



Cooperative Connections



**Energy
Upgrades
for a Happier
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Purchasing
Tips**

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Lacreek Electric Association, Inc.

2018 Annual Meeting

**Derek Sorley**

General Manager
derek@lacreek.com

**Tom Schlack**

LEA Board President

**Your
cooperative
provided
each member
a bill credit
which totaled
\$103,025.81
in December
of 2017.**

We would like to welcome our members and guests to the 70th Annual Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. Meeting. Our goal at Lacreek Electric is to serve our members to the fullest of our abilities in today's environmental and technology driven world. We are here to provide our members with safe, affordable and reliable energy. Our responsibility to the member of Lacreek Electric is to continually improve our community's energy infrastructure and implement new technologies as we strive to maximize the efficiency of our operation. Through the planning and foresight of your Board of Directors, Management, the tremendous amount of hard work from your employees and the support of you, the members, Lacreek Electric show the operating margins of \$ 244,905, non-operating margins of \$399,712 and G&T margins of \$404,632, of which Lacreek Electric allocated the 2017 Cooperative Capital Credits of the 2017 operating margins and G&T margins.

In 2017, Lacreek Electric paid out to our members \$135,013 in Cooperative Capital Credits, \$77,253 in G&T Capital Credits and \$127,719 in Estates. In addition, your Cooperative provided each member a Bill Credit which totaled \$103,025.81 in December of 2017. Today, Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. is issuing Capital Credit Checks for a total amount of \$264,141 for the years of 1992, 1999 and 2000. Lacreek Electric board of directors, management and employees continue to work hard to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity through long-term investments and sound business practices.

2017 was a busy year for the Lacreek Electric employees as we completed our Transmission Tie Line that began in 2016 and completed in March of 2017. Lacreek employees completed in June 2017 a constructed distribution tie line with dual functionality that not only serves as an emergency tie between our Merriman and Niobrara Substations but will more immediately serve the new irrigation project in the Rockford Road area south of the Niobrara River.

In 2017 Lacreek Electric saw an addition of 11 new irrigation services of which nine were in Nebraska and two were in the Vetal area. Lacreek Electric also began replacing aging underground cable with the main focus in troublesome areas system wide. Your employees replaced approximately four miles of three-phase and one mile of single-phase.

In the Allen areas, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Department of Transportation began work on a significant road upgrade. This upgrade included grading that would affect Lacreek Electric's three-phase line that serves the community and school. After early preparation for the project, Lacreek Electric constructed an underground three-phase line out of the impacted area and removed the overhead line ahead of the grading project finishing in July of 2017.

One of our main and largest projects that started back in 2013 with planning and began construction in 2017 is the new Wanblee 115kV Tap and Substation. This project once completed will improve reliability in our services areas to the north and east as well as a reliable back-feed to the Kyle area. Our current expected completion date is June of this year.

Lacreek Electric provided scholarships totally \$ 3,000.00 for two incoming first year college students and one second-year college student. The Board of Directors voted to include a separate scholarship for the non-winners of the prior year to a second-year college student.

Load control on water heaters and irrigation had a total reduction of demand of 11,600 kW for a total of \$ 210,417.00 for the 2017 year.

Lacreek Electric

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

Tom Schlack – President
 Jerry Sharp – Vice President
 Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary
 Clarence Allen – Treasurer
 Melvin Cummings – Ellis Rae Hicks –
 Brent Ireland – Neal Livermont –
 Dean O'Neill – Wade Risse – Marion
 Schultz – Connie Whirlwind Horse –
 Donovan Young Man

Management Staff

Derek Sorley – General Manager
 Sherry Bakley – Executive Assistant
 Josh Fanning – Member Services
 and Procurement Manager
 Anna Haynes – Finance and
 Administration Manager
 Mike Pisha – Operations Manager

Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II
 Stacey Robinson – Administration
 Assistant and Editor
 Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
 Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist
 Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist
 Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist
 Lisa Jensen –
 Member Service Representative
 Ashley Turgeon –
 Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
 Journeyman Linemen:
 Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit – Aaron
 Risse
 Apprentice Linemen:
 Aarin Ainsworth – Jordon Bakley –
 Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –
 Lonny Lesmeister – Garrett
 Metzinger
 Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man
 Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Reprint of Official Notice of Lacreek Electric Association's 70th Annual Meeting Thursday, April 26, 2018

Bennett County High School Auditorium, Martin, S.D.

Dear Member,

Please plan to attend the 70th annual meeting of members of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at the Bennett County High School auditorium in Martin. Prizes will be given away, including one \$300 and eight \$50 grand prizes, and numerous door prizes. The annual meeting will include a meal served at the American Legion dining room.

