



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE MANAGER

## Who Owns What?

Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings an increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs

and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that runs power to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and pad-mounted transformers.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or



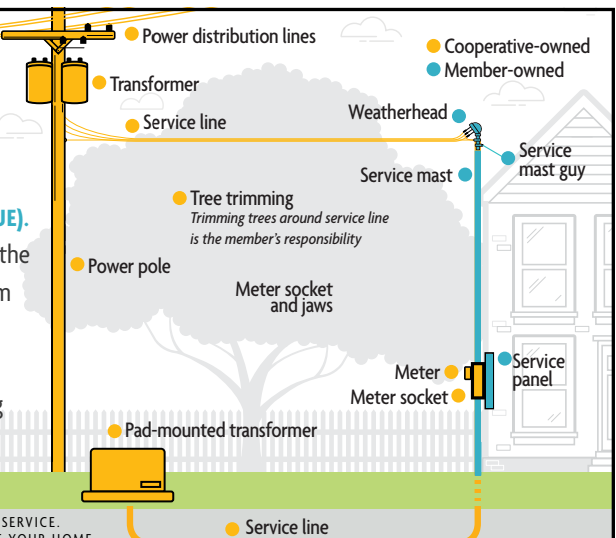
Scott Ayres

*Continued on page 12C ►*

## Who Owns What?

### Electric Cooperative-Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the **CO-OP (IN YELLOW)** and the **MEMBER (IN BLUE)**. If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



NOTE: THIS GRAPHIC DEPICTS OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND SERVICE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF WHICH TYPE OF SERVICE YOU RECEIVE AT YOUR HOME.

# Listen for Peak Alerts and Save

We are asking members to participate in Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Peak Control program. This voluntary program helps you save on your summer energy bills and can also help the cooperative hold down wholesale power costs during the eight months of our off-peak period.

A major portion of our annual wholesale power bill is based on our demand between the 3-6 p.m. time frame during the summer months. The price of electricity is at a premium during that three-hour window due to the "high demand" for energy production during those hot, summer hours.

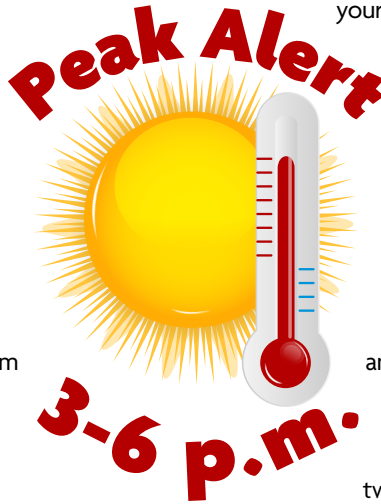
## WHAT IS PEAK CONTROL?

Peak control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

You can participate by monitoring your use of electric appliances and equipment that require larger amounts of electricity during peak hours. Any steps you can take to lower

your energy use from 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday will help control costs.



## WHEN SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

Participate when "peak alerts" are issued, typically during the hours of 3-6 p.m. weekdays from June 1 through Sept. 30. Like us on Facebook and follow us on X (formerly Twitter) to receive peak alerts.

The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by the co-op during those two months drives the demand billing for the following "off peak" eight months. Be aware of days when temperatures are forecast to be above 95 degrees. These are the type of days when peak demand can occur.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PEAK CONTROL?

Reducing electric usage between 3 and 6 p.m. will help reduce our peak load. Each kilowatt shaved or shifted during peak load is a cost savings for all cooperative members.

# SUMMER SPENDING WITHOUT THE SIZZLE

As July heats up, so can your spending. Summer activities, vacations and home cooling costs may lead to budget burnout. Instead of letting your finances melt away, use this season to strengthen your financial foundation.



We suggest establishing a dedicated "summer fund" for seasonal activities. By setting aside specific amounts for barbecues, day trips and energy bills, you might be able to enjoy summer without the financial hangover.

You may want to take advantage of seasonal opportunities: local libraries offer free summer reading programs and community centers frequently host events at no charge.

Consider a "financial cooldown" by evaluating subscription services you use less during the outdoor months. Could you temporarily pause streaming services while you're enjoying the sunshine?

Energy costs typically peak in July. Simple adjustments such as using fans, closing blinds during peak sun hours, and grilling outside instead of heating your kitchen can help reduce utility bills.

Enjoy your summer while keeping your financial future bright!

SOURCE: HOMESTEAD ADVISERS, WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

# Who Owns What? Continued from page 12A ►

business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. Members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride

in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call our office 316-542-3131 so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these cases, please call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

## Co-op Sponsors Pedal Tractor Pull

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will host the Pedal Tractor Pull at the Sedgwick County Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 12. Registration begins at 9 a.m. just east of the open-air arena, and the pull begins at 10 a.m.

