



[MCREA News]

MCREA'S COMMUNITY LIGHTING PROJECT SHINES BRIGHT IN WIGGINS

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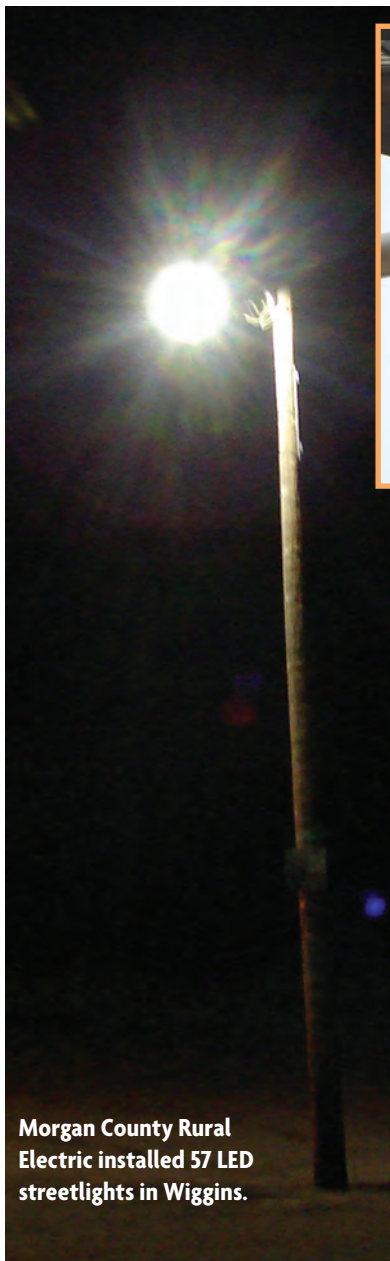
One of the best ways for electric co-ops like Morgan County Rural Electric Association to demonstrate new electric technologies that may not be widely available yet to many of its nearly 8,000 consumers is by promoting community projects that benefit the people it serves at the end of the line. One such recently completed project undertaken by the employees of the Fort Morgan-based co-op was an upgrade of 57 streetlights in the town of Wiggins.

The upgrade from the older mercury vapor lamps to 55-watt light-emitting diode bulbs, also known as LEDs, is expected to bring brighter lighting and nearly trouble-free performance as they are rated to last up to 10 years without replacement. The Wiggins lighting upgrade was done at no cost to the town, according to Dave Henderson, director of external affairs for MCREA.

“We look forward to doing these types of high profile community projects as it provides us with an opportunity to showcase new technologies to our consumers,” said Henderson

The project was funded by Morgan County REA; its power supplier, Tri-State G&T; and iCAST, a Denver-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to help support economic and environmentally-sound community projects throughout the state.

According to Henderson, the project might have never been completed without the financial contribution from iCAST. “The involvement of



Morgan County Rural Electric installed 57 LED streetlights in Wiggins.



This photo shows one of the 55-watt LED lights now illuminating the streets Wiggins.

iCAST and its president Ravi Mulhotra was central to the success of the project, by providing financial resources through grant funding that we probably wouldn't have had access to otherwise,” he said.

Henderson also noted that the co-op was planning a similar project — working with a local dairy on another commercial LED lighting project at their site. Again, iCAST will probably be involved in this project as well, he said.

Demonstrating new technologies is not a new effort for the eastern Colorado co-op. In 2010, MCREA was one of the first co-ops in the state to promote, demonstrate and help fund an electric heat pump water heater that was installed in the home of one of its member-owners.