The evening's events will include:

- 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. – Dinner served at the American Legion Dining Room
- 5:30-7 p.m. – Member Registration at Bennett County High School Auditorium
- 7:00 p.m. – The business meeting begins
- At meetings end – Drawing for the \$300 and eight \$50 Grand Prizes

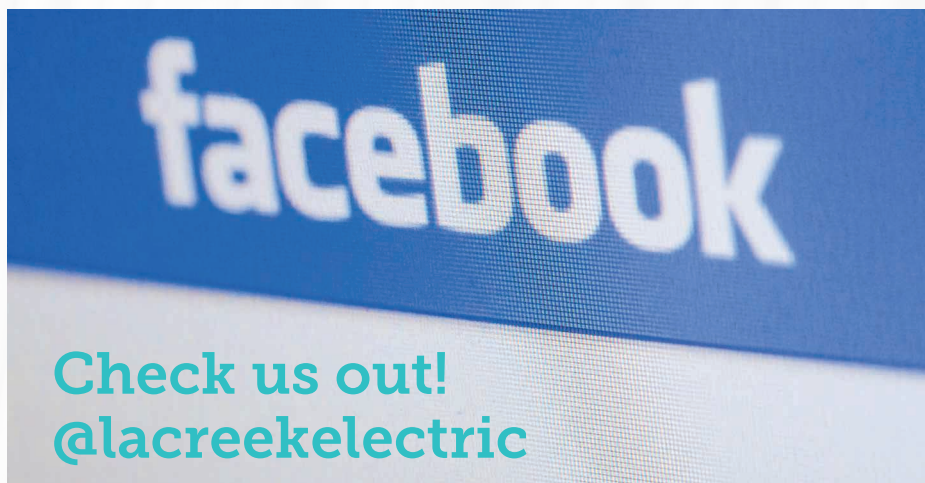
During the meeting, four directors will be elected. The following candidates are running unopposed.

- Zone 2 – East Bennett County – Brent Ireland, incumbent
- Zone 4 – East Oglala Lakota County – Marion Schultz, incumbent
- Zone 7 – Cherry County, Neb., – Tom Schlack, incumbent
- Zone 9 – West Oglala Lakota County – Donovan Young Man, incumbent

Enclosed you will find your registration card. Please bring your registration card with you to the meeting. Capital credit checks will be handed out to those of you that were in service in 1992 and 1999 and 2000. Your registration card will be needed to pick up your check and to win prizes. See you there!

Respectively yours,
 Troy Kuxhaus, Secretary

**NOTE: This is a reprint of the actual Official Notice letter that was sent to each member in April. Please bring your voter's registration card with you to the annual meeting on April 26. The card was enclosed with the letter.*



Fly Drones Safely

Drones are unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) that are increasingly being used recreationally and professionally. As a result, there is an increasing need to ensure these craft are flown safely and within regulations.

Keep drones away from overhead power lines. If a drone flies into a power line, it could cause power outages. It could also result in downed lines, which pose a dangerous electrical safety hazard. The falling debris could also endanger public safety.



Touching a downed line or anything it has fallen on, like a fence or a tree limb, could get you injured or even killed. Stay away and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility immediately.

Follow federal guidelines for registering your drone or getting business approval, and be aware of and abide by community and state-specific legislation. Also, keep these FAA safety guidelines in mind:

- Before flying the drone, check it for damage. Have a damaged drone repaired before use.
- Never fly drones higher than 400 feet.
- Do not fly the drone beyond your line of sight.
- Do not fly near airports, manned aircraft, stadiums or people.
- Do not fly for commercial purposes, unless specifically authorized by the FAA.
- Do not fly in bad weather conditions, such as low visibility or high winds.
- Never fly your drone recklessly. You could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft.

Source: safeelectricity.org



May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

"If a power line is touching a car, stay in the car or jump out!"

JaeShawnia Iron Hawk, Second-grader at Dupree Public School



JaeShawnia is the daughter of Lindsey Flying By, Dupree, S.D. She is a member of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Comforting Casseroles

Photo courtesy: McCormick

Quesadilla Casserole

1 lb. ground beef	2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 tsp. ground cumin
2 (8 oz. each) cans tomato sauce	1 tsp. garlic, minced
1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed	1/2 tsp. oregano leaves
1 (8-3/4 oz.) can whole kernel corn, undrained	1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 (4-1/2 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	6 (8-inch) flour tortillas
	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Brown beef and onion in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain. Add tomato sauce, beans, corn and green chiles; mix well. Stir in all seasonings. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spread 1/2 cup of the beef mixture on bottom of 9x13-inch baking dish sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Top with 3 of the tortillas, overlapping as needed. Layer with 1/2 of the remaining beef mixture and 1/2 of the cheese. Repeat with remaining tortillas, beef mixture and cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 15 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 391, Total Fat 19g, Sodium 950mg, Cholesterol 63mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 24g, Dietary Fiber 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Ham and Cauliflower Casserole

4 cups chopped fresh cauliflower	1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup butter, cubed	2 cups cubed cooked ham
1/3 cup flour	1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms, drained
2 cups milk	Topping:
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese	1 cup soft bread crumbs
	1 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, cover cauliflower with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in another large saucepan, melt butter; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese and sour cream until melted. Drain cauliflower. In large bowl, combine cauliflower, ham and mushrooms. Add cheese sauce and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes.

Rebecca Hauser, Tripp, S.D.

Chicken Crescent Casserole

4 cups cubed cooked chicken or turkey	1/2 cup chopped celery
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup chopped onion
1 can cream of celery soup	1/2 cup sour cream
1 (8 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, drained	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1 (4 oz.) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained	6 oz. shredded Swiss or American cheese
2/3 cup mayonnaise	2 to 4 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, combine first 9 ingredients. Cook over medium heat until hot and bubbly. Pour into an ungreased 12x8-inch baking dish. Place rolls on top of hot chicken mixture. Combine cheese and butter; spread over rolls. Bake at 350°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is deep golden brown. **Variation:** Substitute 4 cups of imitation crabmeat for the chicken or turkey and 1 can cream of shrimp soup in place of the cream of chicken soup.

