

**LYON-COFFEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# EVENTS



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## FROM THE MANAGER

# Putting a Sock on a Rooster

To the “average Joe”, the task of generating electricity and then finding a way to get it to the end user perhaps hundreds of miles away, may look as difficult as “putting a sock on a rooster.”

When power is needed, it must be instantly on hand. When it's created, it must be immediately moved to where it can be used, because it cannot be easily stored, supply and demand must be kept in perfect balance.

Unlike other utilities that manage tangible resources like water or natural gas, electric co-ops can't keep extra electricity on hand—power can't be stored in a warehouse or a large tank. For example, if massive batteries were designed that allowed us to keep reserve megawatts at the ready, providing power reliably and safely would be significantly easier, and electricity would be more affordable.

Stored electricity has several valuable uses. For one, renewable energy sources like wind and solar aren't always ready when electricity is needed. Wind often blows strongest when electricity demand is low. If that unused energy could be stored and put to work the next day, a wind farm would be much more productive and cost effective.

Stored energy could also give the electric grid a needed boost

during periods of peak demand—the electric utility industry's equivalent of rush hour traffic, when people come home in the late afternoon and turn on lights, dishwashers, and all the other comforts of home. That spike in demand is often met by switching on natural gas-fired generators, which are expensive to operate. A battery could do the same job for a lot less.

A battery tucked beside the local substation serving your home could keep lights on should a power line leading into that substation fail. The whole process would likely happen without so much as a light flickering, keeping you warm and comfortable while repairs are made.

Because of these potential benefits, electric co-ops are leading the way in searching for a better battery. The Cooperative Research Network, an arm of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is looking to put large-scale batteries to the test through projects in South Carolina, Alaska, and Hawaii. If the technology proves effective and affordable, electric co-ops could better stabilize the price of electricity and at the same time increase reliability.

Putting that sock on a rooster may one day be as easy as, well, turning on a light switch.



Scott Whittington

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## Lyon-Coffey Moves Conductors for Highway Expansion

Lyon-Coffey, Capital Electric (a contractor hired by Westar) and the City of Burlington embraced the cooperative spirit in October.

The Highway 75 widening project meant that crews needed to move electric conductors from existing poles to new poles along Highway 75 on the south side of Burlington.

It was a successful cooperative effort resulting in a completed task and promoted good will among the three entities.



Lyon-Coffey, Capital Electric and the City of Burlington crews move poles along Highway 75.

## Things to Check Before Calling in an Outage

When you call Lyon-Coffey Electric Co-op to report an outage, you might be asked several questions depending on whether you are in an area with a known outage or whether your call is the first one we have received.

You might be asked if you checked all your breakers, if your neighbors have electricity, if you have checked the main breaker or disconnect at the meter.

After you report the outage, a lineman comes to investigate. Then later in the month, you receive an invoice from Lyon-Coffey Electric. You ask yourself, how could I possibly be billed for maintaining the line?

Why did you receive a bill? Remember all those questions you were asked when you called to report your outage? We are trying to determine if the problem is on “our” side of the meter or “your” side of the meter. Lyon-Coffey Electric’s property stops at the meter. Anything beyond the meter is the responsibility of the property owner.

Our linemen are not always

equipped to fix issues on your side of the meter. If our linemen arrive and find that the problem is on your side of the meter, you could be billed for the actual cost of labor and travel, regardless if we were able to make the necessary repairs. You may still need to contact an electrician.

You will also be charged for any repairs necessary to our property caused by a vehicle or other equipment. If someone damages cooperative property, the responsible party will be billed for the repairs.

Lyon-Coffey Electric certainly doesn’t want our members to go without electricity when an outage occurs. We want to restore your power as soon as possible, so it is important that we determine the source of the problem before we send our crews.

We strive to provide the most reliable electric service to our members while maintaining costs. We want you to be aware of our operational policies up front.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 800-748-7395.

## Energy Efficiency—Proper Insulation

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home’s heating and cooling costs—and



improve comfort—involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation’s effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it’s installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it’s important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.