



OCTOBER 2022



## CO-OP NEWS

### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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PO Box 359, Lingle, WY 82223

**How to reach us**  
877-WYRULEC

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**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.

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**W**ithin the past several months, we've received a lot of questions from our members regarding solar installations. We would like to caution you that there are a lot of deceptive sales tactics that exist for the sale of solar panels. Be wary of promises that sound too good to be true, such as "this will eliminate your electric bill," "the utility will be writing *you* a check," "this will power your home during an outage," or "it will cost you nothing up front."

Before signing a contract to install solar generation, please make sure you visit with us. We have worked with some reliable companies, but some solar installers are only concerned with making a sale and profit, and not about what's best for you. While solar installations are popular right now, it's important to understand the true costs and actual energy savings, as well as to determine if solar is right for you. Solar installations certainly work for some, but it's not the best choice for everyone.

Solar panels can only produce energy with natural light. They don't produce energy at night and will have limited production on cloudy days or when snow, dirt, or foliage covers the panels. Solar systems do not have the capability to store energy without the use of batteries, which come at an additional cost.

One factor to keep in mind when considering a solar installation is the overall energy efficiency of the home. If your goal is to save money on your electric bill, could you achieve that goal by installing new windows or updating your HVAC system? It could be more cost effective to invest in other energy saving measures rather than install solar panels. Other factors to consider include tree coverage, weather patterns, and if considering a rooftop installation - which direction your home faces as well as the age and pitch of the roof.

**There are also many financial considerations to keep in mind. Some questions to ask include:**

- Is there a large up-front payment required, or are the fees spread out over time?



**Ryan Schilreff**  
*General Manager*

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations

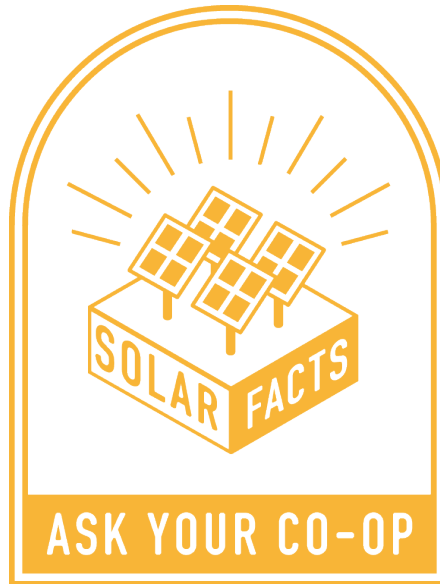


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## ***continued . . .* GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- If the fees are spread out, what is the interest rate being charged?
- Will you own the panels, or will they be leased?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- What happens if you decide to sell your home?
- Are there tax incentives for you, or does the solar company gain the tax incentives?
- Are there any hidden costs?
- If installing rooftop solar panels, does the roof need to be replaced first?

While installing solar generation could offset some of your electric consumption, these systems are a large financial investment and may take many years to see a return. The payback period can vary greatly depending on installation costs, financing, the cost of electricity, net metering tariff changes, and other variables. It could be more than 20 years before you see a return on your investment, if at all, so make sure you understand the full costs as well as Wyrulec Company's billing and interconnection requirements, which comply with state statute.



Solar generation may not produce enough energy to power your home, so you will still need to be connected to Wyrulec Company and will still receive a bill from us. Many items in your house draw a large demand when turned on, and most solar generation systems are not able to produce this. *Your solar generation will also not operate your home during a power outage, unless you have a specific battery system in place.*

Wyrulec Company has requirements for interconnecting generation systems with our grid that you should be aware of before signing a contract with an installer. These are also state statute requirements. We are not involved with the sale or installation of the system, and we do not recommend any installers or sales companies. We don't offer any rebates or incentives for the purchase of these systems, but we

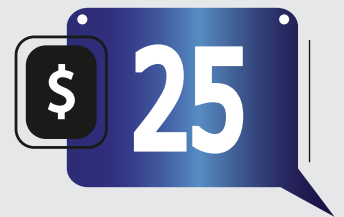
do offer a net-metering program where we purchase any excess renewable generation from our members. We also work with our members to connect to the grid, and we're happy to help you understand your past usage history in order to determine what size system you may need to install. Please give us a call at 877-WYRULEC if you are considering solar or any other type of generation system.



**The following names have been drawn for a \$25 bill credit.  
Contact Wyrulec Company at 877-WYRULEC to claim your credit!**

James T Guest  
Scott Rabe  
Michael Lowry

Jerry Schledewitz  
Shelly Thompson



## BE CAUTIOUS WHEN USING BACK-UP GENERATORS

- Make sure you know how to operate the generator safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and even the linemen working to restore power. Insurance may not cover your liability in the case of unsafe installation or operation.
- Temporary-use generators should not be connected to the circuit breaker or fuse box and should not be plugged into a household outlet. Portable generators should only be used with extension cords to power lights and small appliances.
- Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer switch that prevents potentially deadly back-feed.
- Generators should only be operated outside a home to prevent toxic and potentially deadly exhaust from entering a home. Keep them away from children and pets.
- When starting a generator, disconnect all appliances that might be connected to it. That will not only protect them but prevent a fuse from being blown on the generator.
- Connect appliances to your portable generator after it has been started. Use only three-prong plugs that allow connections to be grounded.
- When refueling generators, allow the engine to cool in order to prevent a fire should the gas tank overflow.
- Be sure to use a heavy-duty extension cord rated for the wattage of the load being connected.
- When the generator is no longer needed, allow it to cool down before storing it.



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# ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug “energy vampires” into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

## TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



**TVS**



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**VIDEO GAME CONSOLES**



**SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS**



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