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Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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FROM THE MANAGER

Electric Vehicle FAQs



Scott Ayres

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years.

Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles (EVs) from Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members, so I thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Q WHY IS SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATING ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in EVs is growing, and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is providing information about EV charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q WHY DOES SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HAVE AN EV?

A: We purchased our first EV in 2022 for

research and development purposes. Our EV helps us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them.

Q WHY IS SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INVOLVED IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES?

A: Electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs — without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future. We are asking our members to charge their EVs before 3 p.m. or after 8 p.m. to help reduce the cooperative's peak demand. Every kilowatt saved during our Peak Demand times is a cost saving to each member.

Q CAN I CHARGE MY EV USING AN EXISTING OUTLET OR DO I NEED A SPECIAL OUTLET?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit that can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable

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Electric Vehicle FAQs

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traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q DOES THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE AFFECT THE RANGE OF AN EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin

heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q WILL AN EV MEET MY DAILY DRIVING NEEDS?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q WHAT KIND OF INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVS?

A: There are a variety of tax credits, rebates, and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program. Visit www.ksrevenue.gov/prtaxcredits-altfuel.html to learn about state incentives.

Q SHOULD I LET MY CO-OP KNOW IF I PURCHASE AN EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 316-542-3131 or contact us at www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop/contact-us.

Apps to Help You Save Energy

There are several reasons why people are interested in cutting back on energy consumption — some are primarily motivated to save on their monthly energy bills while others may be more concerned about reducing their personal carbon footprint.

Actively practicing energy efficiency and conservation provides multiple benefits. For parents, being more conscious about energy use can be used as a tool to teach children about sustainable habits for the future; conserving energy also means fewer carbon emissions, which results in better air quality and a healthier environment; and we can all agree that saving money on our monthly utility bills is a great reason to monitor home energy use.

Regardless of why you're interested in using less energy, there are several smart phone apps that can help you do just that.

Here are a few apps that can help you achieve meaningful energy savings:

Smart Thermostat Apps

Heating and cooling make up a large portion of the average home's energy consumption (and cost!), so saving on heating and cooling can make a big impact on bills. Smart thermostats and their accompanying apps are handy and promote energy-efficient behavior — and these devices have become much more affordable over the years. You can purchase an Energy Star®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, or about \$50 per year. The device will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home. Plus, the ability to control the thermostat from anywhere can equate to real savings. We recommend trusted brands and devices, like Google's Nest Learning Thermostat and Ecobee's Smart Thermostat.

Energy Cost Calculators

If you're wanting to reduce energy use at home, it's important to know where your consumption is going. Energy cost calculators can help pinpoint your

energy use with a few simple steps and identify areas to save. The concept is pretty simple; just plug in the wattage of your various appliances and how often you use them to see which are using the most energy. Most energy cost calculator apps are free and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android device. Be sure to read app reviews and download the one that best aligns with your energy efficiency goals.

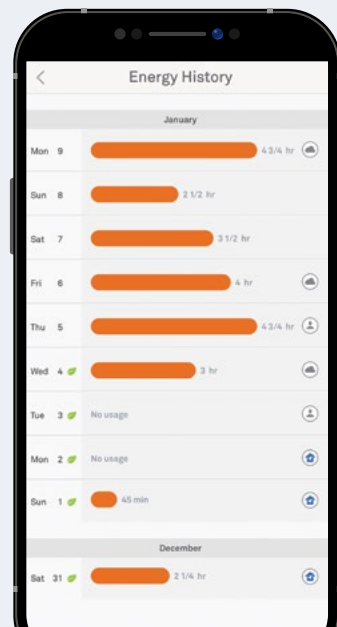
Joulebug App

If you're competitive and enjoy gamifying — the JouleBug app is right up your alley. JouleBug makes energy conservation simple and fun through personal tasks and badges earned within the app, group challenges you can tackle with friends, and communities you can join to learn about local sustainability efforts. The JouleBug app is free and can be downloaded to Apple or Android devices, and it's an easy tool to make saving energy fun.

These are just a few apps that can help you find new ways to save energy. Smart lightbulbs are typically paired with apps for convenient control of home lighting; smart plugs also come with apps to help you control how you power everyday devices and electronics.

