



REMINDER:

The deadline to apply for one of thirteen \$1,000 scholarships available through a random drawing is **MARCH 1, 2022.**

For more information and to apply, visit our website at www.runstoneelectric.com.

If you're unable to fill out the application online, call REA for an application at 800-473-1722.

NEWSLINE

February 2022

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Attend Your District Meetings in February

District Meetings offer REA members an opportunity to have a meal, nominate one or more candidate for the office of director, learn more about their electric cooperative, talk with their elected representatives, and visit with neighbors. In addition, all members in attendance will have their name entered in a drawing to win door prizes. We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP by calling REA at 800-473-1722, emailing rea@runstoneelectric.com, or on our Facebook event.

District One



District One Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Miltona Community Center
5590 Co Rd 14 NE, Miltona
5:30 p.m. Bratwurst Meal
6:00 p.m. Meeting

District Four



District Four Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2022
Long Lake Lodge, Brandon
16021 Long Lake Road NW
5:30 p.m. Bratwurst Meal
6:00 p.m. Meeting

Residential Rebates

Appliances

Must be purchased or recycled after 1/1/2022

Clothes Washer

\$25

Clothes Dryer

\$25

Recycling of a Refrigerator or Freezer

\$50

Dehumidifier

\$25

Electric Vehicle

Qualifying Uncontrolled EV Charger

\$250

Qualifying Controlled EV Charger

\$500

Heating & Cooling

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)

Space Heating & Room
Storage Heating
\$50/kw up to \$5,000 or 100kw

Geothermal Heat Pumps

\$400

Air Source Heat Pump

Quality Installation Program
SEER 14.5: \$480
SEER 15: \$580
SEER 16+: \$630

Air Conditioner

Quality Installation Program
Seer 14.5+: \$50

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

\$200

Air Source Heat Pump Paired with Plenum Heater or Boiler

Efficiency Rebate
\$100

Plenum Heater or Boiler*

Plenum heater must be designed to heat the loss of the home.
\$25/kw up to \$500 max

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)

Excludes new construction.
\$25

Smart Thermostat

\$25

**This rebate ends March 31, 2022. All rates and rebates are subject to change. Contact REA for more information*



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from your CEO

Changes ahead for the fixed charge

Last April, the Board asked me to provide an analysis of the monthly fixed charge. Specifically, they wanted to know how the fixed charge stacks up to the actual cost of delivering electricity to a minimum use account. In simple terms, “what is the monthly cost for each member account to power one light bulb on REA’s system?”

To determine what it costs to provide each member electricity, electric utilities like REA conduct a cost of service and rate design study. The study conducted a few years ago indicated a general service account (residential or seasonal) requires monthly revenue of \$50.34 to cover the minimum expense for lighting one light bulb. We are in the process of updating the cost of service study to reflect today’s data. I expect the updated cost of service will come in higher than \$50.34.

You may ask how we collect those costs today. Currently, our monthly fixed charge is \$29.25 per general service account, which covers a portion of the \$50.34. The remaining \$21.09 is built into the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity and collected through sales volume.

During an October 2021 strategic planning session, REA’s Board and management team focused on the current general service rate structure and whether it is the best model for the future needs of the membership. The overall conclusion was that the monthly fixed charge should be aligned more closely with the actual cost of providing service.

One key benefit to the proposed new approach is more flexible ratemaking in the future. As the wholesale power market evolves, programs and services can be readily developed to create cost savings that are passed on to you.

We are considering the impacts these changes will make on the wide range of members REA serves. The monthly fixed charge will increase for a general service account, but the kWh charge goes down. If you are an above-average user of electricity, it is likely your total