Mary Crane, Mitchell, S.D.

Jalapeno Tater Tot Casserole

1 (2 lb.) bag tater tots	1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened	6 jalapeno peppers, deseeded and diced
1 cup sour cream	6 green onions, thinly sliced
2 cups Mexican Cheddar jack shredded cheese, divided	

Line a casserole dish with tater tots. Bake at 425°F. for 15 minutes. In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, 1 cup Cheddar jack cheese, bacon (reserve some for topping), diced jalapeno peppers and sliced onions (save a few for the top). Stir to thoroughly combine ingredients. Spread the jalapeno mixture over the tater tots. Top with remaining cup of cheese. Sprinkle with reserved bacon pieces and onion. Bake for 20 minutes. Serves 12.

Sandi Litschewski, Spearfish, S.D.

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert and salad recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

SERVING YOU



LEA employees who serve you are, Front Row: Anna Haynes, Stacey Robinson, Kasi Harris, Jessica Cook, Terri Gregg, Ashley Turgeon, Tracie Hahn, Amy Pisha, Lisa Jensen and Sherry Bakley; Middle Row: Glenn Smith, Mike Pisha, Derek Sorley, Jordan Bakley, Lonny Lesmeister, Dane Claussen, Ryan Pettit, Aarin Ainsworth, Cody Larson and Jesse Byerley; and Back Row: Alex Christensen, Aaron Risse, Garrett Metzinger, Tyler Brown, Bradley Hahn and Josh Fanning.

Lacreek Electric Association Employees **SERVING YOU**

Lacreek Electric Association Board of Directors



Tom Schlack
Board President
Zone 7, 2015-18



Jerry Sharp
Board Vice Pres.
Zone 5, 2017-20



Troy Kuxhaus
Board Secretary
Zone 3, 2016-19



Clarence Allen
Board Treasurer
Zone 1, 2017-20



Melvin Cummings
Director
Zone 9, 2017-20



Ellis Rae Hicks
Director
Zone 1, 2016-19



Brent Ireland
Director
Zone 2, 2015-18



Neal Livermont
Director
Zone 5, 2016-19



Dean O'Neill
Director
Zone 6, 2017-20



Wade Risse
Director
Zone 8, 2016-19



Marion Schultz
Director
Zone 4, 2015-18



Connie Whirlwind Horse
Director
Zone 4, 2016-19

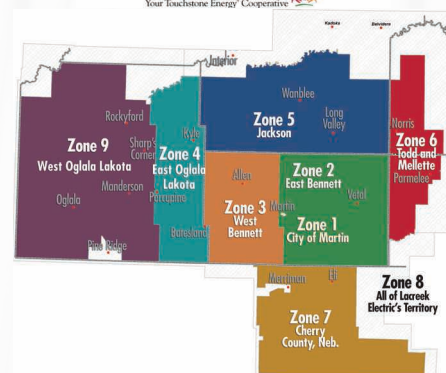


Donovan Young Man
Director
Zone 9, 2015-18



Lacreek Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Lacreek Electric Association's board of directors is comprised of 13 members who serve for three-year terms.

69th Annual Meeting of Members

April 27, 2017

The 69th annual meeting of the Members of Lacreek Electric Association, Incorporated, was held at the Bennett County High School Auditorium the evening of April 27, 2017, beginning at 7 p.m. Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning asked for the members to rise for the National Anthem sung by the BCHS Choir and then he drew the early bird prize. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Schlack and he asked our veterans to stand and be recognized.

President Schlack called on Director Donovan Young Man who asked for a moment of silence for War Veterans and then he gave the invocation.

President Schlack then reported the determination of a quorum. He also introduced the Board of Directors and said that the following directors are up for election this year running unopposed. Zone 1 City of Martin, Clarence Allen – Zone 5 Jackson County, Jerry Sharp – Zone 6 Todd & Mellette Counties, Dean O'Neill – Zone 9 West Oglala Lakota County, Melvin Cummings.

President Schlack announced that upon registering, a ballot was given to each member to vote for a proposed bylaw change. He advised that the voting will cease in approximately 15-minutes.

President Schlack called on Secretary Kuxhaus who read the Proof of Mailing of Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Secretary Kuxhaus asked if we could dispense with the reading of the minutes for April 21st, 2016, and referred to the minutes printed in the program. The members agreed, and upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the 2016 minutes were approved.

Secretary Kuxhaus called on Treasurer Clarence Allen for the treasurer's report. Treasurer Allen gave an overview of the financial statement and stated that the actual full financial report is printed in the program. Treasurer Allen asked for a motion and second from the members to approve the treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to

approve the treasurer's report.

President Schlack introduced General Manager Derek Sorley. Manager Sorley introduced the guests being: Vic Simmons, General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Todd Eliason, Asst. General Manager of Rushmore Electric; Mike Bowers, Engineering Manager, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative; Michael Riedman, Demonstration Coordinator of Basin Electric; Tim Grablander, General Manager of Cherry-Todd Electric and his wife Terri; Mark Hofer, Central Electric and NRECA Director and his wife Kathryn; Robert Schaub, Lacreek's Attorney. He also introduced past director Jim Buckles and retired employees; Larry Heath and Wayne Sterkel.

Manager Sorley addressed the membership highlighting the 2016 accomplishments for the coop and then he introduced the staff and employees.

