P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732
www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Cindy Foster
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Joe Baalmann
Director

Joe Gassmann
Director

Eugene Scheer
Director

Stephanie Seiler
Director

Alan J. Smarsh
Director

Stan Theis
Director

STAFF
Scott Ayres
General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway
Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin
Line Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS
P.O. Box 220
1355 S. 383rd St. West
Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131
Fax: 316-542-3943

FROM THE MANAGER

Connected by More Than Power

As the holiday season gets underway, many of us will be thinking about the gifts that matter most. While this special time of year often brings thoughts about presents and celebrations, it's also a time to appreciate the people, relationships and communities that make our lives special. At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we're grateful for something that makes our cooperative unique: you, our members.

When you receive electric service from Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, you're more than a customer. You're a member of an electric co-op, and that distinction is at the heart of everything we do.

All electric cooperatives operate under a business model designed to serve their members, not outside shareholders. Our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while supporting the communities we call home. Every decision we make starts with that responsibility.


Scott Ayres

One of the most meaningful benefits of co-op membership is having a voice in how your cooperative operates. Our locally elected board of directors is made up of members who live here and represent the communities we serve. They help set priorities and make decisions with our members' needs in mind. Your participation, whether by voting in board elections, attending our annual meeting or sharing feedback, helps keep Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative connected to the people that matter most.

Membership provides access to co-op resources and programs designed specifically for you. We offer energy efficiency programs with rebates for electric water heaters, air-source heat pumps, and ground-source heat pumps. Tools like our SmartHub website and mobile app help you manage your energy usage by comparing daily and

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Brighten your holiday season with energy-efficient lighting options. If you're decorating with holiday lights, choose Energy Star®-certified LED light strings. LEDs are the most energy-efficient and durable lighting options available. For an even simpler savings strategy, put your holiday lights on a timer so they are not using energy when everyone is asleep.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 6

APRIL 6

The 89th Annual Meeting of The Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. will be held at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita, Kansas, on **TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2027.**

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; catered meal following registration. Business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

- Existence of a quorum
- Notice of the mailing and meeting report
- Minutes of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members
- Election of directors
- CEO report
- Special guest speakers
- Youth Tour and scholarship recipients
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

Connected by More Than Power

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yearly trends, view payment history, and make monthly payments. We work to provide services that make a meaningful difference in your life.

Our commitment extends beyond the power lines. We live and work in the same communities you do. We see the impact of local schools, small businesses, community organizations and neighbors helping neighbors. That connection shapes how we serve and reminds us that a strong co-op is built on more than electricity alone.

The holiday season offers a special opportunity to reflect on what we can accomplish when we work together. The cooperative model is built on that very idea: people joining together to meet a shared need and create something stronger than any one person could build alone.

As you gather with family and friends this December, I hope you'll take pride in knowing that your co-op belongs to you. Your membership helps sustain a business rooted in local accountability, community investment and service to others.

On behalf of everyone at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, thank you for being part of our cooperative family. We're honored to serve you and grateful for the trust you place in us throughout the year.

SAFETY TIP

When it comes to heating pads and electric blankets, remember to plug them directly into a wall outlet — never into a power strip or extension cord. Turn off and unplug your heating pad after every use. If it sparks, smokes or overheats, stop using it immediately and replace it.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT JO LUEHRS AT 316-542-3131 OR JLUEHRS@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP.

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).
- **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. (In previous example the member would pay $40.00 a month in addition to their current monthly charges). 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 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 or illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering, or default 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 ensures that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTIFICATION

Do you live in one of the following territories? Would you like to run for the Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors?

To request a board of directors application, contact Executive Assistant Jo Luehrs at 316-542-3131 or jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IS FEB. 5, 2027.

Voting will take place at the annual membership meeting on April 6, 2027.

TERRITORY 4
WEST OF 167TH ST. W., EAST OF 295TH ST. W., SOUTH OF US 54

TERRITORY 5
WEST OF 407TH ST. W. (170TH AVE.), WEST SIDE OF CHENEY LAKE

TERRITORY 6
EAST OF 407TH ST. W. (170TH AVE.), SOUTH OF 29TH ST. N. (SMOOTS CREEK ROAD), WEST OF 167TH ST. W., NORTH OF US 54

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our office will be closed
Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25,
and Friday, Jan. 1,
to celebrate the holidays.



Cozy Up With Caution

Space heater, electric blanket and heating pad safety tips

Do not let your efforts to stay warm put your safety at risk. Space heaters, electric blankets and heating pads can help keep you comfortable, but they can also be dangerous when used incorrectly. These devices are not appropriate for all people or all situations. Used safely and in the right circumstances, they can provide extra warmth and may help save energy and money.

BEFORE USE

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before using any space heater, electric blanket or heating pad.
- Choose products with a safety certification, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Check cords, plugs and fabric for damage, frays, scorch marks or worn spots.
- Do not use damaged, worn or older heating products. Replace them.
- Plug heating devices directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters should only be used for supplemental heat in small areas. Do not use space heaters to warm your entire home. Your home heating system will heat large areas more efficiently and safely.

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including blankets, clothing, paper, curtains, furniture and bedding.
- Place space heaters on a level, hard, nonflammable floor surface.
- Do not place space heaters on carpet, furniture, countertops or tables.
- Keep space heaters out of high-traffic areas and doorways.
- Choose a space heater with guards around heating elements.
- Use a space heater that automatically shuts off if it tips over or overheats.
- Turn space heaters off before leaving the room or going to sleep.

ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFETY

Electric blankets are designed to provide warmth, not to replace home heating. Use them sparingly, and **DO NOT:**

- Fold, bunch or tuck them under a mattress. Keep them flat.
- Place heavy items, additional blankets, pets, or people on top of an electric blanket while it is on.
- Allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.
- Use an electric blanket with a heating pad.
- Use an electric blanket that has damaged wiring, hot spots, scorch marks or unusual smells.

HEATING PAD SAFETY

Heating pads can provide targeted warmth, but they can also cause burns or start a fire if they overheat or are used incorrectly. Use heating pads only as directed by the manufacturer, keeping it at the lowest comfortable heat setting, and limiting use to the recommended time. **DO NOT:**

- Sleep with a heating pad turned on.
- Place a heating pad under your body, under a pillow or under bedding.
- Fold, bunch or sit on a heating pad.
- Place anything on top of a heating pad while it is in use.
- Use a heating pad with an electric blanket or other heated bedding.
- Use a heating pad on infants, young children, people who are sleeping, or anyone who may not be able to feel heat or pain normally.

Stop using a heating pad immediately if it feels too hot, smells unusual, sparks, discolors or shows signs of damage.

SAFE USE REMINDERS

- Plug heating products directly into a wall outlet — not a power strip or extension cord.
- Keep heating products dry and away from water.
- Turn off and unplug heating devices when they are not in use.
- If a product sparks, smokes or overheats, stop using it immediately.

To learn more about how to prevent fires and avoid electrical hazards, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.