

3200 W. Holly
Sidney, MT 59270
Phone: 406-488-1602
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative donated this adorable Christmas scene, "There's Gnome Place Like Home," for the Parade of Trees auction. The proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the MonDak Richland Unit.



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative employees decorated the "2020 Christmas Getaway: As Good As It Gets" float for the Parade of Lights held in Sidney, Mont., Nov 27.

Scholarship opportunities offered

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) 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.coop. The BEPC applications are due Feb. 15.

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association memorial scholarship

The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) is offering a \$500 scholarship to one eligible student from the Northeast District of Montana. The applicant's parent/guardian must be an LYREC member and the applicant must be attending college in the fall of 2021. Applications are judged on academic strength, school and community activities, employment, volunteerism, community service and

personal statement.

A committee comprised of LYREC staff will choose one application to send to MECA for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship. The applicant chosen by the LYREC Scholarship Committee will be awarded a \$500 scholarship from LYREC.

To apply, complete the application form, along with all required materials. You may get the application at www.lyrec.coop. The MECA memorial scholarships are due Jan. 25.

Please send all applications to:

LYREC
Attn: Jami Propp
P.O. Box 1047
Sidney MT 59270



Adding humidity inside your home can make the air feel a little warmer.

Five ways to stay cozy this winter

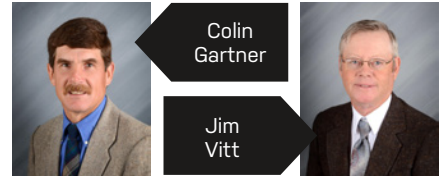
by Abby Berry

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temperatures or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let in the sunshine. You'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate! ■



Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday, 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 candidates during the June 2 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 1 and District 2. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 1 and District 2. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Jim Vitt, District 1, and Colin Gartner, District 2.

Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 1 - Bob Albin and Dennis Trudell
- Representing District 2 - Steve Joslin and Ben Larson

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 1 or 2, 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 seat. 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. ■

DON'T LET THE CHILL AFFECT YOUR BILL

Yes, winter is here! But don't despair! You can keep your home comfortable and still keep your energy bills from escalating, with these winter tips from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative:



Seal your home

Weatherstripping and caulking are probably the least expensive, most effective ways to save energy in the winter. Check around doors and windows for leaks and drafts. Add weatherstripping and caulk any holes where heat can escape. Make sure doors seal properly.

Plug those little leaks, too

Electric wall plugs and switches can allow cold air to enter. Purchase simple-to-install, foam gaskets that fit behind the switch plate and effectively prevent leaks.



Close that damper

Don't forget to close the damper on your fireplace when the fireplace is not in use. If the damper is open when you're not using the fireplace, your chimney functions as a large open window that draws warm air out of the room and creates a draft.

Check your heating system

Get a routine maintenance and inspection of your heating system to make sure it is in good working order.

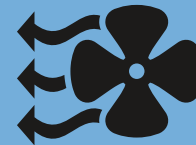


Change the filter

Check furnace filters. Be sure to clean or replace your system's air filter. At a minimum, change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.

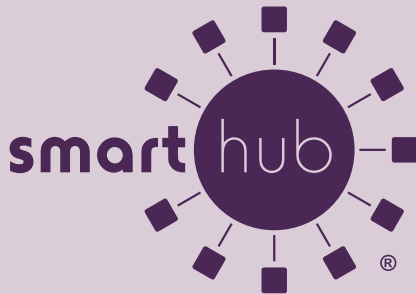
Put it in reverse

Reverse the switch on your ceiling fans so they blow upward, toward the ceiling.



Check your insulation

Insulate your attic. In an older home, that can be the most cost-efficient way to cut home heating costs. Before energy efficiency standards, homes were often built with little or no insulation. As a result, large amounts of heat can be lost through walls, floors and ceilings.



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- **View your bill and billing history.**
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Login on your way

Whether it's on a PC, a smartphone or a tablet, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members can access their account information anywhere they go! SmartHub delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button.

Please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 if you have questions or need assistance signing up for SmartHub.



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: 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 Journeyman Lineman
- 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



Operating report

| Year to date: | October 2019 | October 2020 |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total miles energized | 2,103 | 2,104 |
| Total number of meters | 6,168 | 6,222 |
| Kilowatt-hours sold | 225,182,724 | 211,843,243 |
| Revenue | \$23,712,221 | \$22,623,575 |
| Total expenses | \$22,612,183 | \$21,933,621 |
| Operating margins | \$3,640,944 | \$1,345,751 |

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