



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Cindy Foster

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Director

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Director

Rex Smith

Director

Stan Theis

Director

STAFF

Scott Ayres

General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway

Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin

Line Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Giving Back is the Cooperative Way



Scott Ayres

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While

this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

Another way Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through scholarship opportunities and our youth programs including the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camps, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.


As a not-for-profit electrical cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due — to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do

this is through capital credits. Because Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

HERE'S HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK:


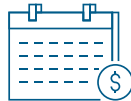


Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills,

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How Capital Credits Work

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.

1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month. 
2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits. 
3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members. 
4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check. 

ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 8

APRIL
8

The Annual Membership Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Co-op will be held on Tuesday, April

8, 2025, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg in Wichita.

- ▶ Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Cooperative update.
- ▶ Door prizes.
- ▶ Youth Tour winners announced.
- ▶ Employee service awards and introductions.

NEW METERING SYSTEM UPDATE



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is in the process of upgrading the advance metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The current TWACS metering system has exceeded its life expectancy.

The new metering system has advanced features that include instant outage detection, remote disconnect and reconnect, and data collection. Contractors will be assisting Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative with installing new meters and will have signs identifying them as Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative.

Giving Back is the Cooperative Way

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and we track their business with the co-op over time. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members. In 2024, the board of directors for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative approved the general retirement of **100% OF THE CAPITAL CREDITS FROM THE 2006 PATRONAGE TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$551,326.**

Capital credits are just one of the

many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer, you're a member-owner. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.

Merry Christmas

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a peaceful new year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DEC. 24, DEC. 25, AND JAN. 1.

Christmas trees are involved in an average of **150** home fires each year.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

SPACE HEATER
safety tip

Never use extension cords or a power strip with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will be voted on during the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for April 8, 2025.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 7** – East of 407th St. W. (170th Ave.), West of 295th St. W., South of US 54.
- ▶ **TERRITORY 8** – East of 279th St. W., South of 109th St. N., West of 167th St. W., North of 29th St. N.
- ▶ **TERRITORY 9** – South of 109th St. N. (Irish Creek Road), West of 279th St. W., North of 29th St. N. (Smoots Creek Road)

The following cooperative bylaws describe director territories, election and application processes.

SECTION 4.02. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE. *Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected, by the members of the Cooperative from nine (9) Director Territories and shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected. The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of three (3) and Members must annually elect three (3) Directors.*

The Cooperative members shall elect Directors by a plurality of the votes cast, and Cooperative members may not vote for write-in candidates, by proxy, and there shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot and from the members of the Cooperative. The individual presiding at the annual meeting shall announce the results of the election.

All persons desiring to run for an open seat on the Board of Directors shall submit an Application for Director to the Cooperative at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The Cooperative shall then post a list of candidates running for Director on the Cooperative's website at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4.03. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AND BE ELECTED AND REMAIN A DIRECTOR. *Any natural person shall be eligible to apply to be a director candidate, be elected and remain a Director of the Cooperative who:*

(a) Is a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative for at least three years; and

(b) Has not been employed by the Cooperative within the past thirty-six (36) months; and

(c) Is not in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, energy services or energy supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, and

(d) Is not closely related to an incumbent Director or an employee of the Cooperative. The term "closely related" means the relationship of spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparent, and grandchild existing by reason of blood, marriage, or adoption; and

(e) Other reasonable qualifications, procedures or policies approved by the Board.

Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

COLD WEATHER RULE IN EFFECT THROUGH MARCH 1

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bill during the cold weather period, Nov. 30 to March 1 annually, may qualify for the cold weather rule program, provided they fulfill the following good-faith requirements below:

- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST INFORM** the cooperative of their inability to pay their service bills in full.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST APPLY** to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST MAKE** an initial minimum payment equal to one-eighth of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. Example: If a member owed an arrearage of \$240 and a current bill of \$80, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$320. The initial payment under the cold weather rule would be equal to \$40 (\$320 divided by eight equals \$40 a month) in addition to your current monthly charges.
- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER A PAYMENT PLAN** agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next seven months. A member and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually agreeable, individualized to the member's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the member has been informed that he or she has at least seven months in which to pay under the cold weather rule.
- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED** to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement.

Please note, members may be ineligible for the benefits under the cold weather rule if they fail to follow the mentioned requirements: illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will inform members of agencies or organizations that may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills.

In no event will Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 32 degrees F within 48 hours following the time of disconnection.

The cold weather rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

Prepare Yourself for Cooler Weather

Although cold weather isn't directly to blame when you get sick, it creates an environment that makes it easier for germs and illnesses to thrive. In fact, understanding how cooler temperatures affect your chances of getting sick may be your best approach for preventive care.

Despite the adage that "you'll catch your death of cold," the cold itself doesn't cause illness. More accurately, the cold is more hospitable to viruses, making it easier for them to spread. While you can't control Mother Nature, you can take steps to protect your health when temperatures drop.

PROTECT YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM

A weakened immune system makes it harder for your body to ward off intrusive germs. If you're otherwise healthy, protecting your immune system can be as simple as stepping up typical healthy habits, like eating plenty of nutrient-rich produce, getting enough sleep and exercising. Managing stress and limiting alcohol consumption are also helpful in managing your body's immune response.

If your immune system is compromised by an underlying condition, talk with your doctor about what you can

do to add an extra layer of protection during the cooler months, including any vaccines that may help boost immunity.

COMBAT CONGESTION

Cool, dry conditions can wreak havoc on your nasal passages, drying them out and reducing the protective layer of mucus that helps fight infection. Sinus pressure and congestion are often some of the first warning signs you're coming down with something.

To treat your congestion symptoms, you can use a non-medicated option like a saline nasal spray. These sprays help add moisture to your nasal passages when it's cold and dry outside and warm and dry inside.

SPEND TIME OUTDOORS

People naturally spend more time indoors when temperatures drop, but there are some benefits to getting outdoors. Sunlight is a natural source of vitamin D, which plays a pivotal role in immunity. Sunlight also triggers the body to produce serotonin, which boosts your mood, and multiple studies show a strong correlation between mental and physical health.

Fresh air and exercise are also good

for your overall health, and exposure to daylight can help keep your circadian rhythms regulated, which in turn promotes better sleep. What's more, acute exposure to cold can trigger your body to produce infection-fighting cells, so you're less prone to illness.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

The everyday act of washing your hands can play a big role in preventing illness, especially after you spend time in public places. While out and about, you likely come in contact with many surfaces others may have touched, including door handles, shopping carts, touch screens and menus. Make a habit of wiping down surfaces you touch frequently, such as your keyboard and phone, with disinfectant wipes.

STAY HYDRATED

Keeping your body well-hydrated throughout the day can help ensure all your body's systems are functioning as they should. If you're dehydrated, your body can't use the nutrients you consume properly, which affects your immunity. In addition, drinking plenty of water helps flush toxins out of the body before they can cause an infection.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2025
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE

CYLC

JULY 11-17, 2025

★★★ **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP** ★★★

LEADERSHIP
Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY
Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES
From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.

LEARN MORE

**TO APPLY, VISIT WWW.SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP.
QUESTIONS CONTACT JO LUEHRS AT 316-542-3131, JLUEHRS@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP.**