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Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

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FROM THE MANAGER

Shift Timing, Shift Savings

As we settle into the heat of July and August, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder, and daily routines — from cooking dinner to doing laundry — often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our community is at its highest.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours (3-6 p.m.), there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid as a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.


Scott Ayres

By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours — like doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed, or cooking meals earlier in the day — you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to lower energy use during peak hours.

Smart technology can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest,

Continued on page 12B ▶

JUNE MAGAZINE CORRECTION

COY DUGAN, son of Rocky and Kari Dugan, is a $500 college scholarship recipient. Dugan is a sophomore at Clearwater High School. We apologize for the incorrect high school listed in June's magazine.

CO-OP SPONSORS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will host the Pedal Tractor Pull at the Sedgwick County Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 11. 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.

Shift Timing, Shift Savings

Continued from page 12A ▶

helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

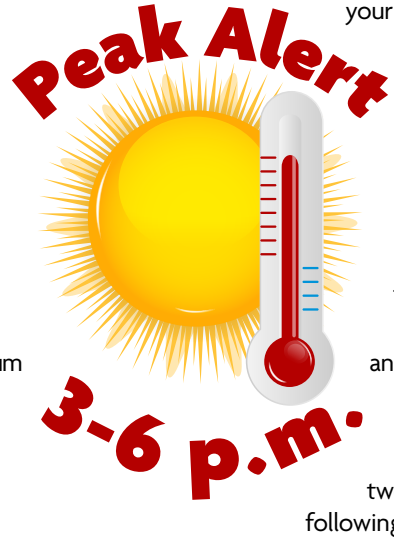
That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer — you're part of a community working together to power our future. Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, I encourage you to take a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient, and our grid running smoothly — no matter how high the temperatures climb.

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 that our members can participate in to help 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.

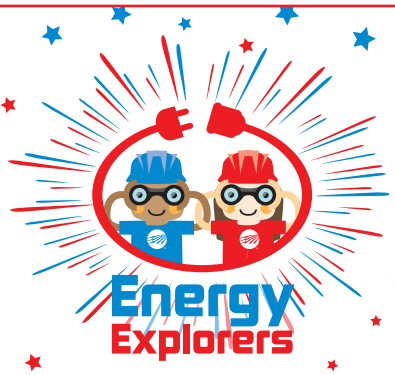
The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by the co-op during those two months drives the demand billing for the following "off peak" eight months. 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.

Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.



1. The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.

2. Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.

3. Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.

4. Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.

5. Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.

WORD BANK
Sparklers
Ignited
Pets
Display
Minimum

ANSWER KEY: 1. Display 2. Minimum 3. Ignited 4. Sparklers 5. Pets

How to SAVE ENERGY in your HOME OFFICE

Small changes = lower bills + more comfortable workspace

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR LIGHTING

- Swap old bulbs for LEDs.
- Use task lighting such as a desk lamp.
- Turn lights off when you leave and use daylight when possible.

CUT ALWAYS-ON POWER

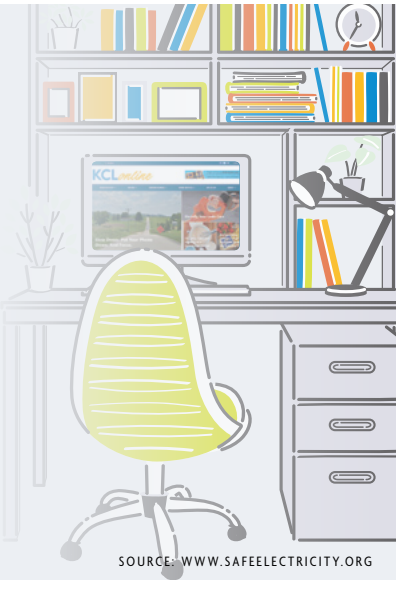
- Use a power strip or smart strip to shut off power.
- Avoid leaving printers on all day.
- Unplug chargers and equipment when not in use.

USE POWER MANAGEMENT SETTINGS

- Reduce screen brightness.
- Use sleep mode on computers and monitors.
- Skip screen savers; they don't save energy.

! TIP: Laptops use less energy than desktops.

! SAFETY TIP: Don't overload outlets or daisy-chain power strips. Use a surge-protector power strip.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Substations Serve as the Quiet Backbone of the Electric System

BY JEFFREY GROENEWOLD

Electric substations sit at the center of power grids and are essential to keeping the lights on in our communities. You've seen them — those tall fenced-in areas filled with metal structures, wires and heavy equipment. They may not look flashy, but they're one of the most important behind-the-scenes components of the grid.

Substations take power from high-voltage transmission lines and convert it to the lower voltages that get distributed on the last-mile power lines you see every day. These lines provide power to your home, farm or business. Every light switch you flip, every well pump you operate and every device you charge depend on a substation doing its job without interruption. These facilities work quietly in the background, yet they shape the comforts of daily life. Kansas' electric cooperatives work 24/7 to maintain and improve these substations.

Substations began as simple switching points that handled basic voltage changes. Early designs used bulky equipment and manual controls. As communities grew, electric demand on the grid grew with them.

Today's substations utilize advanced sensors, automated controls and digital communication systems, allowing cooperatives to better manage the grid. These tools help co-ops respond faster to outages, monitor equipment health, and manage energy with more precision.

A modern substation protects your community from disruption. It isolates problems, keeps dangerous faults from spreading, and supports important line equipment across long distances. When a substation faces a major issue, such as from a storm or wildlife contact, the impact is immediate. Communities lose power and Wi-Fi, businesses stall, farms lose time-sensitive operations, and emergency service communications can face added strain. These events remind us how central substations are to modern life.

RAELYNN BEAN

Electric substations convert power to lower voltages that can be distributed to the homes, farms and businesses served by electric co-ops. These substations are maintained daily to support the needs of the electric distribution system.

Communities add new homes, businesses, irrigation systems and commercial buildings every year. Each addition increases the load on the grid. That's why co-ops build new substations and upgrade older ones to keep pace with growth, technology changes and safety needs.

Modern substation designs use equipment that requires less strenuous maintenance while improving system protection. Smart-enabled protection devices reduce the time needed to identify and isolate faults. These advanced monitoring tools give co-ops better visibility into real-time grid conditions. For the surrounding community, these investments lead to stronger service and reliability. You experience fewer outages. Your farm or business gains resiliency. Your home appliances run on steadier voltage.

Modern substations also help cooperatives manage costs. Instead of building miles of new line, a well-placed substation can support growing neighborhoods or rural industries with less construction and lower long-term investment.

Substations also support the changing energy landscape. Renewable energy systems, electric vehicles, and electrified commercial and industrial operations need modern control points. Modern substations allow co-ops to integrate these resources without sacrificing reliability. They help manage energy across widespread areas and keep the grid balanced during peak conditions.

Substations serve as the quiet backbone of the electric system. When they operate well, communities thrive. When they falter, everything from daily chores to essential services feels the impact.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will continue to invest in these facilities to support safe, reliable and affordable service for every member in every community we serve.

JEFFREY GROENEWOLD writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.