



Power Up!

New Map Gives Detailed Outage Information

Linn County REC members can now view detailed outage information by going to our outage center at www.linncountyrec.com.

The new map allows members to see the total number of confirmed outages per county in our service territory.

“With this outage map, Linn County REC hopes to provide our members with more detailed outage information in a user-friendly, efficient manner.”

Viewers can also zoom in to a specific area to see how many people are affected by the outage, however, it will not show outages involving less than

10 members due to privacy concerns. Confirmed outages are identified by colored balloons in the general area they are occurring. The color is determined by how many members are affected by the outage.

The outage map is convenient for members who are away from their home or business and wondering if an outage is affecting them and also for those who are using smart phones.

The outage map updates approximately every 10 minutes. As always, we ask that our members report outages by calling 377-1587 or toll free in Iowa at 1-800-332-5420.

savings
with a twist



Special pricing is available for a limited time on ENERGY STAR® Qualified CFLs

Did you know you typically spend more lighting your home than operating your refrigerator annually?

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.

County	Total Outages	Members in County
Benton	0	120
Cedar	0	271
Iowa	0	89
Johnson	0	12,458
Jones	0	99
Linn	0	11,885
Totals:	0	24,932

Number of Confirmed Power Outages:

- 10-25
- 26-100
- 101-250
- 251-500
- 501 or more

Number of Unconfirmed Power Outages:

- 10 or more

Unconfirmed Outage: The prediction is based on phone calls received.

Confirmed Outage: Outage has been verified at this location by personnel. NOTE: This does not necessarily indicate that a crew is working on the outage in real-time.

NOTE: The website updates approximately every 10 minutes.



Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program 2011 Guidelines

The 2011-2012 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

<u>Size of Household</u>	<u>Annual Gross Household Income</u>
1	\$16,335
2	\$22,065
3	\$27,795
4	\$33,525
5	\$39,255
6	\$44,985

For households with more than six members, add \$1,433 per three months or \$5,730 annually for each additional member.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: Oct. 3, 2011 to April 30, 2012
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19, and over) (Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2010 tax return)
- Social Security numbers of all household members
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill
- Recent telephone bill

WAGE EARNERS: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

Move Farm Equipment Safely



Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. As work gets underway in the fields this fall, farmers and their helpers are urged to review farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines to prevent tragic accidents:

- Know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Do not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If you question the line height of a power line on your farmstead, contact Linn County REC. We can help you determine what the correct line height is.

For more information on farm safety and even more electrical safety tips, visit our website at www.linncountyrec.com.

HD Cable Boxes/DVRs Put Drain On Household Energy Use

Electronic devices at home are entertaining but also drain energy, even when turned off. Home energy use rises with each new gaming console, television, DVR's, stereo receiver, and other electronic device, accounting for up to 15% of the average monthly electric bill.

The high-definition cable box or digital video recorder (DVR) that sits innocently by your TV may be using more electricity per year than a new energy-efficient refrigerator. A recent study found that the boxes use \$3 billion in electricity every year in the U.S., with 66 percent of that power wasted while the TV is not being watched or the DVR not recording.



Unfortunately, until cable boxes and DVRs become more energy efficient, there's no easy solution for consumers looking to save energy. So what can you do?

- Power strip. Plug your TVs, cable boxes, DVDs, video games, etc., into a power strip and use the power strip as an on/off switch. If you've tried this with your cable boxes, however, you already know the problems. First, powering down your cable box means it can't record shows in your absence. It also means waiting for the

channel guide to re-establish itself on power up ~ a process that often takes minutes, not seconds.

- Get a centralized system. You may have seen ads for newer systems that allow you to record shows in one room and watch them in another. These multi-room systems use one master DVR with "client" set-top boxes in other rooms receiving signals from the master. Compared with traditional setups, these use a lot less energy. A Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) study compared two systems, each with three TVs. The first used the traditional one HD-DVR and two HD receivers. The second used one HD-DVR, and two "client" receivers. Result? The traditional configuration used 617 kilowatt-hours a year. The second used 179.
- Your best bet is to ask your cable or satellite provider for a box carrying the ENERGY STAR label, which certifies that a product attains specific energy efficiency standards.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which created ENERGY STAR in 1992, says it plans to tighten energy efficiency standards for HD cable boxes to an average of 29 kilowatts of use per year by the middle of 2013, down from a current average consumption of 38 kilowatts.

