



Diverse Energy Mix Powers Our Members

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative is committed to providing reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable electricity. One hundred percent of our electric power needs are provided by Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), a generation and transmission cooperative.

CIPCO meets our energy needs with a diverse fuel mix of coal, hydro, landfill gas generation, wind, natural gas, and oil energy resources.

Having fuel diversity is good for Linn County REC members because it:

- Moves us to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly power supply mix
- Helps lessen exposure to emission regulations and avoids spending resources on emission reductions that would lead to increased costs
- Increases reliability by having a diverse generation mix that ensures that power will be available across a broad spectrum of conditions; such as severe weather events
- Lessens the impact of price fluctuations of a particular energy source
- The renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with the wind, solar, and landfill gas resources are typically sold to other parties. This results in additional revenue that contributes to lower energy costs which benefit all members.

CIPCO continues to invest in new technology and renewable energy production, supporting Iowa's development of renewable energy resources.

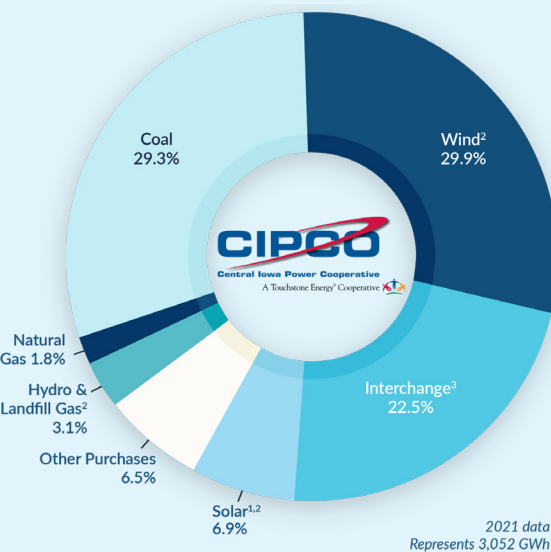
A BALANCED PORTFOLIO OF ENERGY SOURCES

As a 24/7 energy provider, CIPCO meets its member-owners' needs with a diverse fuel mix of coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, landfill gas, natural gas, and oil energy resources.

1. CIPCO's purchase power agreement for Wapello Solar LLC locks in stable, long-term pricing and avoids the risks associated with rising fuel costs. Renewable energy certificates (RECs) are not included in this agreement.

2. CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

3. A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.



Energy Adjustment Cost Increases

The energy adjustment cost (EAC) is used to account for monthly variations in the price of power and appears as a line item on your monthly bill. It is positive or negative based on the cost of power charged to Linn County REC from CIPCO, its power supplier. Linn County REC has an EAC in place for all of its rates.

If the EAC is negative, your bill amount is reduced. If the EAC is positive, your bill increases.

Some factors that may affect the EAC:

- Unscheduled maintenance on a power generation facility caused the plant to go offline.
- Rising or falling fuel costs to produce electricity.
- Higher or lower demands for peak power (example: a cooler or hotter than average summer or winter).

Our EAC has been negative for the past year, resulting in savings for our members. However, due to rising power costs incurred by our power supplier, the EAC became positive on May 1st. As a result, a typical residential member will see an increase of roughly \$2.50 reflected on their bills.

Other types of accounts can calculate their EAC amount by multiplying the EAC factor listed on your bill by the number of kilowatt-hours you used for the month.

If you have any questions regarding your bill, please contact our office.



File Rebates Online

Linn County REC recently streamlined our rebate forms to an easy-to-use online format.

Members can find a complete listing of our energy efficiency rebates at www.linncountyrec.com.

Virtual Annual Meeting September 27

Mark your calendars for the virtual annual meeting. The Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27th. Upcoming newsletters will feature meeting details, candidate biographies, and voting instructions.

Members will be voting to elect two board members. All members may cast a vote regardless of the district they reside.

How To Vote

You can vote for your board of directors three different ways:

1. SmartHub (in the app and on a desktop)
2. Online (through Linn County REC's direct vote website)
3. Mail ballot - (mailed first week in September)

Complete voting instructions will be available on our website and the August newsletter.