President Schlack announced that the voting had ceased and requested the Tellers (Amy Pisha and Stacey Robinson), Agents (Seymour Young Dog and Duane Pourier), Judges (Martha Riggs and Phyllis Sherdarson) and Attorney Robert Schaub be dismissed to count the ballots.

Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning announced the 2017 winner of the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is Rachel Ireland. Rachel is the daughter of Brent and Tauna Ireland. Last year's winner Jeremy Ring gave an overview of his 2016 trip.

Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning announced that the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lacreek Electric scholarship winner is Samantha Loomis. Samantha is the daughter of Tom and Sharon Loomis. The two Lacreek Electric scholarship winners are Paige Slovek and Justice Morrison. Paige is the daughter of Mark and Lavonne Slovek and Justice is the son of Leroy and Bertha Morrison. President Schlack and Treasurer Allen presented the winners with a certificate.

Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning announced that

each year Lacreek Electric sponsors a South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion and this year's winners are Erica Bakley and Josie May. Erica is the daughter of Mike and Sherry Bakley and Josie is the daughter of Rick May and Jennifer May.

General Manager Sorley then introduced Vic Simmons, General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative. Vic gave a presentation on Hydro and that the rates are going down; about Basin's generation changes; on the EPA; about the demand/load management and ended with a video on home town heroes.

President Schlack introduced Lacreek's attorney Robert Schaub. Mr. Schaub announced that the directors ran unopposed so they remain on the board for another 3-year term. He also said that the bylaw amendment passed (183 Yes) to (44 No).

President Schlack called for any old business. There was none.

Lacreek's attorney Robert Schaub with Schaub Law Office P.C was called on to asking for a motion to approve the actions taken by the Board of Directors of the Association since the last Annual Meeting of the Members; with a motion made, seconded and carried to approve the Board's actions.

President Schlack called for any new business. There was none.


President Schlack announced that any capital credit checks that were not picked up, would be mailed out in a few days.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

The Lacreek employees handed out prizes won by the members present at the meeting and the \$300 grand prize cash winner was Steven Little Thunder.

APPROVED:

President
Secretary



Boosting attic insulation is one way to cut energy bills.

ENERGY UPGRADES FOR A HAPPIER HOME

Boost Your Home's Comfort And Cut Energy Use

Diane Veto Parham

Contributing Writer

Imagine your house is not just the place you sleep, eat and store your stuff, but more like a part of your family, with its own unique needs. Ignore those needs and both you and your home suffer the consequences. But, pay closer attention, and you can find ways to enjoy a more pleasant – and efficient – living environment.

“It’s amazing how much comfort you can provide by spending a few dollars,” says Brian Sloboda, program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va., “You’re going to increase your quality of life.”

Knowing what your house needs is job one. Your heating-and-air system, your appliances, your insulation and even your lightbulbs can affect not only how your home is behaving, but also how much you’re paying to keep it all running.

Need some ideas to get started? Here are seven smart ways to invest in a comfortable and energy-efficient house.

1. Get a professional home-energy audit

Cost: About \$250 to \$650.

Benefit: Making recommended improvements can cut energy use 10 percent to 40 percent.

DIY potential: None; use a certified professional.

A whole-house energy audit will take a few hours and evaluate household energy use, how the heating-and-air system is functioning and whether there’s adequate insulation. Using diagnostic

tools like a blower door and a thermal imaging camera, an auditor tests for leaks in ductwork and around windows and doors, plus other problems with the home’s “envelope” – essentially, the parts of the house that separate its insulated, air-conditioned interior from unconditioned spaces like attics and crawlspaces.

2. Seal your house

Cost: Ranges from a few dollars for weather stripping and caulk to thousands of dollars for whole-house weatherization.

Benefit: Annual energy savings of 10 percent to 20 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

DIY potential: You can do simple tasks; professionals should handle large-scale insulation or ductwork improvements

“Make sure your house is well insulated and well sealed,” says Alan Shedd, director of energy solutions for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. A handy do-it-yourselfer can tackle simple sealing tasks. Feel for drafts or look for cracks and gaps around windows and doors, around electrical outlets and light fixtures, where pipes and wires penetrate walls, floors or ceilings, around fireplaces and where ceilings meet walls. Basic DIY materials like weather-stripping tape, tubes of caulk and spray foam are available at home-improvement stores.

If you invested in a professional home-energy audit, you know exactly where air is leaking and what repairs are needed. For fixes outside your skill set – for example, adding insulation or repairing leaky ductwork – ask your co-op for a list of certified contractors or visit Building Performance Institute’s website.

3. Replace your HVAC system

Cost: Ranges from a few thousand dollars for a single-zone, mini-split system up to tens of thousands to install a geothermal system.

Benefit: Upgrading to ENERGY STAR®-certified heating and cooling equipment can deliver annual energy-bill savings of 10 percent to 30 percent, according to the Department of Energy; geothermal systems can cut energy use for heating and cooling by 25 percent to 50 percent.

DIY potential: You'll need a trained professional to properly size and install a system for your needs.

Heating and cooling account for about half of typical household energy costs. Minimize those expenses by upgrading to a more efficient system when your current unit ages out. Expect an HVAC system to last, on average, about 10 to 12 years.

Air-source heat pumps, which draw heat from the air and move it indoors or outdoors as needed, provide efficient heating and cooling from a single unit. Ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps are the most efficient, albeit more expensive, heating-and-cooling option. Drawing heat from stable ground temperatures rather than fluctuating air temperatures, geothermal heat pumps use about 25 percent to 50 percent less electricity than conventional HVAC systems.

