



Linn County  
Rural Electric  
Cooperative

# ElectricConnection

A monthly publication for our members



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OCTOBER 2025

## Power With Purpose - Celebrating Co-op Month

We're celebrating National Co-op Month! It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. Our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. Because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we support local economic development projects, scholarships, and charitable giving initiatives that make our community a better place to call home.

We are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement:

**1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

**2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.

**3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. This happens through paying your energy bills.

**4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.



### 5. Education, Training, and Information:

Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

**6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

**7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people--the local communities we're proud to serve.



Corridor Energy  
Cooperative™

**COMING IN DECEMBER!** As announced in August, we will rebrand as Corridor Energy Cooperative December 8. The co-op is rebranding for several reasons:

- **Reflects Our Membership:** Corridor Energy better represents the diverse makeup of our members, with 65% living in urban areas and over 55% in Johnson County.
- **Promotes Economic Development:** Removing "rural" from our name positions us to attract larger businesses, ultimately lowering costs for all members.
- **Embraces Energy Innovation:** As the energy industry evolves, cooperatives nationwide have rebranded to demonstrate their commitment to innovation and progress. Corridor Energy is ready to meet the diverse energy needs of our communities.

### Impact On Members

Our name will be different, but our ownership structure, rates, and commitment to affordable, reliable energy will remain the same.

### Looking Ahead

We are updating our signs, billing, and marketing materials to prepare for the December 8 start date. Our new website will launch that day, giving our members an improved online experience.

We look forward to powering the future of our communities!

# Tax Credits Ending – Take Advantage Before They're Gone!

Tax credits and utility rebates play an important role in making higher-efficiency equipment more affordable. They can help you complete upgrades that reduce your home's energy use and save you money for years to come.

## Tax Credits vs. Rebates

It's important to understand the difference:

- **Utility Rebate** – A predetermined incentive amount provided after qualifying equipment has been installed and verified under the program's requirements.
- **Tax Credit** – A dollar-for-dollar reduction in the amount of federal income tax you owe, claimed on your tax return.

## Federal Tax Credits Still Available (for now)

Recent changes to the Inflation Reduction Act allow homeowners to take advantage of federal tax credits for home upgrades **until December 31, 2025**. These credits can cover up to 30% of the cost of certain energy efficiency improvements, with a maximum benefit of \$3,200.

Examples of qualifying upgrades include:

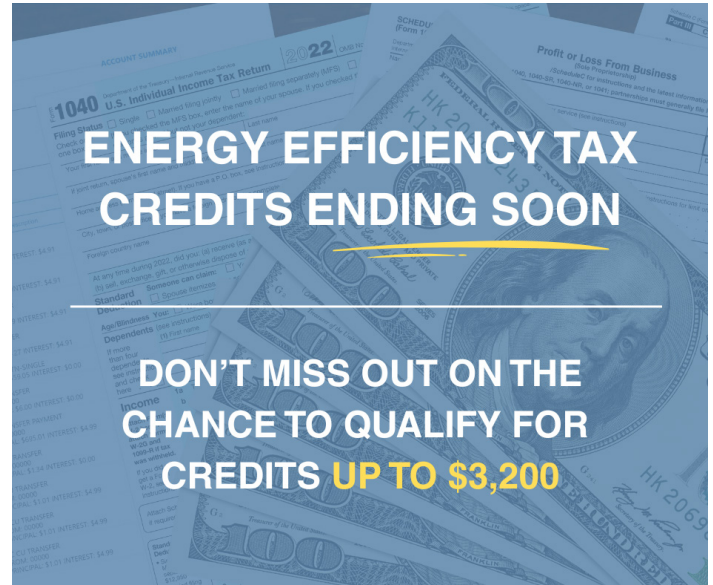
- Air-Source Heat Pumps
- Supplemental Mini-Splits
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Electric Panel Upgrades
- Insulation & Air-Sealing
- Windows and Doors

Before making a purchase, confirm that your equipment meets the minimum ENERGY STAR® standards at: [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits).

## Linn County REC Rebates Available!

While federal tax credits will expire, Linn County REC continues to offer rebates for energy-efficient equipment, such as:

- Ground & Air-Source Heat Pumps
- Mini-Split Heat Pumps



- Energy/Heat Recovery Ventilation (ERV/HRV)
- Heat Pump Water Heaters & Dryers
- Induction Cooktop Stoves

See the complete list of rebates and requirements on our website at [www.linncountyrec.com/rebates](http://www.linncountyrec.com/rebates) or contact our office to speak with a Member Services Energy Advisor.

