



## Take Steps Now To Minimize Heating Costs Later

Space heating accounts for nearly 30% of total annual energy costs for the average American household, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- Have a qualified technician inspect your heating system to ensure it's running efficiently and safely.
- Change your furnace filter once per month. Specialized filters may need to be replaced less often so follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- Replace any cracked caulking or loose weather stripping around windows or doors.
- Check ductwork in your attic or basement crawlspace for leaks or disconnections. Insulating ductwork in these unheated areas helps increase efficiency.
- Seal gaps around electrical lines, plumbing, and gas pipes entering from outdoors with spray foam insulation purchased from your local hardware store.



- Add additional attic insulation. Upgrading from 3" to 12" can cut heating costs by 20%.

Fall is a great time to conduct an energy usage evaluation. Linn County REC's program includes steps that can assess how much energy your home, farm or business is using. It will also suggest measures you can take to make it more energy efficient. Download our evaluation form at [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com).

## Keep Holidays Safe and Bright

Decorate safely this holiday season with these steps:

Discard damaged electrical decorations and extension cords. Cracked sockets, bare or frayed wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or fire. Avoid overloading outlets. Choose lights that are UL safety certified.

Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together. Do not pinch cords in windows or doors, or under heavy furniture.

When decorating outside, make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's). Check that all items and extension cords are marked for outdoor use.



If purchasing a live Christmas tree, place the tree at least three feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and space heaters. For artificial trees, look for the label "fire resistant."

Decorate your tree, live or artificial, with non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

During the holiday season, consider using ENERGY STAR-qualified lights and strands to decorate. They use 70 percent less energy than regular lights and last up to 10 times as long. They also give off less heat, reducing the risk of fire.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



## Does Your Child Know Electrical Safety?

Linn County REC offers free electrical safety presentations for children in our service territory. If you have school age children, talk to their teachers about bringing one of these informative presentation to their classrooms.



- **Play it Safe Around Electricity:** Designed for kindergarten - 1st grade, includes a discussion about electricity and safety video featuring "Louie the Lightning Bug".
- **Hazard Hamlet:** Designed for 2nd - 5th grades, uses a remote controlled display showing scenes where electrical safety is crucial.
- **The Shocking Truth:** Designed for 6th - 8th grades, features a live action DVD highlighting safety lessons learned while two students research a science project.

Replace the bulbs you use the most.  
CFLs on sale now.

**Bebright**

Replacing the five most frequently used light bulbs in your home with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, can save approximately \$35 in annual energy costs.

**Now you can save even more.** Between now and through December 16, 2011 our members can purchase ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for as little as \$.99 at participating retailers. (Limit 12 per customer, while supplies last.)

Find a participating retailer in our area by calling 1-800-339-6856 or visiting [iowachangealight.com](http://iowachangealight.com).

## Annual Meeting Available Online

In their address to members at the annual meeting September 30th, board president Gary Schropp and CEO Kim Colberg reported that the increased energy sales for 2011 will once again carry Linn County REC financially for the remainder of the year. Board and staff are closely monitoring the cooperative's operating margins to determine when a rate increase will be necessary. If there is a rate increase, it would not happen until after the first quarter of 2012.

Guest speaker Craig Fricke, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Business Operations for CIPCO (Linn County REC's power supplier), spoke to members about the challenges facing the generation and transmission side of the utility business.

**Couldn't make it to the annual meeting? View these presentations and more in our website's video center at [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com).**

Board of director election results were also announced. Kirk Hiland, North Liberty, was elected in District 2. Roger Krug (district 2) and Elmer Vanorny (district 7) were both re-elected.



Kirk Hiland

Elected, District #2



Roger Krug

Re-elected, District #3



Elmer Vanorny

Re-elected, District #7

Districts 4 and 6 are up for election next year. If you or someone you know is interested in running for director or serving on the nominating committee, please contact our office.

### Mail Ballot Winners

Gary Kloubec	Kenneth Sandersfeld	Joe Carnahan
Michael Haight	Hetty Hall	Colin Nies
Donald Slezak	Christel Grey	Kevin Carr
Kevin Maruga	G.F. Miller Farms	Vicki Newburn
Betty Orr	Jack T. Harville Jr	William Brecht
Doug Boerschel	John J. Vansteenhuyse	Clement Ryan
Korene Lanxon	Krista Johnson	

View this year's grand prize winners and photos on our website at [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com).

