

## Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 3, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates during the June 3 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 5, District 6 and District 7. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 5, District 6 and District 7. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Dennis Nelson, District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer, District 6, and Allen Thiessen, District 7.

- Representing District 5 – Cynthia Gardner and Wagner Harmon
- Representing District 6 – Tammi Bidegaray and Jennifer Vaira
- Representing District 7 – Mark Pust and Susan Torgerson

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 5, 6 or 7, and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be

considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative.

REMINDER: As voted on at the 2019 Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the membership, nominations from the floor during the annual meeting will no longer be accepted. ■



*Allen Thiessen*



*Greg Rauschendorfer*



*Dennis Nelson*

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram**



[https://www.instagram.com/lower\\_yellowstone\\_rec/](https://www.instagram.com/lower_yellowstone_rec/)



<https://www.facebook.com/loweryellowstone>

# Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle this year

A new year brings new opportunities to save energy – and money. You may think energy-efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that’s not always the case.

If you’re interested in making your home more efficient, but don’t want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let’s look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

## Shorten your dryer-vent hose

**Level of difficulty:** easy.

**Supplies needed:** tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape.

**Estimated cost:** \$25, depending on the supplies you already have.

First, disconnect it and vacuum it out. Then trim the hose length so that it’s just long enough for you to pull the dryer a few feet out from the wall. If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

## Seal air leaks

**Level of difficulty:** moderate.

**Supplies needed:** caulk and caulk gun, weatherstripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels.

**Estimated cost:** \$25 to \$50, depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10 percent to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills. Whether leaks are letting hot air inside during the warmer months or letting in drafts during the cooler season, one of the quickest energy- and money-saving tasks you can do is caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal cracks and large openings to the outside. Types of caulking and weatherstripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you’re unsure about the supplies



*Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10 percent to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in air.*

you need. For more information, the U.S. Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weatherstripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

## Insulate attic stairs opening

**Level of difficulty:** moderate.

**Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself):** rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood.

**Estimated cost:** \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don’t consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there’s an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the U.S. Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn’t have to be difficult. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, contact Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. ■

# WHAT TO DO DURING AN OUTAGE

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. Your electric cooperative wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider preparing now for the possibility of power outages this winter.

## To report an outage

Because power outages can't be totally eliminated, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric offers these steps to follow if an outage occurs:

- **Confirm the outage.** Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- Check with a neighbor to confirm if he or she is also experiencing an outage before you call the cooperative. This will help your cooperative determine the extent of the outage.
- **Call the cooperative.** If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. Lower Yellowstone will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.

## Before a power outage

- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash and first-aid supplies and medications. Have a water supply and nonperishable food on hand. Use a battery-operated radio and make sure your cellphone is always fully charged before a storm or make sure you have alternative charging methods for your phone.
- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it.
- If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, remember to include backup power in your evacuation plan.
- Keep a non-cordless telephone in your home. It is likely to work even when the power is out.

## Operate generator safely

If your standby electric generator has been in storage since last winter, make sure it is still operating properly – before an outage occurs.

And always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back onto the power line. This protects the lineworkers who may be working to restore your service.

## During a power outage

- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting. Candles can cause fires.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power "surge" that can damage computers and other devices. Consider adding surge protectors.



## WE HAVE REBATES!

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) offers rebates on electric water heaters, heat pumps, double-throw switches, grain dryers and electric heat. To see if your purchase qualifies for the rebate, go to [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com) to download a contract or call LYREC at 406-488-1602.

## Scholarship opportunities offered

### Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member's dependent. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com). Applications are due Feb. 7.

### Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association memorial scholarship

The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) is offering a \$500 scholarship to an LYREC member's dependent. Applications are judged on academic strength, school and community activities, employment, volunteerism, community service and a personal statement.

A committee from LYREC will choose one applicant to send to the MECA committee. A committee comprised of co-op staff members from across the state of Montana will judge the applicants. If the MECA committee chooses an applicant from LYREC, then LYREC will match the \$500 scholarship.

To apply, complete the application form, along with all required materials. You may get the application at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com). MECA memorial scholarship applications are due Jan. 24. ■



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com)

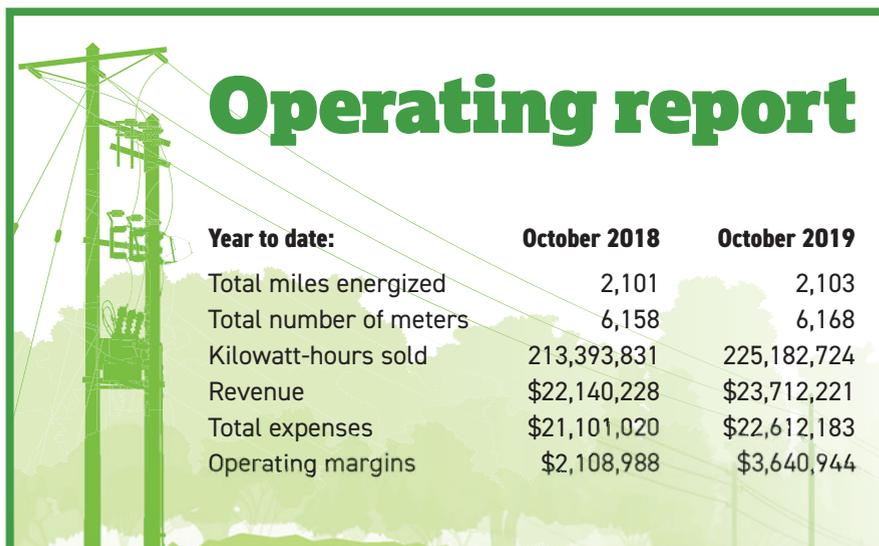
#### TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	.....	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	.....	Vice President
John Redman	.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner	.....	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer	.....	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	.....	Trustee
Jim Vitt	.....	Trustee

#### EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen	.....	General Manager
Brenda Bond	.....	Chief Financial Officer
Jami Propp	.....	Member Service Manager
Kyle Kavanagh	.....	IT Coordinator
Margo Zadow	.....	Billing Coordinator
Pam Wilcoxon	.....	Plant Accountant
Tiffani Hentges	.....	Customer Service Representative
Melissa Buckley	.....	CSR/Staff Assistant
Chris Hillesland	.....	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde	.....	Foreman
Eric McPherson	.....	System Controller
Kevin Goff	.....	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keysor	.....	Operations Manager
Lee Alvstad	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Blade Jankovsky	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp	.....	Apprentice Lineman
Cole Jankovsky	.....	Apprentice Lineman
Brandon Mueller	.....	Master Electrician
Dan Gieser	.....	Energy Management Supervisor
Mike Eberling	.....	Mechanic
Richard Tremblay	.....	Service Technician
Bo Kindopp	.....	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee	.....	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	.....	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	.....	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	.....	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Operating report

Year to date:	October 2018	October 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,158	6,168
Kilowatt-hours sold	213,393,831	225,182,724
Revenue	\$22,140,228	\$23,712,221
Total expenses	\$21,101,020	\$22,612,183
Operating margins	\$2,108,988	\$3,640,944