

\$500 REWARD

Marijuana grow houses have resulted in millions of dollars of losses for your Cooperative. Since 2006, WREC has discovered 138 grow houses. These elaborate operations, by use of high intensity lighting, have cost our members an estimated \$2 million of stolen energy.

These illegal acts are done by splicing into the Cooperative's secondary power lines and diverting energy before it flows through the meter. These operations are not only illegal but very dangerous. As part of our intensified effort to combat this plaguing situation, WREC pressed elected officials to enact legislation with tougher penalties for grow house operators. As a result, the **Marijuana Grow House Eradication Act** passed in 2008. This law gives prosecutors and law enforcement the essential tools necessary to convict these criminals. Since 2008, even with the law intact, we are still seeing an increasing number of grow houses.

To date, of the 138 grow houses, the court has ordered 49 convicted grow house operators to pay back more than \$400,000 to your electric Cooperative for stolen energy and damage to our infrastructure. We also have several pending cases currently active in the court system.

We are now asking you, our Members, to help battle these illegal operations. WREC is offering a \$500 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing energy or operating a grow house that is on the Cooperative's lines. With your help, we can stop these thieves and continue to keep electric rates affordable.

If you have any information about electricity theft or possible grow house operations, please contact your local Cooperative District Manager listed below.

Is There a Grow House Next Door To You?

Detecting a grow house is difficult. Law enforcement agencies largely rely on tips from the public.

- Growers frequent the house at odd hours of the night.
- Growers bring large amounts of potting soil to the house.
- Windows covered at all times.
- Tall stockade fences that hide several air conditioning units.
- The strong skunk like odor coming from the house.
- The house's lights are timed to specific hours.



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