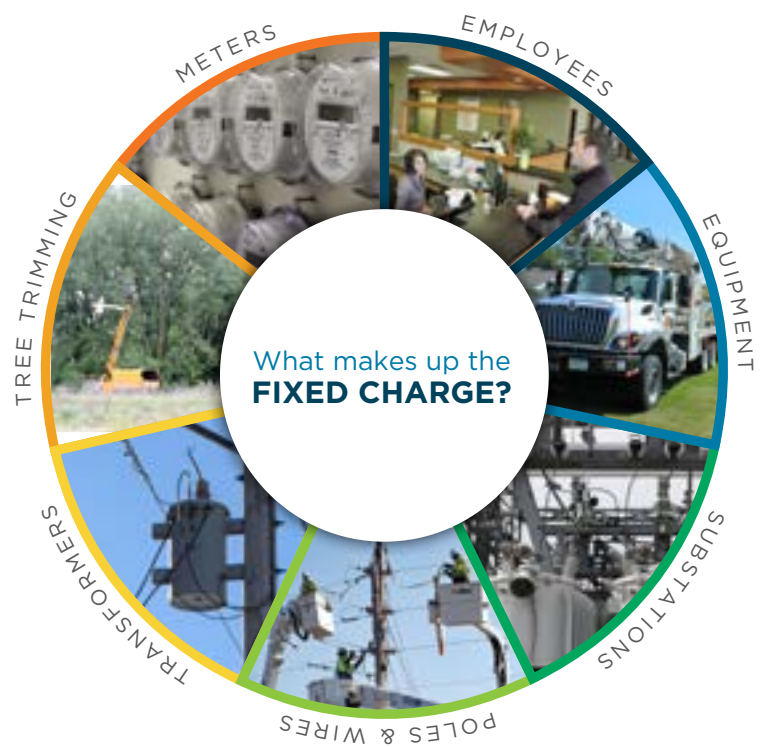
monthly cost will remain the same or decrease. Those with low-use accounts are likely to see an increase up to a maximum of \$21.09 per month.

We have two options to align the monthly fixed charge more closely with the cost of service:

1. Increase the fixed charge in smaller steps over a period of years, or
2. Increase the fixed charge in one step.

I realize this is a significant change to our rates and may increase the total bill for those with seasonal cabins, recreational properties, and other low-use accounts.

I would appreciate your input regarding this decision. Please contact me personally at 320-762-1121 if you wish to offer comments on either option or email at rea@runestoneelectric.com. As we gather input, you will hear more about this topic in the coming months.



REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - December 2021

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for November 2021. Sales in kWh were 14% under budget for November. YTD sales are close to budget.
- » Approved transferring the 2021 Uncollectible Accounts to the reserve for bad debt.
- » Mr. Rooney gave the Energy Management Report updating the Board on the RDLEG loan payoff by 4 Seasons Carwash, West Central Area Schools USDA Community Food Project grant, REA’s 2021 CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) spending and savings report.
- » Approved the 2022 Budget. Mrs. Nelson noted that the 2022 Budget has \$6.1 million in capital distribution plant additions and an REA operating margin of \$983,880.
- » Approved cost-saving measure to C-12 Capital Credits by increasing the minimum refund amount from \$5.00 to \$10.00.
- » CEO Haman reviewed details on a cybersecurity audit.
- » **The regular February Board Meeting will be Monday, February 28 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**

HOME LIGHTING GUIDE



Improving the efficiency of your lighting is an easy way to save on energy costs!

ENERGY USE

LEDs provide the same brightness (lumens) while using less energy (watts). To find an LED with similar brightness compared to your current incandescent bulb, pay attention to the lumens. To save the most energy, choose an LED with the lowest wattage suitable for its use.

| Incandescent Bulbs (Watts) | ENERGY STAR® Qualified LEDs (Watts) | Minimum Light Output (Lumens) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25W | 4 - 9w | 200 lm |
| 40w | 9 - 13w | 450 lm |
| 60w | 13 - 15w | 800 lm |
| 75w | 18 - 25w | 1,100 lm |
| 100w | 23 - 20w | 1,600 lm |
| 125w | 28 - 40w | 2,000 lm |
| 150w | 30 - 52w | 2,600 lm |

BRIGHTNESS = LUMENS

ENERGY = WATTS

THE KELVIN SCALE

The Kelvin scale measures light color, or appearance, of light bulbs. The lower the value, the warmer or more yellow the light output. The higher the value, the cooler or bluer the light output.



