



## 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 tips to stay safe before, during, and after a storm:



### Before the storm

- Charge your cell phone and portable cell phone chargers
- Sign up for local emergency alerts on your phone
- 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

- Unplug as many appliances as possible. This will prevent damage from a power surge that may occur during power restoration.
- If outside, don't touch or drive over a power line. Always assume a downed line is energized.

### After the storm

- If you have unplugged appliances, plug them back in one at a time once power has been restored.
- Contact us immediately if you see a downed line or damaged utility equipment. Make sure to keep people away. 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 hamper restoration and safety efforts.

### If you experience a power outage, report it to us by:

**Phone:** Call our toll-free outage number at 1-888-271-6250. Calls are answered 24/7.

**SmartHub App:** Download the FREE app in the App store or Marketplace.

**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.

For outage updates, visit our Facebook page. For more outage resources, including our outage map with real time outage information, visit our website.



## Update Your Information

Linn County REC relies on accurate contact information to serve you most efficiently. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also lets members receive information about our programs, news, and events.

Your phone number is linked to your service address and our outage management system. When you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location.

We also plan outages occasionally to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we contact impacted members through automated phone messages.

Confirm or update your contact information by:

- Account settings via SmartHub
- Emailing [lcrc@linncountyrec.com](mailto:lcrc@linncountyrec.com)
- Contacting our office
- Writing it on your bill stub

# MEMBER EDUCATION SEMINAR

**MAY 16  
10:00 AM**

**Register by email at  
[rebates@linncountyrec.com](mailto:rebates@linncountyrec.com)**



Our Member Services team will host a member education seminar at our headquarters in Marion (5695 REC Drive) on Thursday, May 16, at 10:00 am. This informative one-hour presentation will include information on the following topics:

- Rates
- Rebates & Heat Plus Rate
- SmartHub app
- Smart Plugs
- Alternate Energy Production (solar, wind, etc.)
- Trees/Safety

Members can register for the seminar by emailing us at [rebates@linncountyrec.com](mailto:rebates@linncountyrec.com). The registration deadline is May 10. Please include your account number and how many people will be attending with you. **All registrations will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a smart plug!**

If there is high interest in this new program, we will host another seminar at our North Liberty location in the future.

If you have any questions regarding the seminar, please contact our office to speak with Member Services.

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

### Power Line Safety Tips

Linn County REC recognizes Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. Electricity is a necessity, but we know first-hand how dangerous it can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

Would you know what to do if you came into contact with a downed power line? Below are some essential safety tips to follow should this happen to you. For more on electrical safety, please visit our website.



An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:

- Consider all power lines energized and deadly.**
- Stay at least 50 feet away.**
- Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed line.**
- Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.**
- Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.**
- Do not approach the scene.**
- Warn others to stay away.**
- Turn around and go another way.**

#### Other things to know

- Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.**
- If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.**
- You cannot tell if a power line is live just by looking at it.**
- Even if a power line appears coated, it is never safe to go near it.**

While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Never approach a downed power line.

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.

**Safe Electricity.org®** Learn more at:

# How Our Rates Work With Solar Installations

Last month, we provided several tips on what to consider before installing a solar system. In addition to those tips, it is also important to understand utility rates and other impacts before purchasing a system.

Linn County REC does not offer rebates for installing solar. However, we do offer monthly net metering within our rate blocks. Any excess generation is paid at our avoided cost rate. Avoided cost is based on the average monthly cost, minus distribution losses, that our power supplier would have incurred if energy was purchased in the wholesale market.

The largest percentage of the membership's power costs come from peak demand. Unfortunately, there is a misalignment between when solar production occurs and when our members use it the most. Most of our margin on the kilowatt-hour goes towards covering members' peak demand costs. Our system typically peaks hour-ending at 6 pm and 7 pm during the summer and 6 pm - 9 pm during the spring, fall, and winter.

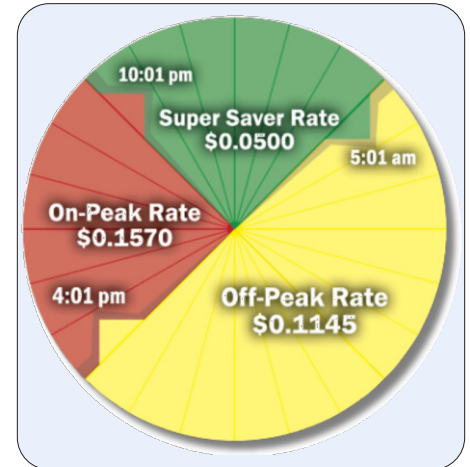
To better align with our power

suppliers' rate structure and to encourage peak demand reduction, we implemented a 3-tier time-of-day rate for residential and single-phase small commercial members in 2023.

When a solar system produces more than a member uses, the excess generation goes back to the grid unless a member has on-site battery storage. Most overproduction occurs during our off-peak time; the difference in the member's consumption from the grid and generation back to the grid will be netted out at the end of the month. Any kilowatt-hour overage will be converted to a monetary value using the current month's avoided energy cost. This amount is then used to reduce the remaining billing components.