Geothermal is "the gold standard" for peak efficiency in heating and cooling, Shedd says, where the property can accommodate an extensive vertical or horizontal underground-loop system.

For any heating-and-cooling system, proper installation is essential to reap full benefits of energy-efficient performance. A certified HVAC contractor will do a load calculation to determine what size HVAC unit is right for your house and whether any special adjustments are necessary for your location.

4. Modernize major appliances

Cost: Hundreds of dollars for major appliances; zero dollars for unplugging energy hogs that are not in use.

Benefit: Save anywhere from a few dollars up to hundreds of dollars a year.

DIY potential: You'll need a professional to install some appliances, but you can unplug small appliances around the house in minutes.

Among your appliances, the two biggest energy users are water heaters and refrigerators, which are nearly always on duty. After that, you might be surprised by another energy hog: consumer electronics.

"The fastest-growing user of electricity in your house is all the things you plug in," Shedd says.

5. Boost your attic insulation

Cost: National averages range from \$1,300 to \$2,000, depending on home location, attic size and type of insulation.

Benefit: Reduce your energy bills by keeping heated and cooled air in your living space.

DIY potential: Handy homeowners can add insulation with

proper tools, safety gear and precautions, but it's a job best left to professionals.

It's all about the R-value. That's the number assigned to insulating materials based on how well they resist the transfer of heat. Higher numbers mean more resistance to heat flow and more effective insulation. For attics, recommended R-values range from 30 in warmer climates to 60 in colder regions. To learn what's recommended for your climate zone, consult the R-values map at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improve-insulation_table.

Older homes are more likely to lack enough attic insulation for peak efficiency, because "energy-efficiency standards keep going up and getting higher," Shedd says. "Thirty years ago, R-19 was standard practice."

What you spend to upgrade your attic insulation will depend on multiple variables, including the type of insulation – for example, fiberglass or cellulose, batts or loose fill – as well as the size of the attic space and the contractor's labor costs.

6. Switch to efficient light bulbs

Cost: A few dollars per bulb.

Benefit: Save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 traditional incandescent bulbs with more efficient energy-saving light bulbs.

DIY potential: You can handle this.

You're going to change your light bulbs sooner or later. When you do, why not invest in bulbs that will save energy and create the lighting environment you want in your home?

When you're shopping, pay attention to lumens – the brightness of the bulb – rather than watts, which indicate how much energy it uses. Packaging often refers to the wattage a new bulb can replace – for example, an energy-saving 800-lumen bulb can replace a 60-watt bulb. Look at the lighting-facts label for details about the bulb's lumens, estimated yearly energy cost and lifespan and the lighting color. ENERGY STAR®-certified bulbs can deliver the brightness you want while using 70 percent to 90 percent less energy.

7. Install smart thermostats

Cost: Products range from about \$170 to \$250.

Benefit: Manufacturers estimate annual savings of 9 percent to 23 percent on heating and cooling costs.

DIY potential: Video and written instructions can guide you through installation and Wi-Fi set-up.

Early versions of programmable thermostats were hailed as tools that would help homeowners save energy and money and increase home comfort, all by tailoring thermostat settings to daytime, nighttime, weekend and vacation schedules. And they did – but only for those who bothered to manually program them.

Thanks to the internet connection and remote-control options, smart thermostats are ideal for use in electric cooperative load-control programs. Across the country, cooperatives are testing new programs that use this technology to help members save energy and help co-ops reduce demand.



The Center of Customer Engagement

Put the power of your electric cooperative in your hands! Lacreek Electric members can now monitor their electric usage – and more – with a simple download of the SmartHub app.



Lacreek Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



powered by



With SmartHub you can:

- Check your usage
- Contact our office
- Pay your bill
- Check our news feed
- Report a service interruption
- Access custom widgets

With SmartHub, the power of data is in your hands through convenient account management and detailed usage information. SmartHub, a mobile and Web app, delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your mobile device or on your PC. The two-way communication available with SmartHub allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about special offers, programs, events and more.

Download the **FREE** app today for secure account management right at your fingertips.



www.smarthubapp.com

IN CASE OF OUTAGE

1ST: Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.

2ND: Check meter for display and readings. If the meter is blank, you are probably experiencing an outage and need to call our office immediately.

3RD: If your meter has a display, check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole.

4TH: Please contact your neighbor to see if they are experiencing a power outage because it would be helpful to know if other members in the area are also out of power.

5TH: Make sure you have the name the bill is in, the meter number and/or the account number.

6TH: Call Lacreek Electric at 605-685-6581 or if you are calling long distance dial 1-800-655-9324. We now have a 24 hour answering service. First, you will hear an automated message, "Thank you for calling Lacreek Electric. Your call may be recorded or monitored for quality assurance." You will then hear the following menu:

- If you're calling to report an electrical outage, press 1.
- If you have a billing question, press 2.
- If you're calling to report a meter reading, press 3.
- For all other calls, press 0.

Office Hours:
7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT
Open over noon hour
Closed Saturday, Sunday
and holidays

Four Members Seek Lacreek Director Seats

Members attending the 2018 Lacreek Electric Association annual meeting will elect directors to represent Zones 2, 4, 7 and 9 for three-year terms. The following individuals have filed petitions to run for these positions.

