



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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FROM THE MANAGER

Make the Most of Your Electric Vehicle's Battery Charge

Whether you're a new electric vehicle (EV) owner, an experienced driver or just looking into your options, it's good to know how to make the most of an electric vehicle's battery charge. Different types of EVs have a wide range of mileage options, but there are things owners can do to increase their range.

In Town Versus Highway

Do you use your EV to run nearby errands or for a long commute to work? In-town driving usually benefits battery range, since EVs use the braking system to put energy back into the battery, called regenerative braking. Coasting toward that stoplight also helps because you can move forward without using power.

Driving It

Although painstakingly obvious, driving will always drain the battery. Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

Heat/Air-Conditioning

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain, second to driving it. Warming your EV's cabin takes more energy when it is cold outside. The same is also true when

you use energy to blast the air conditioner while it is hot outside.

Rate of Acceleration

While driving EVs is fun because they get up and go, high (and rapid) acceleration requires more energy than taking off more slowly. Managing a "lead foot" helps improve your car's battery range.

Weather

While all types of conditions affect battery range, frigid temperatures cause the biggest drain. It requires more energy to keep the battery running when it is cold outside.

How Full Is Too Full?

Most EV owners avoid charging a battery to 100%, since fully charging affects battery life. While some EV owners charge to a maximum of 80% capacity, many EV enthusiasts now recommend charging to 50% full.

Taking a long road trip? Some experts believe charging to full capacity now and then is not a major concern.



Scott Ayres

SOURCE: KELLEY BLUE BOOK



Got Electric Fencing?

INSPECT IT REGULARLY



MAKE SURE FENCING IS VISIBLE.

Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.

INSPECT FENCING REGULARLY.
Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.



MAKE SURE FENCE IS TIGHT AND WELL-SUPPORTED.

A lack of support can cause it to sag.

CAP POSTS, ESPECIALLY METAL T-POSTS.

This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.



CHECK FOR A LOOSE OR SAGGING FENCE.

Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

Stay Safe During Harvest — Get Proper Rest

For many farmers, fall requires long days in the field and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, combined with fatigue and looming deadlines, increases the risk of injury. In fact, most injuries occur during the spring and fall when stress and fatigue are often at their highest.

The safety and health of workers, including making time for sleep, should be a priority when considering a farm's productivity, according to Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois Extension associate research scientist.

"Rushing and cutting corners can lead to injury, which no one has time for, especially during the harvest," Rudolphi says.

Rudolphi grew up on a farm and understands the pressures of harvest season. She says that getting proper rest can make a huge difference in staying safe, but during the time crunch of harvest season, farmers sacrifice sleep to work late into the night.

"Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time and reduced concentration," Rudolphi says. "All of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity."

The demands of harvest are stressful, and a lack of sleep can intensify that and lead to errors in the fields or even on the roads.

To improve sleep, Rudolphi advises farmers to go to bed and wake up at regular times when possible. They can use rainy days to catch up on sleep. Other sleep health tips include:

- ▶ Create a bedroom environment that encourages sleep; keep it quiet, dark and cool.
- ▶ Limit electronic device use.
- ▶ Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.

In addition to improving sleep, managing stress is an important component to injury prevention, health and safety, according to Rudolphi.

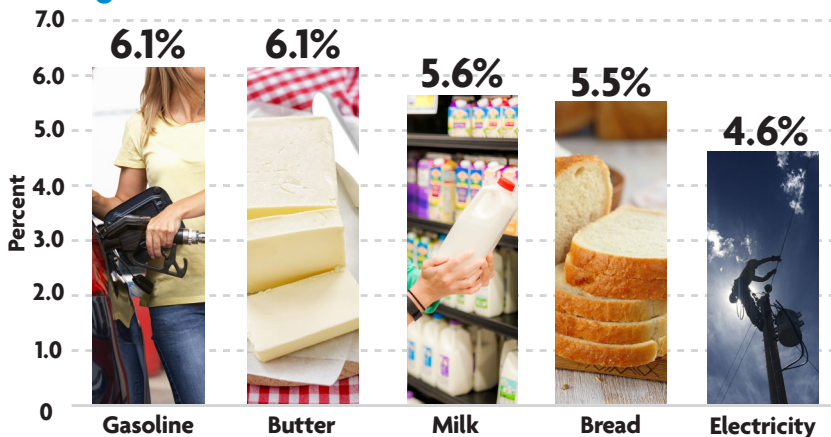
"By using the 'Four A' Method of avoid (planning ahead), adapt (changing expectations), alter (changing the situation when you can) and accept (acknowledging that a situation is what it is), farmers can successfully manage the stress of long hours and unpredictability," she adds.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



SOURCES: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS & CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

EV Charging Safety Tips

Charging is a crucial concern among new electric vehicle (EV) owners, whether plug-in hybrid or full electric. Fear of inconvenience is one of the biggest barriers to widespread adoption of electric vehicles. You might be concerned that there aren't enough public charging stations in the area — and even if there are public charging stations nearby, do you really want to rely on them any time you need to refuel?

An EV charging station at home can solve this challenge of inconvenience. But are EV charging systems at home safe? Absolutely — as long as they're installed correctly.

The first thing EV owners should consider is how they will charge their vehicles. A licensed electrician can evaluate your home's EV charging situation, as well as:

The vehicle's charging capabilities and requirements, which vary depending on the make, model and type.

The potential location of the panel and vehicle, including the distance from the panel to the garage, the degree of difficulty and whether the garage is attached or detached.