Understanding Energy Demand

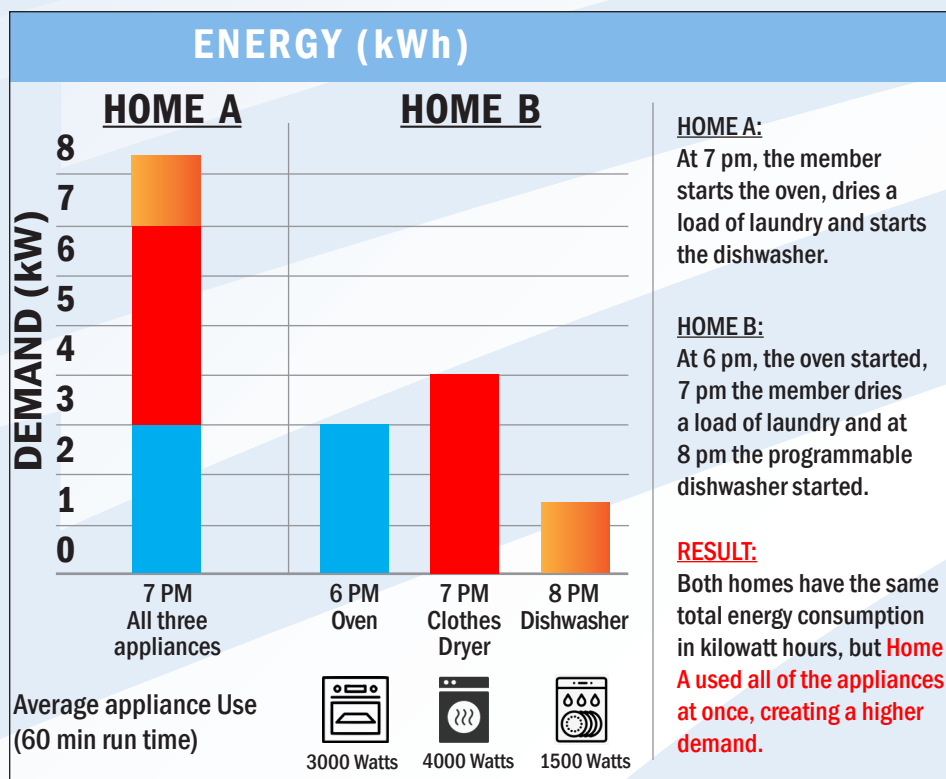
Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? This is especially true when extreme summer (or winter) weather pushes energy use even higher. However, you can do your part to beat the peak by scheduling tasks during off-peak hours and keeping electricity usage to a minimum between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Understanding how demand works can help you lessen your impact.

Energy Consumption vs. Demand

Energy consumption is the amount of power you use over a given period of time. Demand measures the impact of power needed to supply every electrical device running in your home at a specific point in time. It is the maximum rate at which your household has consumed energy.

How Does Peak Demand Impact Members?

You can lower the demand of electricity by coordinating the number of appliances you operate at once. Staggering the use of appliances reduces the demand on our system. Lower demand means lower costs for Linn County REC from our power supplier - a savings we pass on to our members. The graph below illustrates how demand is affected by how appliances are used:



The members in Homes A and B both used the same amount of energy (kWh) to run their appliances, but each home is putting a different demand (kW) on the cooperative's system. Higher demand increases the costs for the cooperative from our power supplier.



LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Has Your Air Conditioner Lost It's Cool? Consider Air Source

Iowa weather can go from one extreme to another. From 90+ degree days in the summer with high humidity to negative degree days in the winter with dangerous wind chills. Keeping your home comfortable year-round in any weather is something that we all strive to achieve while keeping our utility bills in check.

If you are in need of a new air conditioner/system this summer, consider an air-source heat pump (AHSP) as a replacement option. Linn County REC discontinued rebates for air conditioners to promote air-source heat pumps (ASHPs) as the best all-around replacement option for your home or small business.

Air-source heat pumps are a great replacement option that can provide cooling in the summer and the added benefits of efficient electric heating during the Spring, Fall, and Winter. ASHPs can be paired with a propane or natural gas furnaces to offer fuel flexibility; these units are called hybrid or dual fuel ASHPs. They work by doing the following:

- **Cooling** – ASHPs keep your home cool by extracting unwanted heat from inside your home and moving it outdoors.
- **Heating** – With an ASHP, a reversing valve utilizes your outdoor unit to extract heat from the outside (even when it's cold) and transfers it into your house to keep it warm and comfortable.
- **Hybrid/Dual Fuel** – A gas/propane furnace is enabled based on an outdoor air setpoint/lockout. Some manufacturers' thermostats will switch the ASHP to the gas furnace based on fuel costs, outdoor temperature, and system efficiency.

