

Current REPORT

For Members of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative

Become a “Peak Buster”



Many of our members aren't aware the cost of wholesale electricity can fluctuate greatly each day based on the demand for power. These “spikes” in electricity usage are called “peaks.”

The more members can do to lower energy use during these peak periods, the less our co-op has to pay for electricity. That helps keep down the cost of electricity for everyone.

Peaks often occur on cold winter mornings and hot summer evenings when folks are turning up the heat or air conditioning.

In the winter, peak demand often skyrockets between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. as members are starting their day, turning up the heat, taking showers and

preparing breakfast. In the summer the peak period is between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. when families come home from work and school.

You can help reduce energy consumption at your home by utilizing as little electricity as possible during these hours of highest demand. Put off washing clothes or running your dishwasher until mid-morning or later in the evening. Turn off unneeded lights. Take showers or baths at off-peak times. In the kitchen, do as much cooking and baking as possible during other parts of the day rather than at dinnertime. Lower your thermostat a few degrees in the



winter and raise it in the summer. Consider installing a programmable thermostat.

Together, by doing just a few simple things, we can all become “Peak Busters,” save energy and help keep down the cost of electricity for ourselves and our neighbors.

Energy Audit First Step to Efficiency Upgrades

We at Lynchess River Electric Cooperative often suggest ways you can reduce your electric bills by making home energy efficiency improvements. Weatherization—sealing air leaks and installing the proper amount of insulation—can make a big difference.

Energy efficiency upgrades done without knowledge of how your residence uses energy overall, however, may not produce significant savings.

Spending a few hours on a home energy audit—a full assessment of how your house uses energy and where problems lie—will ensure money designated

for efficiency is spent wisely. For instance, investing in additional insulation has little impact on heating bills if a drafty front door conspires against it.

On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by more than \$358 per year. As you can see, the potential payback can be substantial.

You can conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. A do-it-yourself energy audit checklist is located on the back page in this issue of Current Report. Use the checklist to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs.



No Rate Increase in 2010, plus other timely news

I have some good news for Lynch River Electric Cooperative members. Your cooperative has no plans to raise rates in 2010. Due to the drop in coal prices and a re-negotiated contract with Santee Cooper, our power provider, there is no need to raise rates. I hope this news will make our members' New Year a little brighter.

Below are some other timely news items I'd like to share with members.

Climate change bill inevitable

We're keeping a close eye on the climate change bill as it makes it's way through the Senate. Whatever the final bill looks like, members should prepare to see an increase in their electric bills once the American Energy and Security Act of 2009 is signed into law. We're not sure what the timetable is for passage of the bill, but we'll keep you informed on the bill's progress. For updates, go to lynchesriver.com/News and Information.

Rethink energy use

We encourage members to rethink how they use electricity. Now is the time to conserve by using less. After all, the cheapest kilowatt hour of electricity is the one you don't use. Equally important is the getting the most from the electricity you do use. You'll find lots of information on energy efficiency and conservation in issues of Current Report, in the South Carolina Living magazine and online at lynchesriver.com.

System maintenance ensures optimum reliability

At Lynch River, we're concentrating our efforts on system maintenance, primarily retiring services no longer in use. Your co-op saves money by reusing the materials from these retirements. Additionally, crews conduct routine line inspections looking for potential outage and hazard situations. As they drive through our service area, crews scan for dead trees in our rights-of way that may fall on power lines and inspect for broken poles, cracked insulators or damaged guy wires. Line maintenance is critical to maintaining system reliability and providing our members with exceptional service.

Economic Development is vital

You may not realize economic development is important to Lynch River. Commercial and industrial accounts help keep residential rates low. One of my priorities is growing our commercial and industrial account base. With the widening of Hwy. 601 and the availability of low-cost land and a willing workforce, I feel sure we can bring new industry to our service area. Commercial and industrial businesses contribute to the overall economic vitality of our communities by infusing tax revenues into local coffers and by bringing new jobs for our members.

