



WE PAY YOU TO PULL THE PLUG

Recycle your old appliances through ECI REC's Pull the Plug partnership with CLEAResult out of Marion, Iowa.

- Refrigerators (full size), \$35 each
- Freezers, \$25 each
- Window air conditioners, \$25 each

Call CLEAResult at **855-838-7817** to schedule your pick-up today. Appliances must be operable at time of pick-up.

There is a limit of three appliances per year, per address.

LIGHTING REBATES ARE BURNING OUT

Interior LED lighting rebates will be gone after 2020



ECI REC's rebate programs are one way we encourage our members to consider new energy efficient technologies that lower energy bills and help the environment—today and in the years to come. However, it has become less feasible to offer rebate incentives on interior LED lamps and fixtures, as LED lighting becomes the industry standard and the cost to purchase these bulbs continues to decline. Beginning January 1, 2021, these rebates will no longer be available.

REBATES EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2020*

Indoor LED Fixtures

- » 4 watts min: \$5/fixture (residential only)
- » 8–14 watts: \$10/fixture replacement
- » 15–49 watts: \$15/fixture replacement
- » 50–99 watts: \$25/fixture replacement
- » >100 watts: \$40/fixture replacement
- » LED tubes: \$2/T12 or T8 replacement
- » LED high bay/troffer fixtures: Contact ECI REC

REBATES AVAILABLE 2020–2021

Outdoor Security LED Lighting*

- » 20–34 watts: \$10
- » 35–49 watts: \$20
- » 50–74 watts: \$40
- » 75–124 watts: \$50
- » >125 watts: \$60

**All lamps and fixtures must be ENERGY STAR® or DesignLights Consortium™ qualified. Rebate forms for purchases made in 2020 are due into the office no later than January 20, 2021.*

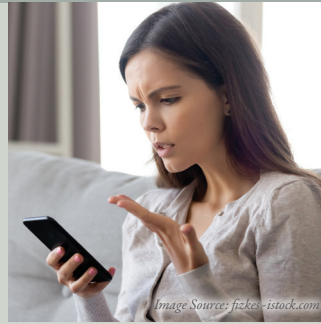
Rebates for Other Home Improvements

Don't forget that Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credits have been retroactively extended from December 31, 2017, through December 31, 2020! You can save if you have installed or are planning to install a new air-source heat pump, central air conditioning, or an electric heat pump water heater before the end of 2020.

- » Tax Credit: 10% of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50–\$300
- » Expires: December 31, 2020
- » Details: Must be an existing home and your principal residence. New construction and rentals do not apply.

Outsmart Utility Scammers This Summer

Scammers are taking advantage of the confusion and uncertainty in our world and targeting consumers by phone, email, and text. These con artists claim to be from your local utility, and the caller ID or email address may even look legitimate. Consumers in good standing with their utilities are often caught off guard by the aggressive tone of these impersonators. The scammers will usually speak with a sense of urgency, ensuring customers do not have time to ask questions or verify their claims.



The best defense against a utility scammer is an educated consumer. Follow these tips from Utilities United Against Scams to protect yourself from a potential scam.

PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (banking account information, debit or credit card information) to anyone initiating contact with you and claiming to be from your local electric cooperative. Never give out information or provide payment to callers or unexpected individual(s) appearing at your door, claiming to represent your cooperative. Your local cooperative will already have your relevant personal and account information.

TAKE YOUR TIME

Do not be rushed. If you receive a call, text, email, or visitor saying you have to pay your bill immediately to avoid disconnection, tell them you would like to verify they are a legitimate representative by calling a verified number for the cooperative office. Beware if a representative exhibits impatience, annoyance, or anger when you question their authority. While a

scammer will discourage you from hanging up and calling the number on your utility bill, a real cooperative representative will encourage you to do so for your own peace of mind.

ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS

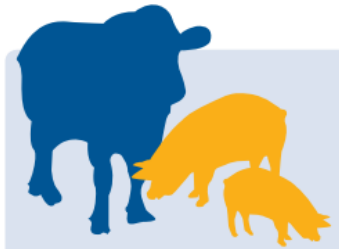
Ask the person contacting you to provide your account number, your last payment amount, date of payment, and their employee identification number. If the person is a legitimate utility representative, this information will be readily accessible. If they will not answer your questions, hang up or shut the door, then call your utility directly to report the suspicious activity.

CONTACT YOUR UTILITY DIRECTLY

If you receive a suspicious call or visit, immediately contact the local police and your electric cooperative. Share details of the interaction, which might aid in a possible criminal investigation.

For more tips, download a free copy of the Consumer's Guide to Imposter Utility Scams at www.utilitiesunited.org. Remember, contact your local electric cooperative directly if you receive a suspicious call, text, email, or visit from someone claiming to represent the utility.

Source: Director of Communications Erin Campbell, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Published in *Living with Energy in Iowa* (July).



ATTENTION LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement buildings or are planning the addition of a new facility, please call East-Central Iowa REC. We are committed to working with you and your electrician to eliminate any potential stray voltage concerns.

CALL 877-850-4343

NOTIFICATION REMINDER FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Owners of alternative energy production facilities that will be attached to an electric transmission or distribution line—no matter how small (solar-powered heat pumps, for example)—are required to provide written notification to their utility of the intent to construct or install the facility at least 30 days prior to construction.

If you have questions about the law, please contact ECIREC at 877-850-4343.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email coopconnections@ecirec.coop.



Use SmartHub to pay for FREE online! Discover, Visa, and MasterCard accepted. While you're there, view your monthly usage data in helpful chart formats.



Sign up today to receive FREE energy tips and resources in your inbox. Go to www.myenergytips.com and subscribe to the monthly Watts \$mart e-newsletter.