It is important to understand replacement options even if your current system is working properly. The average expected life of a heating and cooling system is 15-20 years. When a system failure happens, you may only have days or even hours to decide on a replacement option. Consumers often replace for like system in the event of a failure.

Whether choosing an air conditioner or an ASHP, know how your compressor works for comfort and efficiency. Heating and cooling systems are often sized for extreme temperatures.



- **Single-stage compressors** always operate at 100% capacity. They will cycle on and off often during moderate temperature, causing higher energy usage and decreased comfort.
- **Two-stage compressors** have a low capacity, 70% in most models, and a high capacity of 100%. These will cycle on and off less, saving energy and increasing comfort.
- **Variable-capacity compressors** will vary capacity from about 25% to 100% in less than 1% increments. Running almost continuously, this saves the most energy and provides the most comfort.

Rebates Available

ASHPs do cost more than traditional air conditioners. However, rebates can provide most, if not all, the incremental cost of the ASHP system. There are two types of ASHP that Linn County REC offers rebates on, ENERGY STAR units and NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships) listed Cold Climate units. Cold Climate ASHPs combine the benefits of ENERGY STAR efficiency and the ability to achieve high levels of efficiency even during the winter season from the use of a variable-capacity compressor. Linn County REC also offers a bonus rebate for a new Hybrid ASHP system (propane or natural gas furnace).

For more information about the benefits of electric heat pumps and how to take advantage of our rebates, call our office or visit www.linncountyrec.com/rebates.

End The Clutter, Go Paperless!



Save a tree...and time! Going paperless is easy. And with convenient access to your bill anytime, anywhere, doing your part to save the environment just got easier!

Sign up for paperless billing at www.linncountyrec.com or in the SmartHub app. Don't have SmartHub? Download the app for free in the App Store or Play Store.

Crockpot Coca-Cola Pulled Pork

- 1 (3½-lb) boneless pork shoulder
- 1 (12-oz) can Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola Barbecue Sauce

- ¾ cup Coca-Cola
- ¾ cup ketchup
- 2 Tbsp vinegar
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tbsp dried minced onion flakes
- ½ tsp salt, or to taste

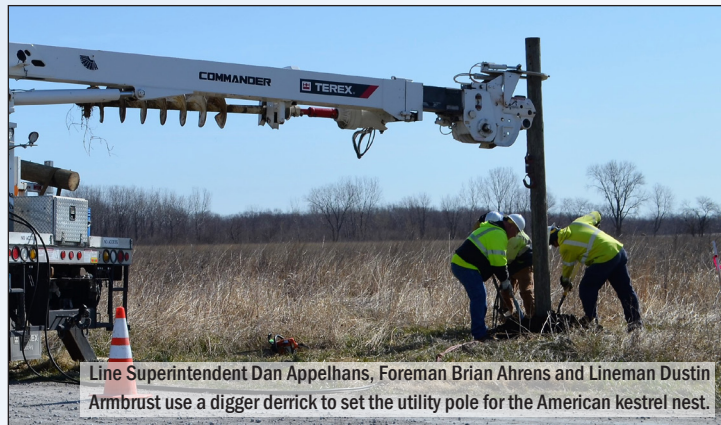


Pulled Pork: Place the pork in the crockpot. Pour coke over the pork. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours. Remove from crockpot and shred. Serve with your favorite BBQ sauce.

BBQ Sauce: Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil; cover pan; reduce heat and simmer about 20 to 30 minutes until sauce is very thick. Stir occasionally.



As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, Linn County REC recently donated and installed three retired utility poles for the Iowa Raptor Project in conjunction with Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area. Nests were attached to the poles for American kestrels near the Coralville Reservoir.



Line Superintendent Dan Appelhans, Foreman Brian Ahrens and Lineman Dustin Armbrust use a digger derrick to set the utility pole for the American kestrel nest.

"We are so excited to have partnered with Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative and Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area to put up three American kestrel nest boxes to make a better place for kestrels in Iowa! The habitat is perfect for foraging and raising young. Enjoy the progression of all the hard work put into putting up these boxes. Hopefully, we will get some kestrel pairs in here soon!" - Iowa Raptor Project



Linn County REC Meter Technicians Terry Fritcher and Nick Albertsen demonstrate metering software to a group of powerline students at Marshalltown Community College. Over two days, students also learned how to locate underground line and detect underground line faults.



LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ElectriCONNECTION, 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

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