Whether you use an app or not, saving energy is always a smart idea that can help you save money on your monthly bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

A smart thermostat paired with a smart phone app can help you manage energy used to heat or cool your home, which can help you save energy and money.



Co-op Retires \$451,000 in Capital Credits

Capital credit questions and answers

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's purpose is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our member-owners.

What are Capital Credits?

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is a not-for-profit cooperative. All operating margins are allocated back to our member-owners as capital credits. Each year, the board of directors evaluates the financial conditions, operating expenses, and revenue of the cooperative and determines if any capital credits can be retired and the amount of the retirements. This year, the board of directors approved to retire approximately \$451,000 of capital credits back to its members and former members who received service from the cooperative in 2005.

How Are Margins Allocated?

Margins are allocated to member-owners as capital credits based on how much electricity you used and how much you paid for it throughout the year.

Do I Lose My Capital Credits in the Years Sedgwick County Electric Co-op Does Not Retire Capital Credits?

No. For every year a member-owner

receives electric utilities from the co-op an allocation is made to their account and is retained until the board of directors approves retirement.

Do I Have to Report Capital Credits on My Tax Returns?

Capital credits are money returned for the purchase of electricity in a previous year. Member-owners should discuss capital credits taxable retirements with their tax advisers.

What if I Have Moved?

If you have moved or no longer have electric service with Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address so any future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credits retirement, even if you have moved out of the Sedgwick County Electric Co-op service area.

How Do I Receive My Capital Credits?

Retired capital credits are applied to active member-owners' bills received in March for February electric use. A check is mailed to former members receiving retired capital credits.

Get Your Home Ready for Spring

After months spent largely indoors while harsh elements battered your home's exterior, many homeowners are throwing open the windows and embracing spring's arrival. This checklist can help you create a comfortable home setting for enjoying the warmer months.

► **CHECK GUTTERS.** During the colder months, debris can accumulate in the gutters, which can be problematic when spring rains arrive. Clogged gutters prevent water from flowing efficiently away from the roof and house causing damage. Faulty guttering can also cause slow leaks leading to damage not discovered until major repair work is needed. Properly functioning gutters are clear of debris, flow freely and securely attached to the home.

► **INSPECT THE ROOF.** Making it a common practice to carefully inspect the roof with the change of seasons can help you identify potential problems while they're still in early stages. Some roof issues can be addressed with simple DIY repairs while others may require a professional. A roofing expert can help you determine whether any trouble areas can be patched or if a more complete restoration is in order.

► **REPLACE THE DRYER VENT.** Upgrading your dryer vent conserves energy and prevents flammable lint build-up in your dryer. Look for features like a gravity-assist damper, integrated magnets, and a drip edge to provide extra protection from the elements as well as pests. A large, clean opening and lightweight angled damper promote exceptional airflow efficiency.

► **SERVICE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS.** Your heating and cooling system works hard to keep your indoor climate comfortable when extreme temperatures make the outdoors unbearable. That's why it's important to have your systems serviced by a professional, and spring is a smart time to do so before they're hard at work throughout the warmer months. Service can correct problems and ensure everything is operating efficiently, which can lead to savings.

► **REPAIR WINDOW SCREENS.** Throughout the winter, your home's window screens can accumulate a layer of dirt and grime that isn't just unsightly; it blows indoors when you open the windows. What's more, if your screens have rips and tears, pesky bugs and other critters can make their way into your home. Cleaning and repairing screens can make your home more secure and help protect your indoor air quality.

Find more information to help get your home ready for spring at DryerWallVent.com.



Join Us for
Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 2023

*The Cotillion
Ballroom*

11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule

Co-op Updates
Director Elections
Door Prizes
Youth Tour Winners
Announced
Employee Awards and
Introductions

*Special
\$100*

Cash Drawing

Please bring the registration card
attached to the back of your annual
meeting notice you receive in the mail.

*Registration card is
needed for:*

*Cash
Drawing
Entry*

*Director
Elections*

Dinner

Director Candidates

TERRITORY 1

Cindy Foster, Incumbent

TERRITORY 2

Alan Smarsh, Incumbent

TERRITORY 3

Rex Smith, Incumbent