The following are brief biographical information on each of the candidates.



Brent Ireland
Director
Zone 2, 2015-18

Zone 2 – East Bennett County

Brent Ireland – Brent was raised in Martin and is a graduate of Bennett County High School. He earned a mechanical engineering degree from Brigham Young University and spent nine years in the oil, gas and petrochemical industries (mostly in Texas) before returning to Martin and the farm/ranch he grew up on. For the past 12 years, he has served on the board of directors of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm in Pierre. He and his wife, Tauna, have four children. Since returning to Martin, he has been involved with area youth athletics (flag football, baseball and wrestling) and is currently coaching wrestling at Bennett County High School. Brent has served on Lacreek's board for three years.

Zone 4 – East Oglala Lakota County

Marion Schultz – Marion has served as a director for 18 years. He graduated from Gordon High School and received a degree in economics and political science from South Dakota State University. He has ranched in the Batesland area all of his life. Marion has been on the Batesland Fire Department for more than 50 years. He has been on the County Committee for USDA for 16 years and has also served on the Bennett County Cooperative board of directors.



Marion Schultz
Director
Zone 4, 2015-18

Zone 7 – Cherry County (Neb.)

Tom Schlack – Tom has served 30 years on Lacreek Electric's board. He is a graduate of Bennett County High School and of the University of South Dakota. Tom also worked for Lacreek Electric as a journey lineman for seven years. He has ranched in the Eli area for the past 34 years.



Tom Schlack
Board President
Zone 7, 2015-18

Zone 9 – West Oglala Lakota County

Donovan Young Man – Donovan has served as a director for 24 years. He is a graduate of Pine Ridge High School. He served on the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council from 1992 to 1996. Donovan has worked for the Oglala Lakota County School District for 37 years and also raises cattle on his ranch east of Oglala.



Donovan Young Man
Director
Zone 9, 2015-18

Make, Model, Capacity, Oh My!

Tips for Purchasing New Appliances

By Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things actually presents value.

The Sloboda family needed a new refrigerator so Brian volunteered to do the shopping. After all, he's a national expert on electric appliances.

He came home frustrated. There were just too many choices, even for the guy whose job title is program and product line manager for energy utilization, delivery, and energy efficiency at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va.

"Just buy whatever you want," he told his wife, Sami Jo.

He finally got to use his in-depth knowledge when he looked over the model that Sami Jo brought home.

"Why didn't you get the version that has a camera inside, so you can use your smartphone in the grocery store to see if we need more milk?" he asked.

"Because it costs \$500 more," she said.

That, said Brian, was a good reason.

That's the kind of reasoning we're all going to be doing in the coming months and years as we grapple with the newest trend in appliances – connection to the internet.

"The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things

actually presents value," says Sloboda. For example, when you're on vacation you can use your smartphone to check whether you've left the oven on or the garage door open.

Sounds nice, but is it worth it?

"There's a Crock Pot® app," he says. "Does that have value to you? It might if you use a Crock Pot® a lot."

"There are infinite possibilities," says Sloboda. "They sound nice when you first hear about them, but you have to remember you are paying more for those features."

Web-connected appliances could also offer online diagnostics. There might not be strong everyday reasons for a washing machine to be hooked into cyberspace, but

Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

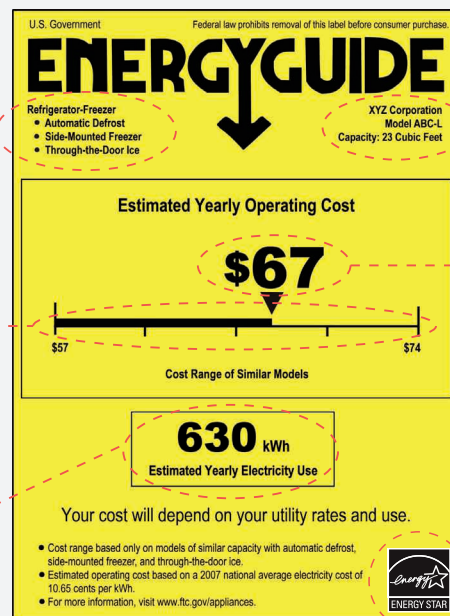
The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.



Source: Federal Trade Commission



Home owners have a wide array of choices when it comes time to upgrade major energy-using appliances.

if it broke, the manufacturer could log in to figure out what's wrong. That could help decide the best way to repair or replace the equipment. But is it worth the extra cost?

"It's a good feature," says Sloboda, "but one you're only going to use when the appliance breaks."

If you're longing for lower-tech help in decision-making, look to the yellow and black U.S. Department of Energy's EnergyGuide label on each appliance.

"It's one of the single greatest pieces of information that you can find when you buy an appliance," says Sloboda.

He says the most useful info is the big dollar figure right in the middle of the label, showing what it will cost to use that appliance for a year.

Sloboda cautions that the number doesn't tell you exactly what you will pay because it doesn't use your local utility's kilowatt hour rate. But it's a perfect way to compare appliances because every appliance's label is based on the same national average electric rate.

"You can stand in that aisle looking at all the washing machines and you can scan the entire row and narrow your options down from a dozen," says Sloboda, "down to the three or four that use the least amount of money."

Taking charge of your appliances

Other especially useful parts of the label, he says, include the lower right corner – if you see an ENERGY STAR® logo it means the appliance will use less energy than one without. He also singles out the upper right corner that lists the manufacturer

and model number, which you can use for more detailed comparisons with other models.