## Electric Vehicle Tax Credit Expired

The electric vehicle tax credit expired September 30, 2025. To claim the tax credit for the purchase of a new or used electric vehicle, buyers must have completed a written binding purchase agreement and have made a down payment on or before that expiration date. The final vehicle delivery can occur after the deadline.

In addition, Linn County REC offers up to \$175 in rebates for the purchase and home installation of a Level II EV Charger.



**Tip:** Talk with your tax advisor or accountant for more information and to make sure you maximize the available credits before they expire.



# Find Hidden Energy Users At Home

Out of sight, out of mind. It is easy to overlook the hidden energy users in our homes. Yet, every plugged-in device and ready-to-use appliance can lead to higher electric bills. Review the items below to see what hidden energy savings you can find.

**WATER HEATERS:** Setting water heaters higher than needed wastes energy. Most water heaters are set to 140 degrees at the factory. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting the temperature to 120 degrees. This will save energy and reduce the risk of scalding. Do not set it lower than 120 degrees to prevent bacteria development in the tank.

**LIGHTING:** Exterior security, porch, and barn lights can waste energy if left on every night, totaling 4,380 hours a year. Using outdated technology increases this waste. Switching to energy-efficient LED bulbs can save significant energy. If lights need to stay on, consider using motion sensor lights to reduce energy usage throughout the night.

**POOLS/HOT TUBS:** Pools and hot tubs can use a lot of energy since pumps and heaters are usually out of sight. Energy Star®-certified pumps filter water more efficiently, run at lower speeds, and can be programmed for your pool's needs. They typically pay for themselves in two years, are quieter, and help extend the life of your filtering system. To save energy, lower your hot tub's temperature when not in use or use timers.

**PLUG LOAD:** Plug load includes all devices that plug into outlets, and as we use more technology at home, their energy consumption increases. Identify what's plugged in and unplug any devices you're not using. For computer



stations and entertainment centers, consider smart power strips that automatically manage power to peripheral devices.

**GAMING CONSOLES:** Many gamers use rest mode for their consoles, which allows updates to complete and reduces startup time. However, this mode still consumes energy. Powering off the console between sessions can save energy. Encourage gamers to turn off their consoles, even if it takes longer for updates to install.

Once you know what's drawing power in your home, it's easy to make unplugging part of your routine. To help, Linn County REC offers rebates on Smart Plugs — giving you the ability to schedule your electronics and appliances to turn on or off whenever you choose. We also have timer rebates available for pool pumps and electric water heaters. Visit our website to learn how you can start saving today.

## Remember Safety This Harvest Season

This harvest season, keep electrical safety in mind. Be cautious when operating farm equipment and machinery near overhead power lines. Here are more tips for a safe and successful harvest season.

- Check the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Be aware of the location of power poles and lines, including field entry and exit points, and plan a safe equipment route.
- Always keep a minimum 10-foot safety radius around an electric line.
- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near electrical lines.
- Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving equipment.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If your equipment contacts a power line, pole, or guy wire, stay in the cab, call 911, and warn others to stay away.







## Donate To RECare To Help Others In Our Community

RECare is a crisis fund for our low-income members aimed at helping them pay their electric bills and weatherize their homes. When you donate to RECare, your contribution goes directly to families in need within our community. All funds are distributed by a local community action agency, with no administrative costs, and donations are tax-deductible.

To contribute to RECare, you can sign up through SmartHub on our website or make a notation on your bill stub. The amount can be a one-time pledge or included with the monthly net amount on your bill statement. You can discontinue at any time by contacting our office.

## Home Energy Assistance Guidelines Released



The 2025 - 2026 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.

If you are not sure where to apply you can **Dial 2-1-1**, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap> to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

**WHEN TO APPLY:** Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026. All other households: Nov. 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

### WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over)  
Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (doc req)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

**WAGE EARNERS:** Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

**FIXED INCOME:** This income may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

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

**Note - Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination.**

Household Size	Annual Gross Income	Household Size	Annual Gross Income
<b>1</b>	<b>\$31,300</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$75,300</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$42,300</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$86,300</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$53,300</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$97,300</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$64,300</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$108,300</b>
For households with more than eight members, add \$11,000 for each additional member.			



## Corn Bread

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 3/4 cup sour cream     | 1/2 cup yogurt    |
| 2 eggs                 | 1 tsp baking soda |
| 1 tsp baking powder    | 1/2 tsp salt      |
| 1 cup flour            | 1/2 cup sugar     |
| 1 cup yellow corn meal |                   |

Beat sour cream, yogurt, and eggs. Add cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Mixture will be stiff. Bake in greased 9x13 pan or 8x8 pan for thicker corn bread. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out dry.

*Recipe submitted by Margaret (Peg) Zack - Thank you!*

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