The capacity and overall condition of your home electrical system to identify any concerns or additional work.

There are two common types of home charging options. Level 1 charging is a straightforward plug-in of the EV into any standard 120V electrical outlet. This requires no electrical modification, and it normally takes around 14 to 20 hours to fully charge the EV.

Some EV manufacturers and sellers provide inaccurate information on charging, and some will suggest that a standard 120-volt outlet is all you need. Unfortunately, this degree of charging may not always match the driver's daily travel needs.

Level 2 charging units are sold separately from the vehicle. These units must be installed by a licensed electrician because they plug into a 240V outlet and charge much more quickly, typically four to eight hours.

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind when charging your EV at home:

Select charging equipment that is certified to meet safety standards. Plug Level 1 EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multi-plug adapter or extension cord. Charging cables are a tripping hazard, so be aware of the cable's location. Purchase a Level 2 charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. This means the device has gone through rigorous testing and certification by a third-party company with extensive knowledge and pedigree in certifying EV technologies.

Check with a local licensed electrician before modifying your electrical system or installing a charging station. An electrician will need to make sure your home's wiring complies with local, state and national codes, and may need to obtain a permit before installation.

Place all charging components out of reach of children when not in use.

Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines.

Cover the EV charging station outlet to prevent water exposure. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

Most charging stations are equipped with safety devices such as GFCIs, which will identify electrical shorts and stop power to the charger to minimize risks. There is a low risk of electric shock, but safeguards are automatically built into the equipment.

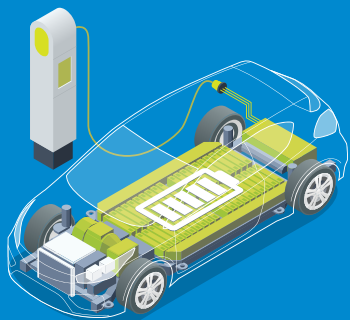
EV chargers are thought to be extremely safe, but we recommend following these fundamental guidelines to reduce potential hazards.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative would like to ask our members to charge their EVs before 3 p.m. or after 8 p.m. to help reduce the cooperative's peak demand. Every kilowatt saved during our peak demand times is a cost saving for each member.

Remember to contact Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative before installation to insure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet your charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses. We can answer questions you have and provide additional information on EV programs and rates.

The Name of the (BATTERY) Game

Making the most of electric vehicle range



DRIVING PATTERNS

Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

IN-TOWN VS. HIGHWAY

In-town driving has its benefits. Braking charges the battery and coasting conserves energy.

ACCELERATION RATE

Taking the lead out of your foot helps improve your car's battery range.

WEATHER

While conditions affect range, frigid temperatures drain the battery quickest.

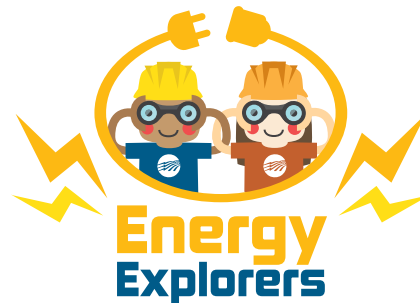
HEAT/AC

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain second only to driving.

WEIGHT

The size of your EV, number of passengers and any added cargo impact efficiency.

SOURCE: KELLEY BLUE BOOK



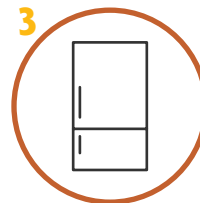
SPOT THE BIGGEST ENERGY USER

We use electricity every day, but we rarely think about the appliances and electronics that consume the most energy. Can you spot the biggest energy users?

Review each grouping below, then circle the one that you think consumes the most energy. Check your work in the answer key.

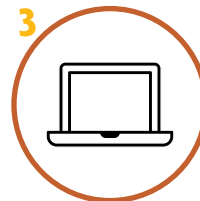
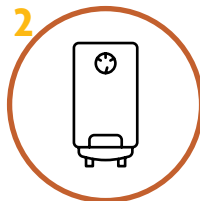
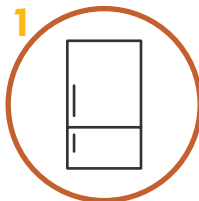
A

1. Heating and Cooling Unit
2. Clothes Washer
3. Refrigerator



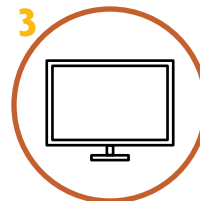
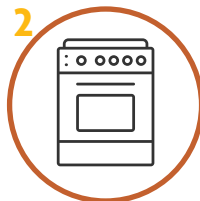
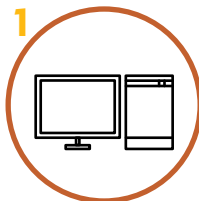
B

1. Refrigerator
2. Water Heater
3. Laptop Computer



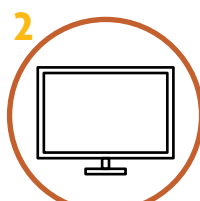
C

1. Desktop Computer
2. Electric Oven
3. TV



D

1. LED Lights
2. TV
3. Clothes Dryer



Answer Key: A.1 B.2 C.2 D.3



Save Energy!

- ▶ Wash clothing in cold water and air-dry when possible.
- ▶ Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- ▶ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Take short showers instead of baths.
- ▶ Unplug electronic devices when not in use.