



OCTOBER 2024



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**How to reach us**  
877-WYRULEC

**E-mail:** [wyrulec@wyrulec.com](mailto:wyrulec@wyrulec.com)  
**Website:** [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com)

**May through September**  
Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

**October through April**  
Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

#### Board of Directors

Dewey Hageman  
*President*

Mark Knaub  
*Vice President*

Ben Scott  
*Secretary*

Kenda Knudsen  
*Treasurer*

Julie Kilty  
*Assistant Secretary*

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

**Senior Staff**  
Miles Duffy  
*Operations Manager*

Tiphonie Fuss  
*Office Manager*

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



## CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities bring people together and create a sense of belonging. As a member of Wyrulec Company, you're part of the electric cooperative community, and we are deeply committed to our members.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Wyrulec Company, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Wyrulec, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

1. **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the

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# CONTINUED. . . CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Wyrulec, this happens through paying your energy bills.

4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
5. **Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people--the local communities we're proud to serve.



**We're Grateful  
for Your  
Membership.**

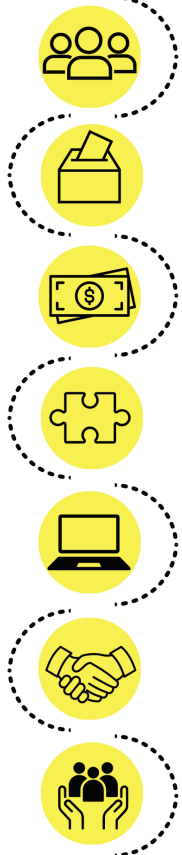
Our offices will be closed  
**Thursday, November 28,  
and Friday, November 29,**  
in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.  
We are incredibly grateful for your  
membership as our team spends this  
special time with loved ones.

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From our co-op family to yours,  
we hope you have a wonderful  
Thanksgiving!

## 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

- 1 Voluntary and Open Membership**  
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- 2 Democratic Member Control**  
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- 3 Members' Economic Participation**  
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.
- 4 Autonomy and Independence**  
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5 Education, Training and Information**  
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives**  
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
- 7 Concern for Community**  
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



# STAY SAFE AND WARM: YOUR WINTER HOME READINESS GUIDE

Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency and warmth. Here are top tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

## Inspect your heating system

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

## Prepare pipes and water supply

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

## Maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

## Prepare your home's exterior

- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

## Increase home energy efficiency

- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

## Stock emergency supplies

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day.

## Include these essentials in your emergency kit:

- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries

- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

## What to do if the power goes out

Winter weather can not only cause power outages, but high winds, ice storms, and blizzard conditions can also cause hazardous road conditions that affect Wyrulec's ability to restore power.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, Wyrulec recommends you follow updates on our website at [wyrulec.com](http://wyrulec.com), or on our Facebook page. The Wyrulec office or our dispatch service can be reached 24/7 at 877-WYRULEC (877-997-8532).

## Other actions you can take to stay safe are:

- **Avoid travel.** Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- **Place a draft block** at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- **When using an alternative heat source**, follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- **Keep grills, camp stoves and generators** out of the house, basement and garage.
- **Use a tarp and portable canopy** when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- **Move fuel-powered generators** at least 20 feet away from the house.
- **Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home.** Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# MORE THAN A FEW CANS OF SOUP...

Which Foods Are In Your Emergency Kit?



## THE FOOD IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT SHOULD:

- Have a long storage life.
- Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration.
- Include nourishment for infants and toddlers if applicable.
- Meet special dietary needs.
- Include the needs of pets if you have them.

## WATER AND PREP ITEMS

Include in your supplies:

- One gallon of water per person per day to last at least three days.
- A manual can opener and cooking supplies.
- Indoor warming methods, such as chafing dishes and fondue pots.

## EMERGENCY STASH

Plan for several days' worth of food for each person in your household. Edible items could include:

- Canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- Grains, such as crackers and multigrain cereals.
- Protein or fruit bars.
- Dried fruit.
- Peanut butter.
- Canned soups, meats and beans.
- Powdered milk.
- Dried meat/jerky.
- Oatmeal or breakfast bars.

**BE PREPARED TO KEEP THOSE YOU LOVE SAFE, NOURISHED AND HYDRATED DURING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Safe Electricity.org** Learn more at:

Sources: FEMA and CDC

The following names have been drawn for

a **\$25** bill credit.

Contact **Wyrulec Company** at **877-WYRULEC** to claim your credit!

James Merrick



Nancy Grussing



Larry Harmer



Clearview Dairy Inc



Shanna Hamburg