Children from ages 4 to 12 are eligible to participate. There is no entry fee. Participants are required to wear shoes and must have a parent or legal guardian present to register. Top finishers will advance to the tractor pull event at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.



## FREE AND EASY Ways to Save Energy

Here are **10** easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer.

**1** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day.



**2** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher.



**3** Take cooler showers (this is better in the summer anyway)!



**4** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of an oven.



**5** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors.



**6** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage).



**7** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them).



**8** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weatherstripping if needed).



**9** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house.

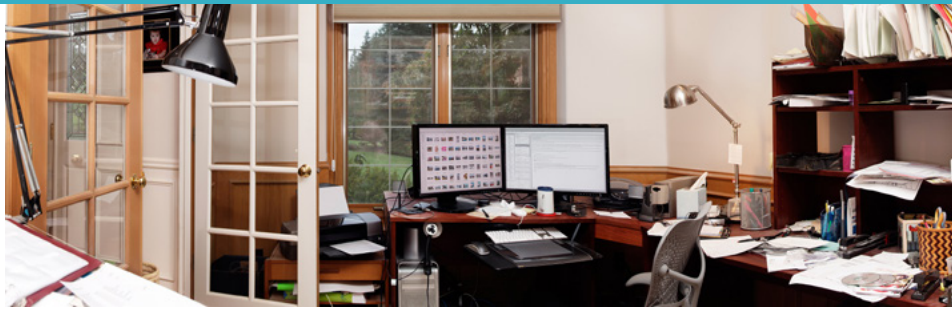


**10** Shut the front door (don't air-condition the outdoors).





## How to Save Energy in Your Home Office



Are you looking to lower your energy bills while creating a more efficient workspace? These simple tips can help you power up your home office — without powering up your utility bill.

### BRIGHT IDEAS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING

- ▶ Replace old bulbs with energy-saving LEDs to reduce energy use.
- ▶ Use task lighting to brighten only the areas you need.
- ▶ Install dimmers, motion sensors, or occupancy sensors to automatically control lighting.
- ▶ Turn off lights when leaving a room and keep them off during the day when the sun is shining.

### CUTTING ENERGY WASTE WITH SMART MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Unplug devices like phone chargers, fans, coffee makers and desktop printers when not in use — they continue to draw power.
- ▶ Use a power strip to control multiple devices and reduce standby energy loss, which accounts for up to 10% of energy waste.
- ▶ Turn off your monitor if you're stepping away for more

than 10 minutes. For longer breaks, set equipment, such as computers, printers and scanners, to sleep mode or power down completely.

- ▶ Plug accessories into your computer's USB ports instead of wall outlets so they power down when your computer does.

### CHOOSE ENERGY-SAVING TECH

- ▶ Consider a laptop, which uses about one-third the energy of a typical desktop.
- ▶ Look for the Energy Star label on computers, monitors and printers. Energy Star-rated appliances use 30-65% less energy than those that aren't certified.

### OPTIMIZE YOUR OFFICE CLIMATE

- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat to efficiently control heating and cooling.
- ▶ Keep windows closed when heating or air conditioning is on.
- ▶ Replace HVAC air filters regularly to maintain system efficiency.
- ▶ Making a few simple changes can boost your home office's efficiency, comfort and cost savings. A smarter space starts with smarter energy use.

## RECENT REVIEW OF EPA RULES SIGNALS RELIABILITY WINS

Electric cooperatives are applauding a recent series of actions announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These actions would alleviate reliability and cost challenges for electric co-ops across the U.S.

The EPA said it will review and reconsider the Biden administration's power plant greenhouse gas rule. The agency also plans to reconsider other rules hindering America's energy dominance, including the mercury and air rule, ozone transport rule, and power plant wastewater rule. The agency will also address a number of fundamental problems with the coal ash program and take other actions to unleash American energy while protecting the environment.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents electric

cooperatives in D.C., flagged concerns with these rules in a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin in January. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson met with Zeldin at EPA's headquarters to discuss these issues. The letter served as a policy road map recommending ways the EPA could address harmful regulations for electric co-ops while ensuring reliable and affordable power and promoting a healthy environment.

The recent EPA announcements are another critical step that puts our nation on a path toward a more reliable and resilient electric grid — and not a moment too soon. The demand for electricity is skyrocketing, yet unrealistic public policy decisions are forcing always-available generation resources to retire faster than they can be reliably replaced.

Electric cooperatives appreciate the EPA's recent actions that could bolster American energy dominance with sound policies that protect our environment — without leaving American families in the dark.