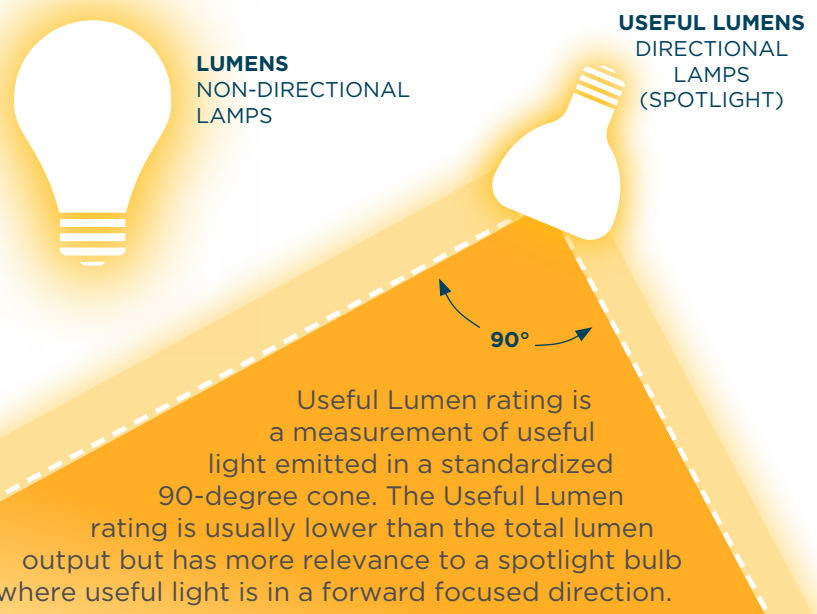
LUMENS

Lumens measure the total amount of visible light from a light bulb. The higher the lumen rating, the brighter the lamp will appear. LEDs provide more light output with much less power use. To achieve the same light output of a 60 watt conventional bulb, you will need an LED with around 800 - 850 lumens.



LUMENS VS USEFUL LUMENS

For non-directional bulbs, such as a globe or candelabra, the total lumen output is calculated in all directions. With a directional bulb, such as a spotlight, the light is emitted in many directions, some of the light (spill light) may not be useful but it is counted in the total lumen rating.



Age 80 Capital Credit Retirement

REA members who have reached the age of 80 are eligible to request a one-time payment of capital credits. Members or their trustees (if their capital credits have been assigned to a trust for estate planning purposes) can complete and return the Certification of Age form to REA. A copy of the member's driver's license or a copy of a birth certificate is required.

For more information, please visit www.runestoneelectric.com/about-rea/capital-credits or call REA at 1-800-473-1722.



NEWSLINE

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7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

Board of Directors

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, Secretary
District 2: Barbara Johnson, President
District 3: Audrey Hjelle, Vice President
District 4: Dave Staples, Director
District 5: Mike Loken, Treasurer
District 6: Clif Patrick, Director
District 7: Matthew Mattson, Director

Editorial Staff

Al Haman, CEO
Sue Lundeen, Editor
Ally Koudela, Communications Specialist

In Case of a Power Outage

- » Please call 800-473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
- » Be sure to have a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- » Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
- » Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

REA will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Sign up to get text messages from REA on control days!

Simply text #loadcontrol to 22300.
Msg and data rates apply.

BUSINESSES WANTED

For Annual Meeting Gift Certificates

The \$25 Annual Meeting Gift Certificate is back! Members attending the REA Annual Meeting on April 28, 2022, will receive a \$25 gift certificate (one per membership) to be redeemed at participating REA businesses.

If REA serves your business and you offer food, beverages, **retail** or other entertainment, consider participating in the program. We'd love to promote your business to the +400 REA members that attend the Annual Meeting. Like any other gift certificate, the gift certificate is used at your business and then submitted to REA for payment.

The \$25 gift certificates are:

- » Individually numbered and embossed to prevent replication
- » Not redeemable for cash
- » Cannot be replaced if lost
- » Expire December 31, 2022

To participate, call REA at (800) 473-1722 or email rea@runestoneelectric.com.

MAKE THE BRIGHT CHOICE.

Check out page 3 for the home lighting guide

Enjoy 30% off all standard LED light bulbs, through February 28!

Visit the online store at www.energywisemnstore.com