Sloboda also advises to pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances. In addition to dramatic energy efficiency advances over the past several years, motors start degrading in refrigerators and in heating and air conditioning systems. He says to consider upgrading air conditioners and heat pumps older than 10 years and refrigerators older than eight years.

Pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances.

The Department of Energy offers a handy way to check whether it's time to replace your refrigerator: visit the EnergyStar.gov website and in the search box, type "flip your fridge calculator." You'll find a link to a page where you can enter your type of refrigerator and its age to calculate how much you'd save buying a new one.

All these options mean more decisions for consumers. But help is on the way.

Sloboda says that electric co-ops are working with two national laboratories to study the most useful ways to connect appliances with the internet and with the utilities that provide the electricity. He says that over the next two years the study will report on how consumers can more easily make decisions on how to use appliances and even how to enhance cybersecurity for the growing number of internet-connected

devices in the home.

Sloboda says the aim of the study is "to understand what the value of internet-connected devices is to the consumer. Then the manufacturers can start to build products that the consumer wants."

The study will also look for futuristic-sounding ways that co-op members can sign up for optional utility programs to help homeowners decide how they want to use electricity.

"The appliances would be networked together and they would talk to one another," says Sloboda. "In a very advanced scenario, the home could actually reconfigure the way appliances are being used depending on occupancy of the home at the moment and the weather conditions."

That setup could even let homeowners decide if they are a person who wants to save as much energy and money as possible or if they would rather the house be warmer or cooler.

"They won't have to figure out if they want to set the thermostat back," says Sloboda. "The homeowner would tell the system whether they wanted to maximize comfort or maximize savings, then the home would communicate to the utility. That way it won't be the utility controlling the system, it won't be the appliance manufacturer, but it will be the occupant of the house who is making the decisions."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Balance Sheet

(as of December 2017)

ASSETS	2016	2017
ELECTRIC PLANT:		
In Service	\$56,750,565	\$60,880,389
Under Construction	\$4,044,541	\$3,060,024
Total Electric Plant	\$60,795,106	\$63,940,413
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$(23,469,523)	\$(24,576,630)
Electric Plant - Net	\$37,325,583	\$39,363,783
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS:		
Investments in associated organizations	\$6,431,766	\$6,598,751
Other Investments	\$130,420	\$134,968
Total Other Property and Investments	\$6,562,186	\$6,733,719
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$930,191	\$639,832
Account receivable, less allowance for uncollectible accounts	\$1,668,942	\$1,484,688
Material and Supplies	\$1,398,269	\$1,124,598
Prepayments	\$68,684	\$72,615
Interest receivable	\$2,833	\$2,684
Total current assets	\$4,068,919	\$3,324,417
Deferred Debits	\$559,121	\$491,425
TOTAL ASSETS	\$48,515,809	\$49,913,344
EQUITIES & LIABILITIES:	2016	2017
EQUITIES		
Patronage capital	\$17,147,782	\$17,509,952
Other Equities	\$2,581,001	\$3,008,255
Total Equities	\$19,728,783	\$20,518,207
LONG-TERM DEBT, Less		
CURRENT MATURITIES	\$24,798,834	\$25,856,413
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current maturities long-term debt	\$1,115,000	\$1,185,000
Accounts payable	\$1,148,981	\$1,029,101
Member deposits	\$497,095	\$491,445
Taxes accrued	\$241,742	\$203,589
Other current liabilities	\$287,709	\$237,145
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,290,527	\$3,146,280
DEFERRED CREDITS		
Members' energy payments	\$147,665	\$142,444
Electric revenue deferral	\$550,000	\$250,000
Total Deferred Credits	\$697,665	\$392,444
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	\$48,515,809	\$49,913,344

2017 Year End Statistics

Year Energized.....1948
 Plant \$63,940,413
 Equity.....41.23%
 Service Area (square miles)..... 5,174
 Total Miles of Line 3,178
 Miles Transmission228
 Miles Distribution.....2,677
 Miles Underground273
 Meters per Miles.....2.10

Number of Meters..... 6,680
 Average Monthly Usage,
 Residence..... 1,250
 Number of Electric Heat Homes..... 898
 Number of Irrigation Systems 118
 Number of Directors 13
 Number of Members.....4,214
 Number of Employees.....28
 Number of Security Lights 3,644

Kwh Sales..... 121,295,024
 Revenue per Kwh
 Residential\$0.1076
 Winter Demand..... 29,637
 Summer Demand 20,275

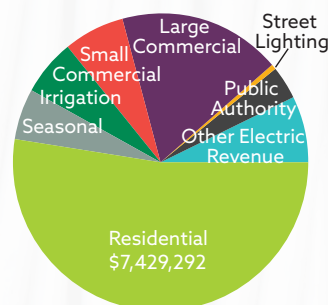
Counties Served: Bennett, Jackson,
 Oglala Lakota, Todd and Mellette in
 South Dakota and Cherry in Nebraska.

