



## Be Prepared: Before, During and After The Storm

During this time of year, severe weather can happen quickly. In the event of a power outage, contact Linn County REC. Every call helps determine the location and extent of an outage and helps prioritize restoration efforts. Follow these safety tips before, during, and after a storm:

### Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



### Before the storm

- Keep emergency phone numbers, including Linn County REC's, available and always have a corded or charged cellular phone in your home.
- Keep a battery-operated flashlight, radio, clock, and extra batteries on hand.
- Know where your main breaker disconnect is.
- Unplug sensitive electrical equipment.

### During the storm

Report your outage by:

- **Phone:** Call toll-free 1-888-271-6250. This number is for outages only. Calls are answered 24 hours a day.
- **SmartHub App:** Download the FREE mobile app in the App Store or Play Store.
- **Text:** Enroll on our website. Once enrolled, text "outage" to 55050 on your cell phone. We must have your cell phone number on file for this option.
- Unplug as many appliances as possible. This will prevent damage from a power surge that may occur during power restoration.
- Don't touch or drive over a power line. Always assume a downed line is energized.

### After the storm

- Plug appliances back in one at a time once power has been restored.
- Contact us immediately if you see a downed line or damaged utility equipment. Always assume a downed line is dangerous, even if it's not jumping or sparking.
- Do not attempt to assist utility crews. What may seem like help can actually hamper restoration and safety efforts.

For more information, visit our outage resource center at [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com).

## Sign Up For Outage Alerts

Stay informed about your power status with our outage alerts. We'll notify you if the power goes out at your home or business and when it comes back on. You can receive alerts by text or email.

### Stay connected.

Sign up now for power outage notifications sent to your phone.



### How to sign up:

1. Go to [www.linncountyrec.com](http://www.linncountyrec.com) and click "report an outage" icon
2. Click "enroll here" under outage alerts
3. Enter your Linn County REC account number and cell phone number
4. You will then receive a code via text that you will need to enter
5. Follow prompts until complete

Please note we need to have your cell phone number that is tied to your Linn County REC account in order to enroll in outage alerts.

## PLUG INTO SAFETY



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

Linn County REC recognizes Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our crews to our members, we know that everyone has a part in prioritizing safety.

Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous it can be because we work with it 365 days a year. So here are a few electrical safety tips:

#### **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.**

Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

#### **Avoid overloading circuits.**

Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle by having too many devices running on one circuit.

#### **Use extension cords properly.**

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord or exceed the cord's wattage. It could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. In addition, don't use extension cords as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. Visit our website for additional electrical safety tips.

## How Power Is Restored

When a severe storm impacts our service area, crews begin to assess the extent of the damage. Linn County REC then puts its power restoration plan into action. Our plan is designed to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. The severity of the outage and weather conditions always play a role in the time it takes to restore power.

### Who Owns What

If a storm damages electrical equipment on your property, you may have questions about repairs.

If a storm damages any equipment owned by Linn County REC, we are responsible for repairs. Likewise, if a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment. We have guides available on our website to help you determine who typically owns what equipment.

## The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines**  
These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



- 2. Distribution Substations**  
Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



- 3. Main Distribution Lines**  
Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



- 4. Individual Homes and Businesses**  
After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.



LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Considering Solar? Here Are Some Helpful Tips

Linn County REC has received several inquiries from members considering their solar options. Not surprising, given the large number of companies advertising solar systems, some are promising unrealistic expectations.

If you are considering installing solar at your home, shop, or business to help supply your energy needs, here are some helpful tips.

## Utility's Role

Linn County REC is neutral when it comes to solar or solar contractors. Our priority is to help members make informed decisions, ensure the safety of all parties involved, and meet all interconnection requirements. We will answer questions you may have about your usage and assist where we can.

## Rates

It is important to understand utility rates and impacts before purchasing a system. Our rate designs are not guaranteed and may change in the future. Linn County REC does not grandfather member rates. Contact our office to speak with an Energy Advisor for current rate information and usage history. Also, visit our website to learn more.

