



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE MANAGER

## Understanding Your Electric Bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bills and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be.

During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative purchases power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal, and other energy resources used to generate



Scott Ayres

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H A P P Y  
LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday,  
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

## Understanding Your Electric Bill *Continued from page 12A ►*

power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly service charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment, and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a

region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks, and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill, and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's mission is committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions for you, our member-owners. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Thank you for allowing Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative to serve you.



### CO-OP SPONSORS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative hosted our 35th Annual Pedal Tractor Pull at the Sedgwick County Fair on Saturday, July 11.

Children ages 4 to 12 participated, with the top three finishers advancing to the tractor pull event at the State Fair in Hutchinson on Sept. 13, 2026.

**LOOK FOR A LIST OF WINNERS IN  
SEPTEMBER'S MAGAZINE.**

### USED POLES AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has several used electric poles available. If you need any used poles, please contact Scott Leis at 316-542-3131 to schedule pole pick up.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can push your air conditioner hard, making now a good time to check the air filter. A dirty filter restricts airflow, reduces efficiency and increases wear. Inspect it monthly during heavy use and replace it when dirty to help your system run better, improve indoor air quality and keep your home comfortable. SOURCE: NRECA



# Earn Straight A's in Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

## Prevent e-bike and e-scooter battery fires

As students head back to school, e-bikes and e-scooters are becoming as common as backpacks. They are popular ways for students to get to class, work and activities. These devices are powered by lithium-ion batteries — the same type used in laptops and smartphones. A few smart habits can help prevent battery fires and keep riders safe.

### CHARGE SMART

Improper charging is one of the leading causes of lithium-ion battery fires. Help reduce the risk by using these tips:

- ▶ Use only the charger that came with the device or one approved by the manufacturer.
- ▶ Charge the battery on a flat, dry surface away from anything that can catch fire.
- ▶ Plug a charger directly into a wall outlet. Avoid extension cords and power strips.
- ▶ Avoid charging batteries near doors, in hallways, or anywhere they could block an exit or create a tripping hazard.
- ▶ Charge one high-powered device per outlet to reduce the risk of overheating.
- ▶ Unplug the battery when it's fully charged or set a timer to remind you.

### STORE BATTERIES SAFELY

- ▶ Keep batteries at room temperature when possible.
- ▶ Avoid charging or storing batteries in extreme temperatures, below 32 degrees or above 105 degrees.
- ▶ Never leave batteries in direct sunlight or inside a hot car.
- ▶ Store e-bikes, scooters and batteries



Stay safe this school year by practicing smart e-bike or e-scooter battery habits and help prevent fires before they start.

away from exits and flammable materials.

### RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

- ▶ Never put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. They can spark and start a fire and potentially injure sanitation workers.
- ▶ Take used or damaged batteries to a certified battery recycling location. Contact your local waste department or visit [www.batterynetwork.org](http://www.batterynetwork.org) to find a recycling site near you.

### STOP USING YOUR BATTERY IF YOU NOTICE:

- ▶ Unusual odors.
- ▶ Changes in color or shape.
- ▶ Smoking or leaking.
- ▶ Strange noises.
- ▶ Loss of charging capacity.
- ▶ Unusual heat.

Damaged or defective batteries can overheat, catch fire or explode. If a lithium-ion battery starts to smoke or catch fire, move away and call 911.

Stay safe this school year by practicing smart battery habits and help prevent fires before they start. Find more back-to-school safety tips at [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS?

A little planning now can  
make a big difference later.



Build an emergency kit with essentials like water, non-perishable foods, batteries, medications and flashlights.



Only operate  
portable generators outside,  
away from doors,  
windows and vents.



Charge phones,  
backup batteries and  
essential medical devices  
before storms move  
into the area.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Dive into this word scramble challenge! Read the pool safety tips below to uncover the scrambled words. Remember these tips to stay safe while having fun in the sun.

Double check your work in the answer key.

- 1** Never swim without an **LUTDA** nearby, even if you know how to swim.
- 2** Walk around the pool. **GUNRNIN** on wet surfaces can cause slips and falls.
- 3** Wear **CESSRNUEN** and drink plenty of water to stay safe in the summer heat.
- 4** Keep **CILARCTEEL** devices, cords and speakers far away from the water.
- 5** If you see lightning or hear **DREHTNU**, get out of the pool immediately and go indoors.



**Answer Key** 1. adult 2. running  
3. sunscreen 4. electrical 5. thunder

