



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cindy Foster
Vice President

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Joe Baalman
Director

Eugene Scheer
Director

Alan J. Smarsh
Director

Rex Smith
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

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool



Scott Ayres

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RATE CHANGES FOR RATES 1, 2 AND 9

On Nov. 18, 2024, the board of directors for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held a special membership meeting to discuss rate changes. The board of directors approved a Fixed Charge/minimum monthly rate increase from \$25 per month to \$35 per month for Residential Service Rates 1 and 2 and to General Service Rate 9. This charge currently appears as the consumer charge on bills. This increase will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

LOOK FOR THE

**KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING
READERSHIP SURVEY
IN YOUR EMAIL!**

Kansas Country Living has engaged

INSIDE INFORMATION,

a research and data analytics company in Smithville, Missouri, to oversee a readership survey beginning this month. The short,

21-question survey will be conducted through email and will help *Kansas Country Living* — the official communication channel for your electric cooperative — measure reader engagement and perceptions about the publication and your electric cooperative’s local pages.



The magazine is the most cost-effective way to share essential business information with our consumer-members, along with articles about legislative and regulatory issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, outage and construction activities, features highlighting the great state in which we live, safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

If you are one of the lucky randomly selected readers to receive the survey, the email will come from

SURVEY@KANSASCOUNTRYLIVING.COM

and the email headline will clearly indicate it is a survey from *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

When you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for ONE OF 15 \$25 GIFT CARDS as our thank you for helping us keep you informed of co-op-related matters as an owner of

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will have directors up for election during the annual membership meeting on 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.

PAYMENT TOLL-FREE NUMBER UPDATE



Effective Jan. 3, 2025, we are changing our toll-free phone payment number. To make a credit/debit card payment please call **844-980-3019**. These changes are required to ensure Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant. These worldwide requirements are designed to help companies that process credit card payments and prevent fraud through increased data controls.

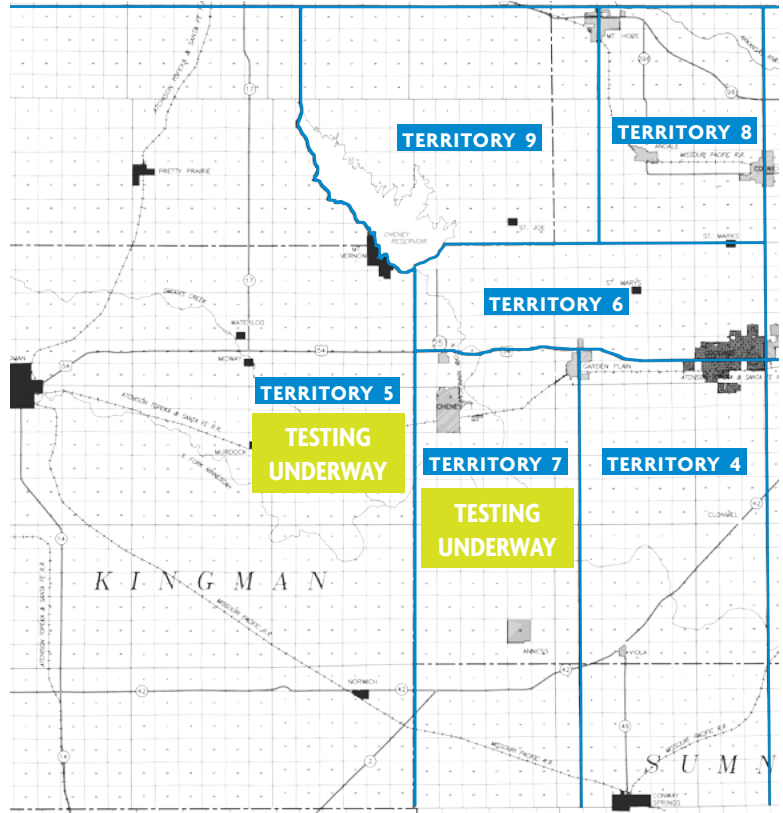
Why Pole Inspection and Treatment is Necessary

As in the case with most electric utilities, Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is dependent on the use of wooden poles. Even though the poles we use are initially treated to resist decay, over time all wooden poles will deteriorate and ultimately need replaced. The decay rate varies dependent upon soil type, moisture levels, temperatures, and the type of wood the pole is derived from.

The objective of our pole inspection/treatment program is to determine if a pole is still useful and safe and prolong its life. Sedgwick County Electric Co-op currently contracts with Global Utility Services to perform our pole inspections and treatment. While a visual inspection is valuable and essential in evaluating the overall condition of the pole, any internal decay below the ground line would go undetected if not for our pole inspection/treatment program.

Our inspection process involves a visual inspection/treatment of each pole in which we look for woodpecker holes, significant cracks, signs of termite and carpenter ant activity, or other defects with the pole that may result in a pole failure and/or rejections. Inspectors then complete a sound and bore test of the pole, where they will expose the pole below the ground line, bore the pole at an angle in two different locations, determine the size of the decayed pocket below the ground line and sound the pole above the ground line with a hammer looking to see if the decayed pocket extends above the ground line. The majority of decay in a wood pole occurs in the first 18 inches below the ground line. Wood preservative is applied to the pole to treat against external rot. If the integrity and strength of a pole is compromised and considered dangerous, the pole is replaced immediately.

By continuing our pole inspection/treatment and pole



Global Utility Services will be testing/treating poles in service Territory 5, West of 407th St. W. (170th Ave), West side of Cheney Lake and Territory 7, East of 407th St. W. (170th Ave), West of 295th St. W., South of US 54.

replacement program, we have extended the useful life of our wooden poles, reduced maintenance costs and increased the reliability and safety of our electric system for all our members.

GLOBAL UTILITY SERVICES will be testing/treating poles in service **TERRITORY 5**, West of 407th St. W. (170th Ave.), West side of Cheney Lake and **TERRITORY 7**, East of 407th St. W. (170th Ave.), West of 295th St. W., South of US 54.

ANNUAL MEETING IS 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.

APRIL

8

NEW METERING SYSTEM UPDATE

Crews continue to replace our current advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system.

The new meters and metering system have advanced features that include instant outage detection and remote disconnect and reconnect. Contractors have been assisting Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative with installing new meters.



Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand Continued from page 12A ▶

resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on our member's needs. For example, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In Kansas, our RTO is the Southwest Power Pool, the monitor for our 14-state region. In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers

for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

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

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

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.**