David Q. Altman

Viewpoint



PRESIDENT AND CEO

David Altman

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REMOTE PAYMENT SITES

Chesterfield

Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield

1303 West Boulevard

Chesterfield, SC 29709

Jefferson

The General Store

360 N. Harold Ingram Hwy.

Jefferson, SC 29718

Kershaw

Quality Appliance

407 South Hampton Street

Kershaw, SC 29067

Lancaster

The Energy Center, Inc.

667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E

Lancaster, SC 29720

Connect Generator Properly



Because our employees work around electricity everyday, safety is always on our mind. As your electricity distributor, Lynch River Electric Cooperative wants our members to stay safe too.

When severe winter weather hits loss of power is a possibility. Many of our members may own a portable generator or may be considering buying one.

If that's the case, please read the following safety information before connecting your generator.

Proper Generator Connection is Vital

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a licensed electrician. **Notify Lynch River before connecting the generator to your household circuit.**

The only acceptable way of connecting a generator to your home's electric system is through a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch. Please refer to the diagram at right.

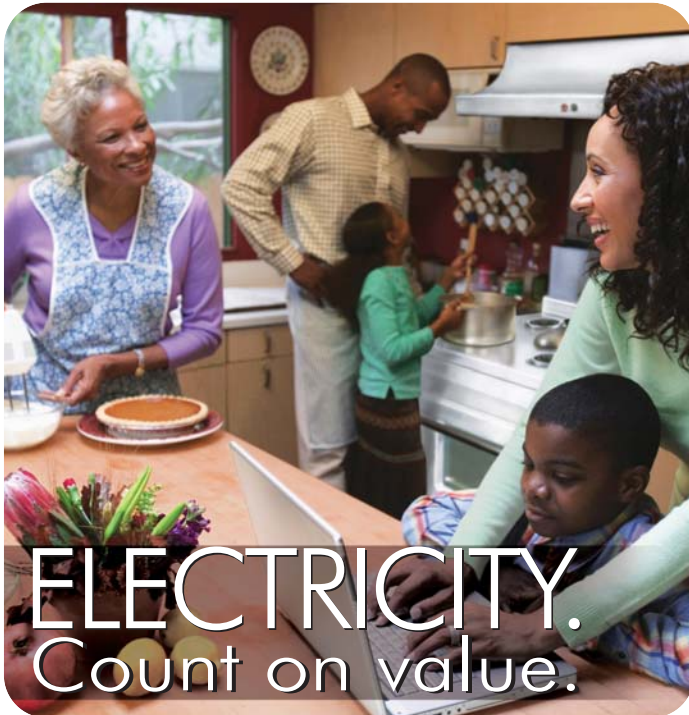
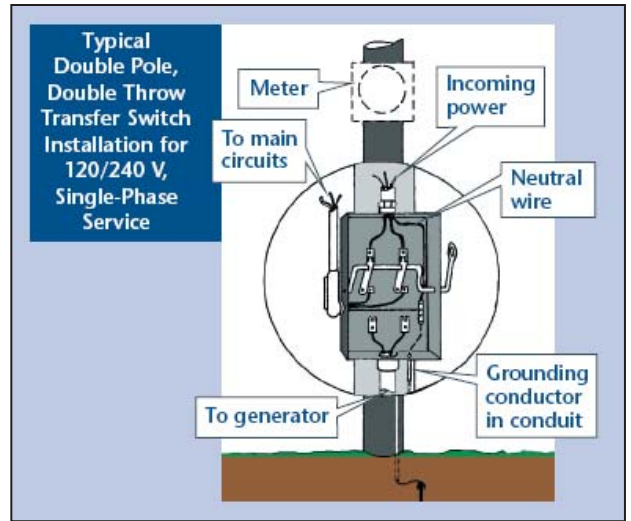
This switch disconnects your electric system from Lynch River's power lines and will:

- Eliminate the possibility of allowing your generator to send electricity back onto the cooperative's line, which is extremely dangerous and potentially deadly for our

linemen who are working on a line that is supposed to be de-energized.