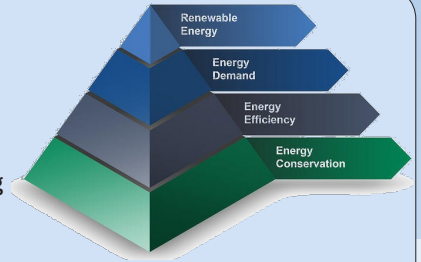
## Rebates

Linn County REC does not offer rebates for solar installation. However, we do offer our members monthly net metering. Any excess kilowatt hours produced by members during a month is paid at our power supplier's avoided energy cost. Excess production will be converted to money and be used toward our services charges; any remaining money is applied as a bill credit.

## Financing

Financing has been a popular method of purchasing solar systems. Review the loan agreement before buying the system and know if the purchase price changes with financing. Lenders may require a Uniform Commercial Code financing statement (UCC-1) to be filed on the solar system and the right to repossess the solar system in case of default.

The key to decrease the cost of solar is to start at the bottom and work your way up. First, learn ways to conserve energy within your home or business. Next, work up to energy efficiency by upgrading equipment and air sealing to increase your efficiency. Next, concentrate on when you are using energy and if you can adjust your usage to off-peak hours. Lastly, once you have completed those three, then investigate renewable energy. By doing this step last, you will reduce the size of system you need to purchase and save even more in the future.



## Getting Quotes

Getting multiple quotes for any significant purchase is recommended, including a solar system. Ask family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who they used and if they are satisfied with the work. They will be your best resource. Do your research before getting quotes and ask the following:

- If installing rooftop solar panels, what is the cost to reinstall the system if the roof needs to be replaced in the future?
- Will the same company selling the system be doing the installation?
- Do you need additional insurance coverage for a system?
- Who will service the system after installation?
- What energy inflation rate is used to determine potential savings?

Also, be sure to review:

- Iowa business licenses and electrical licenses.
- Monthly production and compare to monthly usage.
- Terms and conditions of the system's warranty.

If you plan to install solar or any other renewable energy source, please review Linn County REC's interconnection policy and frequently asked questions available on our website. It has information regarding specific requirements of Linn County REC and the Iowa Utilities Board that need to be followed when interconnecting. An interconnection application should be submitted and approved before installation to ensure that all requirements are met before interconnecting.



Linn County REC will begin summer office hours  
Tuesday, May 31st through Friday, September 2nd.

**Monday - Thursday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Friday, 7:00 am to 11:00 am**



## VIRTUAL Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, September 27 at 9:00 am**

Join us online for the annual meeting on Tuesday, September 27th. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Meeting details, candidate biographies and voting instructions will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

## Chicken Salad Crescents



2 cups chopped cooked chicken	1 cup diced celery
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce	salt, to taste
¼ tsp pepper	¾ cup mayonnaise
¼ tsp onion powder	3 cans crescent rolls
6 slices cheese, cut into 4 strips	poppy seeds

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a cookie sheet or baking pan with parchment paper. Mix together chopped chicken, diced celery, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper, mayonnaise, and onion powder. Separate crescent rolls into triangles. Cut each triangle in half to form two triangles. Place ¼ slice of cheddar cheese on top of the crescent roll, top with a tablespoon scoop of chicken salad, and roll up the crescent roll. Place rolls on cookie sheet. Sprinkle with poppy seeds. Repeat with remaining crescent rolls. Bake for 18-20 minutes, or until golden brown.

**SERVINGS: 48**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## ANNOUNCING THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Linn County REC is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2022 - 2023 college scholarships:

**Jonathan McCrea**, Cedar Rapids, will attend Iowa State University.

**Ashley O'Rourke**, Cedar Rapids, will attend UNI.

**Gavin Keeney**, North Liberty, will attend Iowa State University.

**Madison Craig**, Solon, will attend Cental College.

**Jacob Swestka**, Palo, will attend University of Iowa.

**Libby Setter**, Cedar Rapids, will attend UNI.

**Brylea Brooks**, Central City, will attend UNI.

**Keegan Sinnock**, Cedar Rapids, will attend Kirkwood.

**Alexia Miller**, Toddville, will attend Kirkwood.

As a part of our continuing commitment to the communities we serve, Linn County REC has proudly awarded college scholarships to students in our service territory for over 25 years.



Bill payment kiosks are available 24 hours a day at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center.



**LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

[WWW.LINNCOUNTYREC.COM](http://WWW.LINNCOUNTYREC.COM)

*ElectricCONNECTION*, the official publication of Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, is published monthly for members of Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, 5695 REC Drive, P.O. Box 69, Marion, Iowa 52302. © Copyright 2022 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