Statement of Operations

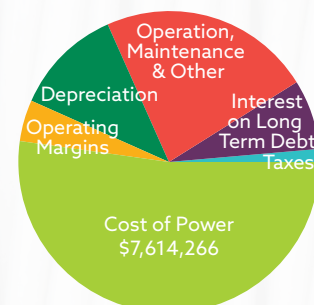
(Year Ending December 2017)

	2016	2017
OPERATING REVENUES		
Electric	\$12,633,536	\$13,103,859
Other	\$664,961	\$1,008,905
Total Operating Revenues	\$13,298,497	\$14,112,764

Revenue



Expenses

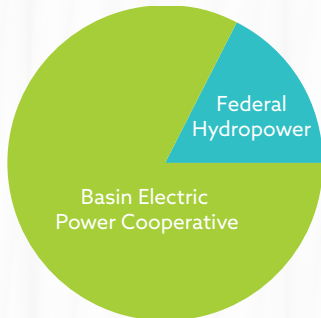


OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	\$7,309,301	\$7,614,266
Transmission	\$87,510	\$96,520
Distribution - Operations	\$300,286	\$486,192
Distribution - Maintenance	\$630,466	\$887,414
Member Accounts	\$509,642	\$504,055
Member Service & Information	\$81,359	\$85,553
Administrative & General	\$1,212,596	\$1,251,284
Depreciation	\$1,449,047	\$1,670,298
Taxes	\$176,714	\$183,752
Interest on Long-term Debt	\$1,035,262	\$1,074,935
Other Deductions	\$4,293	\$13,590
Total Operating Expenses	\$12,796,476	\$13,867,859

Operating Margin Before Capital Credits	\$502,021	\$244,905
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	\$745,551	\$404,632
NET OPERATING MARGIN	\$1,247,572	\$649,537

NON-OPERATING MARGIN		
Merchandising, less costs & expenses	\$10,704	\$12,402
Gain on disposal of assets	\$347	\$67,384
Other Cooperative Capital Credits	\$86,269	\$78,255
Interest Income	\$246,817	\$241,671
Total Non-Operating Margin	\$344,137	\$399,712
NET MARGIN	\$1,591,709	\$1,049,249

Explanation of 2016 Dollars Spent



COST OF POWER – This is paid to Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, our power supplier, which receives 83.43 percent from Basin Electric [which consists of a blend of coal, hydro, nuclear, natural gas, renewables (wind and waste heat)] and 16.57 percent hydropower.

TAXES – This includes real estate taxes and 2 percent rural electric kilowatt hour tax in South Dakota and property taxes in Nebraska.

INTEREST – Monies paid to Rural Utilities Service and Cooperative Finance Corporation for interest on our loans.

DEPRECIATION – The value of the property of the cooperative is set up to decrease annually over a set period of time.

MARGINS – Revenue over and above the cost of operation. Margins are assigned to the members in the form of patronage capital or capital credits.

OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE and OTHER

– Includes the cost of maintaining 3,178 miles of line, more than 3,644 security lights, billing approximately 6,680 meters a month plus insurance, transmission expense, sales expense, customer service expense and other costs required to operate the cooperative.

70th Annual Meeting PROGRAM

April 26, 2018

Agenda

Registration Begins.....	5:30 p.m.
Drawing for Early Attendance Prize	7 p.m.
Call to Order.....	President Tom Schlack
Invocation	Donovan Young Man
Determination of Quorum	
Introduction of Directors.....	President Schlack
Reports	
■ Secretary	Troy Kuxhaus
■ Proof of Mailing of Notice of Meeting	
■ Minutes of Previous Meeting	
■ Treasurer	Clarence Allen
Introduction of Guests	
Recognition of those we have lost in the last year.	
■ Past Director Cleon Boomer – Served 25 years	
■ Past Employee Les Byrne – Employed for 39 years	
Manager's Report	General Manager Derek Sorley
Election of Directors.....	Robert Schaub, Attorney
Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Video	Rachel Ireland
Scholarship Presentation	
Youth Excursion Winners	President Schlack
Old Business	
New Business	
Report of Election	
Adjournment	
Drawing for Prizes and Grand Prizes.....	<i>All Winners Must Be Present</i>

HERE'S WHAT
\$1 OF ELECTRICITY
WILL BUY YOU:

2,224 HOURS
OF PHONE CHARGING



April 25-29

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

April 28-29

Bike Show, Ramkota Convention Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-290-0908

May 4-6

Naja Shrine Circus, Rapid City, SD, 605-342-3402

May 5

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

May 10

Chris Young, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

May 12

Art and Wine Festival, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

May 13

1880 Train Mother's Day Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

May 18

Turkey Races, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

May 18-19

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

May 18-20

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 18-20

Tesla Road Trip Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

May 19-20

Black Hills Mud Days, Lead, SD, 605-569-2871

May 19-20, May 26-27

Northeast Area Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, Aberdeen, SD, 605-715-9580



Photo courtesy: travelid.com

May 25-September 30

Legends in Light® Laser Light Show at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

May 25-27

South Dakota Kayak Challenge, Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

May 26-27

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

June 1-3

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

June 1-3

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

June 1-3

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

June 1-3

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694

June 2

Kids' Carnival, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

June 2

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-494-1094

June 2-3

Spring Volksmarch at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nicole Tietgen at 605-665-8222

June 8-9

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterhaus at 605-772-1430

June 15-16

Czech Days, Tabor, SD, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@yahoo.com

June 21-23

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD, Contact Howard Bich at 605-491-0635

June 29

Naja Shrine Circus, Wall, SD, 605-342-3402

June 30

Naja Shrine Circus, Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402

July 1

Naja Shrine Circus, Lemmon, SD, 605-342-3402

July 10-15

4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174, www.d3wr.com

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.