- Eliminate the possibility of allowing restored power from Lynch River to destroy an improperly connected generator when electric service is restored.

You can find more generator safety tips online at lynchesriver.com/SafetyCenter. Be sure to read these online safety tips before using your generator.



ELECTRICITY.
Count on value.

Electricity from Lynch River Electric Cooperative provides the best dollar value for your home.

- The price of residential natural gas has more than doubled in the last 15 years and is expected to continue rising.*
- Electric heat pumps heat homes for about half the cost of natural gas.*
- Nearly 3 out of 4 South Carolina cooperative consumers use electricity for heating their homes.

*Source: The Energy Center @ www.ECSC.org

Offering you the best dollar value is just one way Lynch River Electric Cooperative is

looking out for you.



Lynch River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Giving a little helps a lot

The Operation Round Up Program offers Lynch River Electric Cooperative members a unique way to “Give a little and help a lot.”



For an average contribution of just 50 cents rounded up on your electric bill each month, you help fellow cooperative members with basic needs.

For less than the cost of a soft drink, your contribution provides assistance for medical needs, shelter, food and clothing for individuals and families.

Operation Round Up funds stay right here in our community. Some of the Lynch River members assisted by Operation Round Up may be your friends or neighbors.

Thanks to our members Operation Round Up has disbursed over \$1.2 million dollars to co-op members living in Chesterfield, Kershaw and Lancaster counties since 1993.

The Lynch River Electric Trust Board administers the Operation Round Up program. Trust Board members are local folks who know and understand our members' needs.

The Trust board meets six times a year—January, March, May, July, September and November—to review Operation Round Up applications.

For more information call our office or visit lynchesriver.com.

Visit Us On the Web

Learn how to stay safe and prepare for a severe weather power outage this winter at

www.lynchesriver.com



Conduct Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit

Clip this list and check each area of your home to see if you're using energy efficiently. Every nook and cranny holds potential inefficiencies, so it pays to be thorough! Visit lynchesriver.com for more energy saving information.



INSULATION AND DUCTWORK

Attic

- Insulation spread evenly and minimum of R-30
- Insulation in good condition, not compacted or damp
- Attic vents are unblocked by insulation
- Attic access doors properly insulated and sealed

Walls and Floors

- Minimum R-value of 13 for perimeter walls
- Minimum R-value of 19 for under-floor insulation

Basement and Crawl Space

- Vapor barrier on ground
- Ductwork insulated and sealed
- Hot water pipes insulated
- Water heater insulated, if in unconditioned space

R-Value indicates an insulation's resistance to heat flow (the higher the better). Insulation should meet R-values recommended for your specific climate.

HEATING AND COOLING

- Air supply vents are open and unblocked by furniture or curtains
- Return air registers are unblocked by furniture
- Return filters are clean
- HVAC system has had annual maintenance check-up

AIR INFILTRATION

Windows and Doors

- Windows close and lock properly
- Windows gaskets in good condition
- Window trims sealed and painted
- Doors properly weather stripped
- Doors close and latch properly

Exterior Penetrations

- Plumbing and wire openings sealed/caulked:
 - Kitchen cabinets
 - Bathroom cabinets
 - Utility room
- Fireplace damper sealed tightly

Pull fridge away from wall. Use flashlight to inspect coils. Vacuum or blow residue from coils.

APPLIANCES AND LIGHTING

- Refrigerator condenser coils clean
- Refrigerator door gasket tight
- Unused refrigerators and freezers unplugged or, better yet, recycled
- Water heater set to 120 degrees or below; however, dishwashers need minimum of 140 degrees to clean properly
- Dishwasher energy-saving feature turned on
- Washing machine loads run with cold water when possible

Well Pump

- Operating properly
- Good pressure
- No leaks

Lighting

- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) used
- Outdoor lighting automatically triggered by motion or dark

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Lynch River Electric Cooperative