

# GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Morgan County Rural Electric Association's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our consumer-members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events make me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members

we serve, we have a greater mission: to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. We also take young people to Glen Eden Resort in Steamboat Springs to participate in our Youth Leadership Camp, for an opportunity to learn how cooperatives work.

We also have a strong commitment to safety — not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings. We also hold safety demonstrations at the local National Night Out.

Morgan County REA invests in the economic development of the community through an active role in our local chamber of commerce. We have strong ties with local organizations and love being a part of their events. (Joseph and Ann Archuleta, acct



DAVID FRICK

#xxx4601) When you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is. After all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on, but our passion is our community, because we live and work here, too. We want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you — whether it's providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill, discussing payment plan options during these difficult times or information on rebates for Energy Star-rated appliances — please reach out to us at 970-867-5688.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.

## MCREA to Hold Member Photo Contest



To celebrate the holiday season, Morgan County REA will be changing things up this year and holding a member photo contest.

- **How does it work?** You can submit a photo with a brief description and your name to [memberservices@mcrea.org](mailto:memberservices@mcrea.org).
- **Who's eligible?** Consumer-members of Morgan County REA are welcome and encouraged to enter. One entry per account will be accepted. (Clark and Joan Wilson, acct #xxx100)
- **What can I win?** First place recipient will receive an \$80 credit on their electric bill; second place will get a \$60 credit on their electric bill; third place gets a \$40 credit on their electric bill. We will also award three honorable mentions with a \$10 credit on their electric bill.
- **How long do I have to enter?** Deadline for entries is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.
- **How will I know who wins?** Winners will be notified by Monday, December 7, 2020, and their photos published in the January edition of *Colorado Country Life*.



### MCREA Office Closed Veterans Day & Thanksgiving

MCREA will observe Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11, with MCREA headquarters closed that day. MCREA offices will also be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Morgan County REA salutes all veterans and wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving!

175 ppi low res photo

## LAST CHANCE

### MCREA's newest substation

**M**CREA is excited to announce the completed construction of the 12,470-volt distribution equipment at the Last Chance Substation. The substation is located about 2 miles west of the community of Last Chance on U.S. Highway 36 in Washington County. As part of this project, MCREA crews also built 5 miles of new distribution line to a 10,000-horsepower compressor station to the north.

Last Chance is now the southernmost substation in Morgan County REA's service territory, and serves Last Chance, Clean Harbors and other loads, such as homes and stock wells, in the area. The substation's three feeders energize a total of 36.8 miles of distribution line, and pick up some of the load from the South Woodrow substation located 8 miles to the north on State Highway 71. The fourth feeder bay in the substation is on standby, and the next construction work plan includes plans to build a new tie line to Woodlin School and upgrade the line to both Last Chance and Clean Harbors.

## MCREA Welcomes New Employee



Casey Krening

**M**organ County REA is pleased to welcome Casey Krening as its new journeyman lineman. Casey grew up in Akron, and went to lineman school in Alliance, Nebraska. Casey and his wife, Hannah, are excited to be a part of the Morgan County REA family. Casey enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing. Casey came to Morgan County REA from Highline Electric Association to be closer to his family. Casey loves being a part of a cooperative because "the cooperative way can't be beat!" Please join us in welcoming Casey.

**MC** Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



November 2020

## Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov

## WINTER STORM OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS



It's the time of year when snow, ice and wind can disrupt power. Assemble an emergency supply kit to keep you safe and warm during an outage with items such as flashlights, a first aid kit, nonperishable foods and drinking water. If you already have an emergency kit from last winter, review the items to ensure nothing is expired and replace needed supplies.

For more ideas for your emergency supply kit, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Youth Programs and Scholarships



It is once again time to start thinking about applying for Leadership Camp, Youth Tour and scholarships. Morgan County REA is proud once again to offer the opportunity for youth who have parents or grandparents who are members of Morgan County REA a chance to receive a scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C., or Glen Eden Resort in Steamboat Springs. The deadline for applications for Leadership Camp and Youth Tour is December 4, 2020. Scholarship applications must be received by January 29, 2021. You can contact your school counselor for applications and information, or member services at 970-867-5688.

