



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# currentnews

## SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Clint DeVore**  
President

**Cindy Foster**  
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Director

### STAFF

**Scott Ayres**  
General Manager/CEO

**Lora Alloway**  
Office Manager

**Kyle Pipkin**  
Line Superintendent

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## FROM THE MANAGER

# Unlock Comfort and Savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home — that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy DIY projects and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds

are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you will likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.



Scott Ayres

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HAPPY  
★  
**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
★★★  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
Our office will be closed on  
July 4, for the holiday.

## SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC'S 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

# Highlights

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held its 86th Annual Meeting on April 9, 2024. There were 265 members present. A meal was served to more than 500 members and guests before the business meeting.

Board President Clint DeVore called the meeting to order and thanked the member-owners for taking time to attend the night's activities.

After nominees for the board of directors were announced and ballots were tallied, the following directors were reelected:

- ▶ **DON METZEN** – Territory 4
- ▶ **CLINT DEVORE** – Territory 5
- ▶ **EUGENE SCHEER** – Territory 6

General Manager/CEO Scott Ayres updated members on the cooperative's 2023 financial standing and highlighted that the cooperative finished 2023 with margins totaling \$1,732,977. This was below the \$2,006,858 margins in 2022, but were enough to meet our mortgage requirements. The board of directors approved the general retirement of 100% of capital credits from the 2006 patronage totaling approximately \$551,326. He also discussed the work plan and briefed members on member-owned solar installations.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's 2022 Rivian RIT electric pickup and the new 2024 RAM Bucket Truck were on display during the meeting.

2023 Youth Tour winners Levi Self, Cheney High School, and Mesa Bradbury, Andale High School, provided the membership with a brief report of their trips.

### 2024 YOUTH TOUR WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED

- ▶ **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR WINNER**  
**NOAH DIETZ**, Cheney High School, son of Steve and Lydia Dietz.



Sedgwick County Electric's 2024 Youth Tour winners and scholarship recipients were recognized during the annual meeting (from left) Olivia Brownell, Clare Munn, Trinity Griffin and Noah Dietz.

- ▶ **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP WINNER**  
**CLARE MUNN**, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, daughter of David and Lisa Munn.

### 2024 \$500 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ▶ **OLIVIA BROWNELL**, Goddard High School, daughter of Craig and Virginia Brownell.
- ▶ **TRINITY GRIFFIN**, Cheney High School, daughter of Jarrett and Julie Griffin.

### 2024 SERVICE AWARDS

- ▶ **EUGENE SCHEER**, Board of Director – 35 Years of Service.
- ▶ **REX SMITH**, Board of Director – 30 Years of Service.
- ▶ **MARK HANSEN**, Foreman – 15 Years of Service.
- ▶ **CINDY KILL**, Member Services Director – 10 Years of Service.

The evening finished with drawings from prizes provided by Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, Border States Electric, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) and KSI Engineering (a KEPCo subsidiary).



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held its 86th Annual Meeting on April 9, 2024, with more than 500 members and guests present.

# Grilling: A Delicious and Energy-Friendly Option for Cooking

Grilling and America go together like hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. There's nothing like a sizzling grill on a summer day. But guess what? Grilling not only satisfies our cravings for great food but also helps preserve the environment. So, let's fire up the grill and save energy!

## THE COST OF STAYING COOL

As refreshing as it is to feel the cool breeze of an air conditioner (AC) on a hot summer day, its energy consumption can be hefty. Depending on the model, it can consume as much energy as a marathon runner (and run almost nonstop), using anywhere from 0.48 to 5.14 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per hour. That is enough to make anyone break a sweat.

Did you know that millions of people add to their AC's energy consumption without realizing it? How? By opening the oven door while cooking. According to the book "Bakewise" by Shirley O. Corriher, an oven can lose up to 150 degrees within 30 seconds. Where does all that heat go? You guessed it — right into your home. Plus, even with the door closed, your oven still radiates heat into your home since it has nowhere else to go.

## THE SOLUTION: GRILLING

If you are looking to maintain a cool vibe and lower your AC's energy consumption, head outside to the grill.

Rather than generating heat indoors, the heat is dispersed outside, reducing strain on the AC, which ultimately lowers utility bills. Additionally, you will be chowing down in no time like a true grill master, as grills reach a toasty 375 degrees in just 5 minutes. Compare that to the oven's sluggish 20-minute warm-up, and you'll be laughing all the way to the butcher shop.

## TIPS FOR SAFE GRILLING

Make sure your next barbecue extravaganza is a sizzling success without any burns or mishaps. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- ▶ Take it outside. Only use grills in the great outdoors.
- ▶ Keep your grill at least 10 feet from any buildings or structures.
- ▶ Make sure your grill is on a flat, steady surface.
- ▶ Stay close. Never leave your grill unattended while preheating, cooking or cooling down.
- ▶ Dress for success. Avoid loose or long clothing that can catch fire.
- ▶ Keep a water spray bottle beside your grill to tackle any little flames that flare up quickly.
- ▶ Keep your cool with a fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

## KEEPING YOUR GRILL CLEAN

Grills should undergo deep cleaning once or twice per year. Follow these steps to keep your gas grill in prime condition:

- ▶ **BURN AWAY BUILDUP:** Turn on the grill, close the lid and set the heat to maximum for at least 30 minutes. This process will eliminate any remaining grease or food debris.
- ▶ **SCRUB IT CLEAN:** In a bowl, mix warm water with soap and dip a wire brush into the mixture. Scrub the grates to remove any carbon buildup.
- ▶ **LET IT COOL:** Allow the grill to cool down completely before storing it. Now your grill is ready for your next barbecue feast.
- ▶ **REGULAR MAINTENANCE:** In between uses, preheat your grill, and then scrape it off with a wire-bristled brush before adding food.

## HAPPY GRILL, HAPPY LIFE

In addition to keeping it clean, it is also important to regularly check the propane tank and replace it if necessary. Inspect the hoses and connections for any leaks or damage. Make sure the burners are free of debris and functioning properly. Finally, covering your grill when not in use can help protect it from the elements and prolong its lifespan.

Menu options are truly endless when it comes to grilling. Grab your apron, fire up the grill and get ready to impress your friends and family with your grilling skills while saving energy.

**HEAT UP THE GRILL**  
To Save Energy This Summer

**NOTHING SCREAMS SUMMER MORE THAN FIRING UP THE GRILL.**

The good news is that using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. If you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen.

- ▶ Nearly 70% of Americans own a grill.
- ▶ The Fourth of July is the most popular holiday for outdoor cooking.
- ▶ The hamburger is the favorite item to grill.
- ▶ The all-American hot dog gets the most votes from kids.
- ▶ More men grill than women.
- ▶ Grilling and barbecuing are not the same thing.
  - ▶ Grilling means cooking over a fire, hot and fast.
  - ▶ Barbecuing means cooking slowly over indirect heat.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM, BREO BOX

## Easy Swaps to Go Green(er)

### THIS



REUSABLE TOTE OR BAG



REUSABLE BOTTLE OR CUP



KITCHEN TOWEL



METAL STRAW



REUSABLE CUTLERY

### not THAT

PLASTIC OR PAPER BAG



PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE



PAPER TOWEL



PLASTIC STRAW



PLASTIC CUTLERY



Even if you are not removing water bottles from the ocean and recycling every shred of paper and plastic you use, there are easy ways to reduce waste, use less energy and help keep America beautiful.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

# Unlock Comfort and Savings

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Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple of years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install

weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com) or [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality, and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.

## SAFETY TIP

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outside. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation. Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up and cause CO poisoning. Grill in the great outdoors.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature.

Turn them off when you leave the room. SOURCE: [WWW.ENERGYSTAR.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGYSTAR.GOV)