We do not allow overproduction to be used in other time blocks as we cannot store excess generation to the grid from members during lower-cost off-peak times and use it when costs are higher during on-peak times.

**Example 1:** If you consumed 100 kWh from LCREC and your system overproduced 250 kWh during the



Off-Peak, the remaining -150 kWh will be paid out at the avoided energy cost.

**Example 2:** If you consumed 200 kWh from LCREC and your system overproduced 25 kWh during the on-peak, you will be billed for 175 kWh for the on-peak time.

If you are considering solar or Alternative Energy Production (AEP), please contact us first. We will help guide you through the process and answer any questions you may have so you can make an informed decision.

For more information on renewable energy, please visit our website.

## Additional Costs and Considerations

- Before installing solar, make your home as energy efficient as possible and shift usage to off-peak hours. Energy-efficient homes and behavioral efficiency can save you money and reduce your home's environmental impact. This also allows you to install a smaller solar system.
- Don't overlook the condition of your roof. It is more difficult and expensive to replace a roof with solar panels. Evaluate if the roof will need to be replaced before the solar panels need to be replaced.
- Solar production is based on the time, weather, and orientation/tilt. Since solar is not constantly available and predictable, members rely on the grid. Due to line workers' safety concerns (electrical code), solar systems will automatically be disconnected from the grid during an outage. The system cannot generate power behind the meter without battery storage.

### Shifting your behaviors can save money (with or without solar):

- Use a programmable thermostat to sub-cool your home prior to on-peak hours.
- Utilize the delayed start on appliances such as dishwasher, washer, and dryer.
- Use smart plugs to schedule pumps, dehumidifiers, etc., to turn off during the on-peak hours.
- Schedule EV charging
- If you have solar, utilize your production as much as possible. When your array is producing, do tasks such as laundry, dishwashing, and charging an electric vehicle.



## Re-Designed Tariff Now Available

We have redesigned our electric tariff to make it more user-friendly. Tariffs are the procedures, policies, rates, fees, and charges for Linn County REC in fulfilling its role of furnishing electric service to our members.

Our goal for the redesign was to simplify your experience. It includes minor adjustments to enhance transparency and ease of understanding, ensuring you can manage your electric service more effectively.

The tariff is available on our website. If you have any questions, please contact our office to speak with our Member Services department.



### Peach Cobbler Pound Cake

#### Cobbler Topping:

½ cup butter melted	½ cup packed light brown sugar
2 cups chopped peaches	½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp kosher salt	

#### Pound Cake:

1½ cups unsalted butter softened	1 (8-oz) cream cheese softened
6 large eggs	3 cups all-purpose flour
¾ tsp kosher salt	1 tsp baking powder
1½ cups sugar	½ cup peach preserves
1 Tbsp vanilla extract	

#### Glaze:

½ cup powdered sugar	2 tsp milk
½ tsp ground cinnamon	

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Spray a 10-cup Bundt cake pan with cooking spray with flour. Set aside. Combine melted butter, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, and chopped peaches in a small bowl. Spray a Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray with flour. Pour peach mixture into the bottom of the pan and set aside. Beat softened butter and cream cheese together in the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until light and fluffy. Add sugar and kosher salt to the butter mixture. Mix at medium speed. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add peach preserves and vanilla extract to the batter and mix well. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. In a large bowl, whisk together all-purpose flour and baking powder. Slowly add flour mixture to the batter and mix just until incorporated. Spoon pound cake batter over the peach mixture. Place the cake pan on a rimmed baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes, until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean or with a few moist crumbs. Let the cake cool in the pan on top of a cooling rack for at least 30 minutes. Turn the cake over onto a platter and cool completely. In a small bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, cinnamon, and milk. Drizzle the glaze over the cake and enjoy!



**Congratulations to this year's recipients.**

Linn County REC is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2024 - 2025 college scholarships:

**Kaleb Wesselink**, Cedar Rapids will attend UNI.

**Casey Kirtz**, Center Point, will attend Iowa State University.

**Noah Jordebek**, Cedar Rapids, will attend the University of Iowa.

**Rylie Bucklin**, Marion, will attend Luther College.

**Thomas Louzek**, Cedar Rapids, will attend Mt. Mercy.

**Peyton Pentico**, Solon, will attend University of Iowa.

**Luke Schneider**, Cedar Rapids, will attend Kirkwood.

**Jedediah Schmidt**, Springville, will attend Kirkwood.

**Carter Kuehl**, Anamosa, will enter the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

Linn County REC has proudly awarded college scholarships to students in our service territory for over 26 years as a commitment to the communities we serve.

**Summer Office Hours**

We will begin summer hours Monday, May 27 - Friday, Aug 30

Monday - Thursday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday, 7:00 am to 11:00 am

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**REMEMBER AND HONOR**

Our office will be closed on May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Bill payment kiosks are available 24/7 at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center.

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