

MCREA News



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Morgan County Rural Electric Association is a member-owned cooperative that exists to provide goods and services that enhance the quality of life in rural America.

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Get Your Home Ready for Summer's Weather

From yard work and pest control to cleaning and taking care of home systems, there's a lot that goes into maintaining a house. Spring is one of the best times to focus on some of that work and to get your home ready for the coming summer heat.

"The Department of Energy says that almost 45 percent of a home owner's utility costs come from heating and cooling the house. Fortunately, there are some simple things you can do to help lower those costs, keep your system working as it should and beat the summer heat," says Dave Quandt, senior vice president of field services for one of the nation's leading providers of home warranty services.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you tackle some preventative maintenance.

"It's important to have your air-conditioning system professionally inspected and cleaned a least a month before you'll need to start using it," Quandt says. "At a minimum, turn it on and make sure it's still running like it should. (Edward Sirius acct # 366200)

"Last summer, we responded to more than 550,000 requests for air conditioning repairs during the record-breaking heat wave. You don't want to find out that your air conditioner needs repair or replacing just when you need it most. Now's the time to be sure everything's in good working order."

Find out the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance on your type of unit. You can usually find it online and in your owner's manual. In addition:

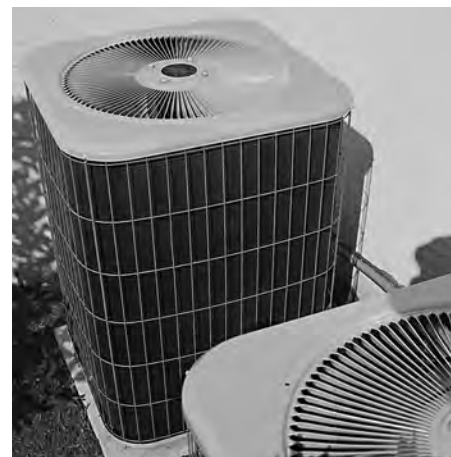


PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY

- Create shade for the unit, but keep the area around the exterior condensing unit clear of leaves, bushes and other obstructions to ensure adequate airflow.
- Clean or replace the air conditioner filter monthly. Clogged, dirty filters block airflow and make a unit work much harder. A clean filter can save up to 10 percent on your bill.

If your air conditioning system and/or components break down, a home warranty can help protect you from unexpected repair costs. "A home warranty," says Quandt, "is a service contract that covers the repair or replacement of many of the most common home system breakdowns. It also covers appliances not usually covered by home owner's insurance."

To get more summer home care tips, and to learn more about home warranties, visit www.ahs.com.



Morgan County REA offices
 will be closed April 22
 for Good Friday.

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET SOME...



GREEN FOR GOING GREEN



Morgan County REA and Fort Morgan State Bank are making it easier to go GREEN!
Up to 100% financing for:

- * Approved energy efficiency products
- * Wind turbines
- * Energy efficient windows
- * Solar power
- * New insulation
- * Many other energy efficient or renewable products may be eligible

Qualified borrows must :

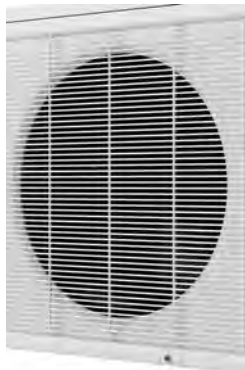
- * Own the home or business served by Morgan County REA
- * Submit loan application
- * Have energy audit and/or economic estimate from MCREA

Go to Morgan County REA at 20169 Highway 34 for more information and pick up an application packet
 Loans offered in 5 or 10 year terms with approved credit. Other restrictions apply.
 Loans made on first come first served basis.

VENT FANS NEED CLEANING

Vent fans, if not left on too long, can help cut the load of air-conditioning systems during warm weather months by eliminating steam above the stove and humidity in the bathroom. A clean vent always works best.

Use a vacuum cleaner wand and brush to thoroughly clean the fan housing. If you have a fan and light combination, remove the lightbulb before you start cleaning to lessen the chance of breaking it.



WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations to J. Diane Cunningham (acct. #2104200) and Marquerite L. Wright (acct. #643000). You both saw your names and account numbers in the

February edition of *Colorado Country Life* and received a \$25 credit on your bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by April 29 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



MCREA Announces Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to these six outstanding young people who have been selected to receive scholarships by the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Scholarship Committee.

\$1,500 MCREA scholarship — Brenda Rohn Wiggins High School

Brenda carries a weighted 4.06 cumulative grade point average and is listed first in her class, sharing that honor with fellow MCREA scholarship winner Amber Brown. She is on the Gold Honor Roll at Wiggins High School and is a member of National Honor Society. Throughout her high school career she has been active in volleyball, basketball and track, earning the academic athlete award (a two-sport athlete with a 3.5 or above GPA) since 2007. Brenda has been involved in journalism in high school, serving as editor of the school yearbook and editor in chief of the high school newspaper, as well as volunteering as a staff writer for the local newspaper. These experiences have led to her decision to major in journalism in college after high school. Her parents are Kevin and Janet Rohn from Wiggins.