# Energy Efficiency Products

Furnace or AC nearing replacement? Tri-State Generation and Transmission's studies of **air source heat pumps** show huge increases in efficiency over the last few years. Tri-State offers rebates of \$450 per ton of heating and cooling capacity. Please talk with MCREA member services if interested in learning more.

Water heater feeling a bit dated? Rheem has released the **Pro-Terra Hybrid Heat Pump water heater**. A standard electric gas water heater costs \$505 a year on average to run compared to around \$110 a year for a hybrid heat pump model. Rheem offers a 10-year warranty. The unit pays for itself in savings in less than 2.5 years for a 50-gallon tank.



## 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, Robert Clyncke (account #xxx6000) and Lauren and Jeanne Mitchell (account #xxx3400), you found your names and account numbers in the September edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your electric 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 November 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

## Be a Smart Cookie

### Holiday Baking Tips

If you're planning to cook feasts or create treats this holiday season, follow these basic safety tips:

#### Test Smoke Detectors

Make sure they're working properly



#### Watch Your Sleeves

This is not a good time for loose sleeves

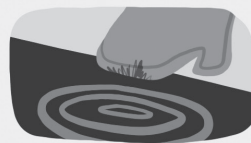
#### Put a Lid on it

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire



#### How the Cookie Crumbles

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand



#### Where There's Heat There Could Be Fire

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove

#### Not Child's Play

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas



#### Keeping Time

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on

#### Stay With it

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food



#### Pay Attention

Take a nap **after** the feast



# Another Look at Energy Star

BY DERRILL HOLLY

When it comes to consumer technology, innovation not only can mean more and better features, it can also mean more efficient energy use designed to save you money. That's been the goal of the government-backed Energy Star program since 1992.

"When it comes to heating and cooling costs, savings are driven by local climate conditions," said Maureen McNamara, a utility partnership manager with the Energy Star program. "That's why we're constantly looking at products in the marketplace to determine which ones best meet consumer needs."

That means many products that now carry the Energy Star label are much more efficient than similar devices were a decade ago.

Replacing older heating and cooling equipment with a properly sized and installed Energy Star-certified heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system can save the average consumer about \$160 per year on their utility costs.

Energy Star-rated smart thermostats can add another 8% to your annual savings, and a heat pump water heater rated under the program can potentially shave \$330 from your annual utility costs.

"Consumers need to consider two price tags: the price to buy a product and the price to operate it," McNamara said.

With consumers taking a more active role in controlling their energy costs,

Energy Star added more online tools and provides useful information on various categories of appliances, home entertainment and personal communications devices.

"The EnergyStar.gov online portal for saving at home provides advice that is tailored to individual circumstances," McNamara said, "so not only where you live, but whether you rent or own your home, and whether you choose to take on projects on your own or hire contractors.

"We know that some consumers can take on larger and more expensive projects, while others have to pursue efficiency goals incrementally and are much more interested in options requiring less initial investment."

McNamara also added that Energy Star ratings are regularly updated to account for design changes and improved overall efficiency.

"That's helped us keep the Energy Star brand relevant for consumers," McNamara said. "When we revise our standards, that adds value to our program and to consumers."

To learn more about Energy Star-rated appliances and electronics, visit [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov).

Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



When shopping for new appliances and electronics, look for the Energy Star certification label, which signals an energy-efficient product. Photo: Energy Star.



According to EnergyStar.gov, Energy Star-certified refrigerators are about 9% more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum efficiency standard.



## Considering Solar? MCREA is happy to help

Are you thinking about a solar panel system installation at your home or small business in the near future? Morgan County REA has commissioned many of these net-metered photovoltaic systems in the last few years. Please call Morgan County REA at 970-867-5688 and

ask for the member services department. We'd love to provide information about the online application process, what to expect on future bills and to answer any other member questions. We look forward to talking with you.