RECare: Help Neighbors In Need

RECare is a crisis fund available for low income members to weatherize their homes and help pay their electric bills. All funds collected go to families in need; there are no administrative costs. Funds are distributed by a local community action agency. Contributions are tax deductible.

If you'd like to make a contribution to RECare, please fill out the form and return with your bill payment or submit on our website at www.linncountyrec.com. The amount you have pledged will be included with the monthly net amount on your bill. Discontinue your pledge at any time by contacting our office.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

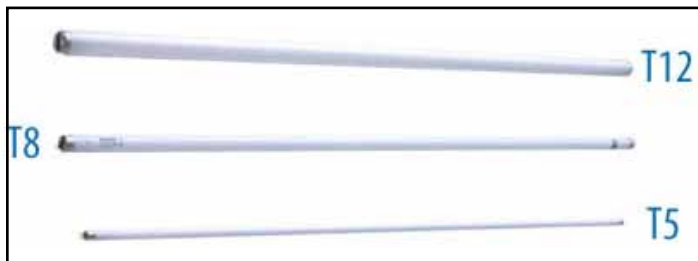
Account Number _____



Going, Going, Gone: T-12 Lighting Phase Out Begins Soon

Do you have T-12 fluorescent lighting in your home, shop or business? If so, it is time to replace them.

New federal lighting standards will eliminate most commercially available T-12 lights after July 2012. The new lighting standards are the result of energy conservation requirements contained in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The standards apply to all 4 foot, 8 foot, and U shaped fluorescent lamps and require minimum efficacies in lumens per watt. The most current T-12 lighting products cannot meet these new standards.



T-12 lamps are an older and inefficient technology and there are more efficient alternatives, such as T-8 and T-5 lamps. These lighting alternatives are widely available and not only save energy, they last longer and provide better light quality. Simply replacing a standard T-12 lamp and ballast with a T-8 lamp and electronic ballast can result in energy savings of up to 40%, according to the Consortium for Energy Efficiency.

Caramel Apple Bread Pudding

- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup egg substitute
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 cups cubed day-old bread
- 1/2 cup chopped peeled apple
- 1/2 cup fat-free whipped topping
- 1/2 cup fat-free caramel ice cream topping

In a large bowl, combine the applesauce, milk, brown sugar, egg substitute, vanilla and cinnamon. Fold in bread cubes and apple; let stand for 15 minutes or until bread is softened. Pour into an 8-in. square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake, uncovered, at 325° for 35-40 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Serve warm with whipped topping and caramel topping. Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 8 servings.

So why should you replace now? Although upgrading a lighting system can be expensive, Linn County REC's incentives can help to offset up front costs and shorten the return on your investment. However, these incentives will be phased out when the new federal lighting standards are implemented. In addition, a commercial account lighting upgrade may qualify for the Commercial Building Tax Deduction, (<http://www.efficientbuildings.org/>) which allows building owners to claim up to 60 cents per square foot of building space in tax incentives for installation costs.

If you have any questions regarding our lighting incentives, please visit our website at www.linncountyrec.com or call our office to speak with member services.

What's YOUR Incentive?

Linn County REC has weatherization incentives available for our residential members.

- Attic/Ceiling Insulation
- Wall Insulation
- Foundation Insulation (electric heat only)
- Infiltration Control (electric heat only)
- Duct Insulation/Sealing (electric heat only)



Incentives vary by installation type and type of primary heating/cooling system. Visit www.linncountyrec.com to download our residential incentive form with complete terms and conditions before starting your project to see if you qualify.

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

Members contacted for additional information on incomplete/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 on the filing process. Questions about our incentive program? Contact our office to speak with member services.