\$1,000 MCREA scholarship — Darean Hunt Woodlin High School

Darean, daughter of Jim and Sabrina Hunt of Woodrow, is ranked first in her class at Woodlin High School with a 4.0 grade point average. She is currently serving as president of Woodlin's Future Business Leaders of America, co-president of National Honor Society and vice president of student council, and is the student representative to the Woodlin accountability team. She is also a varsity letterwoman and captain for Woodlin's volleyball and basketball teams and a varsity letterwoman in track. Darean plans to attend either the University of Northern Colorado or the University of Colorado/Denver for a bachelor's degree in biology,



then apply to the University of Colorado School of Medicine for further degrees.

\$1,000 MCREA scholarship — Eric Lee Fort Morgan High School

Eric has a 4.11 weighted grade point average and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Eric is ranked first in his class at Fort Morgan High School. He is a member of National Honor Society, was a student representative to the 2010 Colorado Association of School Boards winter conference and was a 2010 winner of the Colorado School of Mines medal of achievement in math and science. Eric is a two-year letterman in football, achieving academic all-state his junior year, and a one-year letterman in golf. He has been active in the German club, ski club, FBLA, international club and the science club. He plans to attend the University of Colorado and study electrical engineering. His parents are Michael and Debra Lee of Fort Morgan.



\$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship — Amber Brown Wiggins High School

Amber carries a weighted cumulative 4.06 grade point average at Wiggins High School and is also listed first in her class, sharing that honor with fellow MCREA scholarship winner Brenda Rohn. Amber is currently serving as president of the Wiggins High School student council and executive vice president of Future Business Leaders of America. She has served as chapter president of National Honor Society and was a delegate to Colorado Girls State in 2010. Amber has also been active in Tiger Den Theater, appearing in several plays throughout her high school career. She also received a 10th place finish in chemistry at the 2010 Northeastern Colorado math and science competition. Amber plans to study history at Mesa State College. Her parents are Scot and Carri Brown of Wiggins.



\$500 Tri-State Generation and Transmission scholarship — Traci Schaefer

Fort Morgan High School
Traci, daughter of Ron and Gina Schaefer of Fort Morgan, is listed near the top of her class with a 3.85 GPA. She has been involved with school activities, including band and jazz band, the poms squad (captain her junior year), Future Business Leaders of America (vice president her junior and senior years), and National Honor Society. Traci has spent seven semesters on the Alpha Honor Roll, was chosen as a Colorado Association of School Boards conference representative, and was the Rotary Wheel of the Month for December of 2010. She has also been a dance teacher for The School for Performing Arts in Fort Morgan. Traci plans to study journalism and mass communications at the University of Colorado in Boulder.



\$500 Tri-State Generation and Transmission scholarship — Morgan Powell

Prairie High School
Morgan has a 4.0 GPA and is an honor roll student and first in her class at Prairie High School, Morgan has also been active in volleyball, track, math and science competitions and Knowledge Bowl. A four-year member of the New Raymer FFA, she currently serves as chapter secretary. Morgan was the chapter FFA proficiency winner and a state proficiency finalist in specialty animal production. She received second place in the district FFA crop judging contest and a silver award in the district soil judging contest. Morgan has also attended both the state and national FFA conventions. Morgan plans to study nursing at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Walt and Karla Powell from Fort Morgan are Morgan's parents.



Tune In to TV Energy Savings

So you've bought an Energy Star-qualified television to save energy. But there's even more you can do to boost your TV's efficiency. Here's a tip from Morgan County REA that can help you save energy and money.

Televisions are bigger than they used to be. And some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But Energy Star-qualified televisions use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard models.

Of course, if the set is left on when no one is watching, that costs money. But in some cases, even if you hit the "off" button, "energy vampires" might go to work — meaning your television could still consume power.

Here are a couple of things you can do to stop that drain. Many high-definition televisions come with a quick-start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a few seconds to start-up times. And to stop energy vampires, use a power strip as a central turn-off point. When you're not watching television and not planning to record a program later, simply flip the power strip off button.

For other tips on how to save energy and money, visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.togetherwesave.com, or call the efficiency experts at MCREA at 970-867-5688.



Turn your television off when no one is watching and save money.



PICTURE THIS ENERGY HOG

A digital picture is small and doesn't use a lot of electricity as it sits on your bookshelf. But it is all of those little uses of electricity that add up.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute, if each U.S. household had one of these digital frames running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it would take five power plants to run them all. That's the picture of an energy hog

Looking at purchasing a new appliance for your home or business?

MCREA has a New Appliance Efficiency Credit Program for our members!

Efficiency Credits Available for New Energy Star Rated:

- Refrigerators - Freezers - Dishwashers
- Clothes Washers - Single Unit Washer/Dryer
- Refrigerator/Freezer Salvage

For more information, contact MCREA Member Services (970) 867-5688

Requires bill of sale, Energy Star Rating sticker & proof of salvage (if applicable)

RECYCLE LIGHTBULBS

Morgan County REA offers a CFL recycling bucket in MCREA's office lobby for the general public. Burned out CFLs may be deposited there.

For more information, contact MCREA member services at 970-867-5688.

How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



A CFL's glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn't much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

1 Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes.



2 Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.



3 Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.

4 Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.



5 Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit Earth911.com.

To learn more visit epa.gov/cflcleanup.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency