



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway
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Kyle Pipkin
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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

How Extreme Summer Temperatures Impact Reliability

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of

the country, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will always keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our G&T to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- ▶ Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several

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Scott Ayres



87th Annual Meeting Highlights



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held its 87th Annual Meeting on April 8, 2025, with more than 550 members and guest present.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held its 87th Annual Meeting on April 8, 2025. There were 293 members present. A meal was served to just over 550 members and guests prior to the business meeting.

Board President Clint DeVore called the meeting to order and thanked the members-owners who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the night's activities.

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

- ▶ **JOSEPH BAALMANN** — Territory 7
- ▶ **STEPHANIE SEILER** — Territory 8
- ▶ **STAN THEIS** — Territory 9

General Manager/CEO Scott Ayres provided members with updates and information regarding the cooperative's financial standings for 2024 and informed the members the cooperative finished 2024 with margins totaling \$576,063. This was below the \$1,732,977 margins in 2023, but enough to meet our mortgage requirements. The board of directors approved the general retirement of 100% of capital credits from the 2007 patronage totaling approximately \$433,170. He also updated members on the approved work plan, which calls for more than \$6 million in infrastructure upgrades in the next four years. Members were also briefed on the new meter installation.

The 2024 youth winners **NOAH DIETZ**, Cheney High School, and **CLARE MUNN**, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, provided the membership with a brief report of their trips.



Noah Dietz
2024 Electric
Cooperative Youth
Tour Winner



Clare Munn
2024 Cooperative
Youth Leadership
Camp Winner

2025 YOUTH WINNERS ANNOUNCED

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR WINNER

EMERIE VAN VOORHIS, daughter of Clinton Brown and Nikki McKee, is a sophomore at Sedgwick High School.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

MAXIMUS MILLER, son of Nathan Miller and Erin Miller Graham, is a junior at Cheney High School.

\$500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ▶ **EDYN STOLZ**, daughter of Jay and Megan Stolz; Sophomore at Andale High School
- ▶ **LEVI BROWNELL**, son of Craig and Virginia Brownell; Sophomore at Goddard High School

2025 SERVICE AWARDS

- ▶ **CINDY FOSTER**, director — 25 Years of Service
- ▶ **JOSEPH BAALMANN**, director — 5 Years of Service
- ▶ **JO LUEHRS**, executive assistant — 5 Years of Service
- ▶ **SCOTT LEIS**, assistant staking engineer/warehouseman — 5 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 a subsidiary of KEPCo.

2025 YOUTH WINNERS



Emerie Van Voorhis
Youth Tour



Maximus Miller
Camp



Levi Brownell
\$500 Scholarship

Edyn Stolz, \$500 Scholarship (not pictured)

Smart Ways to Save Energy This Summer

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

BOOST YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from a local home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

KEEP COOL AIR IN AND HOT AIR OUT WITH THESE TIPS:

- ▶ Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- ▶ Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- ▶ Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- ▶ Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- ▶ Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.

REDUCE ENERGY COSTS WITH SMART APPLIANCE USE:

- ▶ Run dryers, washers and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.

- ▶ Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- ▶ Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load and air-dry clothes when possible.
- ▶ Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- ▶ Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

TAKE EASY ACTIONS FOR BIG ENERGY SAVINGS:

- ▶ Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a wind chill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- ▶ Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- ▶ Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- ▶ Increase your thermostat by 2 degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- ▶ Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- ▶ Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill and help reduce energy demand.

USED POLES AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has several used electric poles available. If you are needing any used poles, please contact Scott Leis at 316-542-3131 to schedule pole pick-up.



HOW EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES IMPACT RELIABILITY

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degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.
- ▶ Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is lower.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** During summer months, set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise, which pushes cool air down for a windchill effect.
- ▶ Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light.
- ▶ Use smaller appliances, such as slow cookers, air fryers and toaster ovens to cook meals.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Studies have shown that air fryers use about half the amount of electricity than a full-size oven. Air fryers are smaller and use focused heat, which results in faster cooking times, less heat output and lower energy use.

As we face the challenges posed by soaring summer temperatures, understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our local community cool and connected.

5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.



Here are five effective ways to lower usage at home.

1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS:

Gas, Charcoal and Electric Grills

Grilling outdoors is not only a good way to keep your house cooler and lower your energy bill, it's a great way to enjoy warm summer days with family and friends — but more than half of grill fires occur during these peak months. Each year, grill fires cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property loss, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most grill fires can be prevented with proper maintenance and safe use. Stay safe by following these simple tips:

- ▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease from grates and trays.
- ▶ Place the grill on a stable surface, away from homes, deck railings and overhanging branches.
- ▶ Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
- ▶ Never leave an active grill unattended.
- ▶ Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only to prevent fire hazards and carbon monoxide poisoning.

GAS GRILLS

Gas grills pose a greater fire risk due to leaks. To ensure safe grilling, check for leaks each season:

- ▶ Mix equal parts dish soap and water.
- ▶ After attaching the gas cylinder, open the valve one turn counterclockwise.
- ▶ Apply the soapy mixture to the hose and connections. If bubbles form, a gas leak is present.

If you detect a leak, turn off the gas and grill immediately. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before use. If the leak continues, move away and call the fire department for assistance. Do not move the grill.

BONUS SAFETY TIP: Open the lid before lighting a gas grill to prevent gas buildup. If the flame goes out during use, turn off the gas and wait at least five minutes before relighting.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

Charcoal grilling is a favorite way to cook outdoors but pose fire and carbon monoxide risks if not handled

properly. Follow these essential safety tips:

- ▶ Only use charcoal starter fluid designed for grills; never use gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- ▶ Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire — this causes flare-ups.
- ▶ Store starter fluid away from heat sources and out of children's reach.
- ▶ Let charcoal coals and ashes cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

ELECTRIC GRILLS

Electric grills are safe outdoors if proper safety precautions are followed:

- ▶ Ensure your electric grill is outdoor rated to withstand exposure to moisture and varying temperatures.
- ▶ Never use an electronic grill in rainy or wet conditions. Store the grill in a dry place when not in use.
- ▶ Keep electrical connections away from water, damp surfaces or pools to avoid electric shock.
- ▶ Always plug your grill into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet to protect against shocks. If using an extension cord, make sure it's outdoor-rated and GFCI-protected.
- ▶ Check the power cord for frays, cracks or damage before use.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug after use.

If your electric grill stops working, consult the manufacturer instead of attempting electrical repairs yourself.

CLEANING YOUR GRILL

Dirty grills are a leading cause of grill fires, according to the NFPA. Despite the belief that a seasoned grill enhances flavor, regular cleaning is essential for safety and performance.

- ▶ Let the grill cool before cleaning or storing it.
 - ▶ Clean all grill parts including grates, burners, side tables and grease traps to prevent grease fires.
 - ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper cleaning.
- Take these precautions and enjoy a safe and flavorful grilling season.