

Need assistance heating your home this winter?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of Montana and North Dakota are accepting applications. These programs assist residents with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income and resources. If you live in Montana and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at www.lyrec.coop or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.



The application process can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you fall within the guidelines below and need assistance, please download an application today.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, you may still qualify for Energy Share. Energy Share benefits are a one-time grant to alleviate a temporary heating emergency. Eligibility is not based solely on income, but also on extenuating circumstances the household is facing.

Below are income eligibility criteria for Montana and North Dakota residents.

Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$29,796
2.....	\$38,964
3.....	\$48,132
4.....	\$57,300
5.....	\$66,468

North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$35,724
2.....	\$46,716
3.....	\$57,708
4.....	\$68,701
5.....	\$79,693 ■

Hillesland receives Power Up award

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative Chief Operations Officer Chris Hillesland was presented with the Power Up safety award during the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) Operations Conference by MECA Safety Instructor Jerry Lemm. The Power Up award recognizes cooperative employees in the operations department who exhibit leadership abilities on a consistent basis at work, home and in public service. ■



Serving up savings

The holiday season is just around the corner and festive music will soon flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative reminds members of a few programs and efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

Low-cost DIY to help you save

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor low-cost improvements, such as weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows, can make a positive impact on energy bills.

Clogged and dirty air filters require your HVAC system to work harder to push air through your system, making your furnace less efficient and more likely to break down. Check your filter monthly, especially during the colder months or any time you're using your system heavily. A good rule of thumb is to change your filter every three months.

Cleaning the coils on your fridge to remove dust and debris can decrease the energy consumption of the fridge. When the coils are dirty, your fridge's compressor works overtime for longer than it is originally designed to do, using more energy and shortening the lifespan of the fridge.

Our team of member service representatives is available to help, so we encourage you to give us a call if you'd like to learn about specific programs and services that can lower your bills.

Be festive without breaking the bank

Your family may insist on dragging the Christmas decorations down faster than they can finish the Thanksgiving turkey. With holiday lights adorning a home for well over a month, you may want to make the switch to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as

\$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

Cook up energy savings in the kitchen

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency, since it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes. ■



APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024
AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION

If you could have dinner with one prominent Washington, D.C., figure, whether from the present or past, who would that person be and why? What would you ask them?

HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC).
- Email entries to Jami Propp at scholarships@lyrec.coop or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270.
- Questions? Call Jami at 406-488-1602 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Nov. 30, 2023.**

EMPOWER



LEARN MORE AT NDYOUTHTOUR.COM

Level 1 goals achieved



Left to right are IT technicians **Jeremy Reese** and **Braden Kindopp** and IT coordinator **Kyle Kavanagh**.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) completed Level 1 of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Co-op Cyber Goals Program. Through the IT department's commitment and dedication, LYREC has implemented 10 fundamental measures of cybersecurity preparedness. These measures will help LYREC protect the electric grid from cyber threats. LYREC is among the first 30 out of over 900 electric cooperatives to complete the 10 cyber goals. ■



From your friends at LYREC, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

**Office closed
Nov. 23
and 24**

Happy Thanksgiving

Operating report

Year to date:	August 2022	August 2023
Total miles energized	2,140	2,149
Total number of meters	6,240	6,245
Kilowatt-hours sold	207,498,716	256,344,215
Revenue	\$22,063,465	\$26,890,200
Total expenses	\$21,023,834	\$24,950,363
Operating margins	\$1,851,986	\$4,425,755

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TRUSTEES

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Kyle Kavanagh IT Coordinator
Margo Zadow Billing Coordinator
Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
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Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
Tom Hall GIS Specialist
Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese Information Technology Technician
Braden Kindopp Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King Warehouse Supervisor
Dennis Fine Summer Help

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