



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# currentnews

## SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Clint DeVore**  
President

**Cindy Foster**  
Vice President

**Rex Smith**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Joe Baalman**  
Director

**Joe Gassmann**  
Director

**Eugene Scheer**  
Director

**Stephanie Seiler**  
Director

**Alan J. Smarsh**  
Director

**Stan Theis**  
Director

**STAFF**  
**Scott Ayres**  
General Manager/CEO

**Lora Alloway**  
Office Manager

**Kyle Pipkin**  
Line Superintendent

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Wired for Growth

## Balancing data center demand and reliability

We've all heard that data centers are coming, and while you may think they are a big-city phenomenon, more and more are showing interest in rural communities like ours. Rural areas offer what data centers need most: affordable land, room for growth, and access to transmission lines that can handle these new large loads.

What makes data centers different from other large loads is their appetite for continuous, reliable power. Data center servers do not take holidays. They must stay online constantly, meaning these facilities operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For electric cooperatives like Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, serving a potential data center creates both opportunities and challenges.

There are many benefits that come with a new data center. These facilities would bring a significant number of jobs during construction and additional

permanent positions that would support long-term growth for the community. Investments in new technology and infrastructure could benefit

the host utility, improve reliability, and provide opportunities for future load growth. A data center would also bring in additional revenue that would help mitigate current pressures on rates.

Providing power to a new data center also presents challenges. In some cases, these large facilities can be built and operational in as little as one year. Lining up generation and transmission service, coordinating engineering, procuring equipment, and constructing new infrastructure would stretch any utility that adds a data center.



Scott Ayres

Continued on page 12B ►

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 220  
1355 S. 383rd St. West  
Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131  
Fax: 316-542-3943

Spring Forward  
**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**  
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR  
\*\*\* Sunday, March 8, 2026 \*\*\*

## Wired for Growth *Continued from page 12A* ▶

As a member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is twofold: to listen to the communities we serve and to provide safe, reliable and affordable service to our members. Balancing those responsibilities is not always easy and will become more complex if large-scale energy users like data centers locate in our service territory.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative does not currently serve any data centers; however, co-ops nationwide are fielding inquiries from tech companies and developers. If one decides to locate here, we are obligated to serve the load, but we will work to ensure that the data center “pays its own way” to protect existing members from costs directly caused by the data center. No matter what the future brings, our

priority will always be our existing members while supporting growth with fairness.

The energy landscape is changing, bringing both opportunity and challenge. As always, at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we remain committed to listening, communicating, and working with our members and community partners to reflect the best interests of those we serve.

If you have questions or concerns regarding data centers, your energy bill, or any other co-op matters, we encourage you to reach out to us.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AT SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.**

## Tornado Safety and Electrical Hazards

Tornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado — and knowing how to stay safe afterward — can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

### BEFORE A TORNADO:

- ▶ Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries and portable phone charger.
- ▶ Keep Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative’s phone number handy in case you need to report an outage or downed power poles/lines.
- ▶ Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

### DURING A TORNADO:

- ▶ Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with

no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.

- ▶ Turn off and unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you’ll know when power is restored.
- ▶ Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

### AFTER A TORNADO:

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and anything they could touch, such as trees, fences or debris. Always assume they are energized.
- ▶ If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility and warn others to stay away.
- ▶ Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.
- ▶ Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to

turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.

- ▶ Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- ▶ Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

### POWER OUTAGES AND GENERATOR SAFETY:

- ▶ Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages or porches, or near open windows and doors. Place a generator at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy and follow all manufacturer’s instructions.
- ▶ Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers.

**Stay informed, stay alert and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.**

# Help Us Restore Power Outages With Updated Contact Information

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative works with Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC) for our after-hours outage reporting.

CRC verifies individual outages left on their automated system by returning a phone call from one of their toll-free numbers. This permits CRC to prioritize outages to ensure power is restored in a safe and timely manner.

CRC also asks members if they have checked main fuse/breakers and if their meter has a display. They also relay any information regarding fees if the outage is on the member's side.

For CRC to locate your service and return calls to members as quickly as possible, we need up-to-date contact information. Please check the bottom of your bill for the contact numbers and the email address we have on file. If this information needs to be updated, please do so using one of the following ways:

- ▶ Cross out the outdated information at the bottom of the bill and replace it with updated information. Send the stub back with your payment, and we will make the correction.
- ▶ Call the office at 316-542-3131 during regular business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except major holidays).
- ▶ Visit [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop) and locate the green box labeled "Online Bill Pay with SmartHub." Log in or set up an account. Then follow these steps:

Return Bottom Portion With Your Payment  
Check box  (indicate change of address or phone # on back)

Email:	
Home Phone:	
Mobile Phone:	
Amount Paid	
Member's Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

Account Number	
Current Bill Due Date	
Amount Due	
Amount Due with Penalty	

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. 2  
BOX 220  
CHENEY, KANSAS 67025-0220

Cross out and update the contact information at the bottom of your bill then return with your payment. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will then update your information.

## UPDATE PHONE NUMBERS

- ▶ Click Settings
- ▶ Click on Contact Information
- ▶ Update Contact Information
- ▶ Click Save

## UPDATE EMAIL INFORMATION

- ▶ Click Settings
- ▶ Click on Contact Methods
- ▶ Click on Add Email
- ▶ Click Save

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and employees are committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions for you, our member-owners. Please help us by updating your contact information now and as changes occur.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTIFICATION

The following individuals are candidates for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Voting will take place at the annual membership meeting on **APRIL 7, 2026**.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 1** — North of 109th St. N. (Irish Creek Road).
- ▶ **CINDY FOSTER** — Incumbent
- ▶ **TERRITORY 2** — South of 109th St. N., North of US 54, East of 167th St. West.
- ▶ **ALAN SMARSH** — Incumbent
- ▶ **TERRITORY 3** — East of 167th St. W., South of US 54.
- ▶ **REX SMITH** — Incumbent

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills, and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring. SOURCE: NRECA

## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers and cyber criminals look for weak points to exploit before software companies can fix them. Update software programs on your computer, tablet and mobile phone as soon as possible when a newer version becomes available. Software updates often contain critical patches and protections against security threats. Turn on automatic updates to ensure your security software, internet browser, operating system and mobile apps stay current.

SOURCE: [WWW.CONSUMER.FTC.GOV](http://WWW.CONSUMER.FTC.GOV)

Join Us for  
Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's  
*Annual Meeting*  
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

*The Cotillion*  
1120 W. Kellogg, Wichita  
*Doors Open*  
6:15 p.m.  
*Dinner*  
6:30 p.m.

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

Members in  
attendance will  
receive a  
*\$70 bill credit.*

*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*  
Catered by  
Bite Me BBQ

*Director Candidates*

**TERRITORY 1**

Cindy Foster, Incumbent

**TERRITORY 2**

Alan Smarsh, Incumbent

**TERRITORY 3**

Rex Smith, Incumbent