452

From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

October is National Cooperative Month. It is a month for this Nation's over 30,000 cooperatives to celebrate and reflect on their success. At Lewis County REC we not only reflect upon success, but also look to the future. Electricity has led to many technological innovations world-wide through the years, one of which is the advancement of EV's (all electric vehicles). I currently drive our Chevy Bolt on a daily basis and can say after putting over 33,000 miles on it, I am impressed with it's performance in all types of driving conditions. The Bolt can be driven approximately 233 miles on a full charge during normal conditions, however, during the winter months that is reduced to about 180 miles. I am sure many of you are wondering why there is such a difference, and it due to the heat in the car. The Bolt has the equivalent of an electric space heater, which uses a considerable amount of energy. With all of that said it has cost an average of 3 cents per mile to drive the car since I started driving it. The Dodge Caravan that I drove previously cost on average 14.2 cents per mile to drive. The savings can be considerable over 100,000 miles.

Driving an EV daily, does however, make you stop and think about not only your driving habits, but also the number of miles you plan to drive in one day. If I plan to drive more than 180 miles in one day, I have to make sure I have located charging stations to recharge along the way or at my destination. For example, I can not just leave early in the morning and drive to Jefferson City to a meeting that will last 5 hours and then plan to drive back home that evening. If I plan to make this trip, I must locate a charger either at my destination or along the way that is at least a level 2 charger, but preferably a level 3 charger to insure I have enough energy for the return trip. Let me explain the difference in the levels of charging stations.

There are 3 different levels of chargers that the car can be charged on. The level 1 is a basic charger that can be plugged into your standard wall outlet. The car will charge at a rate of approximately 3 miles per hour of charge. The level 2 is a more advanced charger and will charge at a rate of 25 miles per hour of charge. The level 3 is the most advanced charger and will charge at a rate of approximately 90 miles per hour of charge. With that said we installed a public facing, meaning it is open to the public and there is no fee for using it, station on the front of our office building in Lewistown. Anyone driving by in an EV can pull in and charge for free. This was the first public facing charging station to go on line in the Lewis County REC service territory.

Charging stations are rapidly being built across the state, as well as in our area. Ayerco in Canton has also recently installed public facing charging stations. These stations are level 2 and level 3 and you pay for the energy you transfer to your automobile much like you purchase gasoline. Unfortunately, not all charging stations will serve every brand of EV. Tesla charging stations are specifically designed for Tesla brand vehicles and will not charge other brands. I think moving forward this will be addressed in some fashion, so that all stations will charge all brands, but unfortunately it is not there yet.

I am happy to say that Lewis County REC has an all-electric Ford pickup truck ordered and I plan to put it to the test. Ford is predicting that this truck will have a driving range of around 350 miles, which will be a game changer. These trucks will have many added features that farmers, contractors, as well as the average driver will find valuable. The truck will act as a generator if you need to run power tools, run lights, or run essential equipment in the event of a power outage. I am anxious to put this truck to the test, so I can provide feed back to any of our members who are interested in one.

Knox County R-1 and Lewis County C-1 are both putting electric school buses to the test every day. The data that these schools are collecting is being shared nationwide and allowing other districts to make the educated decision as to whether electric buses will work in their districts. Knox County R-1 has a link on the website with daily data.

EV's are catching on in the cities at a rapid rate with many big box stores installing public facing stations in their parking lots. This allows consumers to charge their vehicle free of charge while shopping in the business. Many hotels/motels are also installing them to allow consumers to charge when they stay overnight. EV's are finally starting to advance into the rural areas and we want to be both knowledgeable and ready to assist when our members decide to purchase one. We even offer rebates when members purchase EV's and install home charging systems.

I encourage you to stop by the office and take a look at the car and the charger. I would be happy to show it to you or even take you for a spin. As we celebrate cooperative month, what better way to do it than looking to the future. Lewis County REC has been helping bring new technology into homes and businesses for over 84 years and we want to be able to do it well into the future. If I can answer any questions about EV's or any other technology that you are thinking about, please, reach out to me. If you would like to compare the cost of driving your current vehicle to any EV on the market, simply go to our web site, www.lewiscountyrec.org click on the EV link. You will be able to select the vehicle you are considering and your current vehicle and see the cost comparison. Until next month stay healthy, safe, and enjoy October and the changing of the season.

Right of Way

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Lewis County REC works hard to ensure that our rights of way are regularly cleared of trees and brush in order to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in your electric service and uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline for maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 15 feet of overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 25 percent of power interruptions occur when trees grow too close to power lines. If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our lineman or contractors will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers. In some cases, it is necessary to remove a tree altogether.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a power line. An energized tree branch due to close proximity or contact with a power line is incredibly dangerous, even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

Another benefit to ROW clearing is that it can decrease outage restoration time. When weather strikes, every minute spent clearing a tree or branch off of a power line equals a minute in delay of restoring your power. While winds can blow downed trees into power lines, it's often those trees that were left near the power line that cause the most damage. In addition, that damage has an economic impact on the cooperative, which in turn could affect your electric rates.

Not all outages can be prevented, but investing in vegetation management has both immediate and long term benefits. By prioritizing our ROW management programs, Lewis County REC is investing in safety, outage reduction, rate stabilization, and increased reliability.. As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at (573)-215-4000.

Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Now is a good time to make some simple energy-efficiency improvements around the house:

- Remove window A/C units and seal the window
- Change the direction on your ceiling fan
- Replace your furnace filter
- Caulk and weatherstrip leaky doors and windows
- Replace old incandescent bulbs with LEDs

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