## Thinking of a Renewable Energy System? Contact Linn County REC First

New advances in technology and a greater awareness of environmental impact have consumer interest in renewable energy options on the rise. We have had several inquiries from Linn County REC members who are considering installing a small wind generator or solar energy system.

As your electric utility provider, we must adhere to all relevant federal and state laws applicable to interconnection. Therefore, we hope you will turn to us for information and assistance before making the decision to purchase any type of

### Before you purchase:

- Arrange a meeting with Linn County REC
- Download our interconnection packet at [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com)
- Understand your responsibilities as a member and all costs
- Review packet and decide if a renewable system is right for you
- Complete and sign written agreement

renewable energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid. This is important for several reasons: safety, reliability and cost fairness.

Linn County REC is absolutely committed to protecting the safety of members and cooperative employees. Any electrical installation in Iowa must be done by a licensed electrician and a written agreement is required before attempting to connect a generation source from your home or business. The agreement is designed to address issues of safety, maintenance, metering, switching and liability insurance.

Linn County REC is responsible for maintaining the reliability of the power grid. As a result, we have certain requirements that members who install a renewable energy system must meet prior to connecting equipment to the grid. Members may incur additional expenses depending on size and location of renewable sources due to the cost of interconnection, metering equipment, rate options and liability insurance.

### Renewable Energy Systems:

- Wind turbine
- Photovoltaic system (solar panels)
- Solar heat pump
- Solar water heater

Contact us before making a decision to purchase these systems, which may require an electric grid interconnection.

By contacting our office, we can talk through your responsibilities as a member as well as what you can expect from Linn County REC.

Renewable energy systems are most effective when combined with an energy-efficient home. Purchasing and installing a renewable system can also be a significant investment for members. We encourage you to thoroughly research the potential investment and talk with us first. We do not recommend equipment or installers to our members, however, the Iowa Energy Center is a valuable resource to help you make the right decision for your home.

## Stay Connected To Linn County REC With Your Mobile Phone



Access [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com) on your smart phone and you will be automatically directed to our free mobile site with a list of our most popular links for easy navigation.

- View our outage map to get the latest information during service interruptions
- See our full listing of energy efficiency incentives

- Look up account information including your bill statements, usage and payment history and a link to make payments

- Get the latest cooperative news

If you have suggestions for our mobile site, we would like to hear back from you. Send comments to [lcrc@linncountyrec.com](mailto:lcrc@linncountyrec.com).



## Submit Incentives Before Year End



If you have installed equipment that qualifies for a 2011 energy efficiency incentive from Linn County REC, send in your application form by December 31, 2011. Linn County REC has not been notified of any changes to our incentives, however, be advised that all applications received after January 1, 2012 will be evaluated by 2012 incentive plan criteria and incentive levels.

To receive an incentive you must:

- Download the incentive form with all pages
- Fill in ALL required information fields
- Provide a copy of the receipt
- Provide ALL additional required verification
- Must be received within 6 months of installation

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Linn County REC will deduct 10% from the incentive amount for incomplete forms that are returned without all required information.

For a complete list of our incentives, criteria, or to download forms, visit [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com).

## P Pumpkin Pie Dip

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- Gingersnap cookies

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Beat in the pumpkin, sour cream, cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice and ginger until blended. Serve with gingersnaps. Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 4 cups.

## What's YOUR Incentive?



Linn County REC offers a recycling incentive for your old, working refrigerators, freezers, window air conditioners and televisions.

Linn County REC encourages proper recycling of old appliances and offers three convenient options:

- Option one: have the retailer haul away your old working appliance when they deliver your new one.
- Option two: you to take the old working appliance to the landfill or a recycling center yourself.
- Option three: have Linn County REC's contracted recycling vendor (ESI) pick up your old working appliance at your curbside. *(TVs not eligible for this option)*

Visit [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com) to download our appliance recycling incentive form with complete criteria. Brand, model and serial number of old appliance must be provided in order to receive the incentive. **Be sure to have this information before it is taken away.**

To receive an incentive from Linn County REC:

- Must be or have been a member at service location
- Complete ALL fields on incentive form
- Provide a copy of the sales receipt
- Provide ALL additional required documentation (*i.e. Energy Star® verification*)
- Must be received within six months of installation

Incomplete or unsigned forms will be assessed a 10% reduction of incentive amount. Need help filling out an incentive form? Visit the video center on our website for a step by step tutorial or contact our office.

## Office Closed



Linn County REC offices will be closed on November 24th and 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.

A bill payment drop box is available 24 hours a day at our Marion and North Liberty offices.

