



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

Home Lighting 101

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about — until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

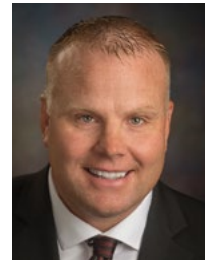
WATTS VS. LUMENS

When you're shopping for lightbulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb emits approximately the same amount of light as a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. (You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with

long-lasting, energy-efficient LEDs, but if not — it's time to make the switch!)

A HELPFUL RULE OF

THUMB: Higher lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.



Scott Ayres

COLOR TEMPERATURE AND CONSISTENCY

Lightbulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones. This detail often gets overlooked until you replace one bulb and notice the new light doesn't quite match the others. If mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing

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DISTRIBUTION RATE CHANGE NOTICE

During the Oct. 20, 2025, board meeting, the board of directors approved a proposal to revise the rate schedule riders applicable to members owning distributed energy systems. These changes were in part due to changes made by the 2025 Kansas Legislature. For more information regarding these changes, visit the cooperative's website at www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop or call 866-542-4REC (4732). Members have the right under the provisions of K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request, by petition, Kansas Corporation Commission review of a rate change.

Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will be voted on during the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2026.

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

The following cooperative bylaws describe director territories, election and application processes.

SECTION 4.02. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE. *Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected, by the members of the Cooperative from nine (9) Director Territories and shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected. The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of three (3) and Members must annually elect three (3) Directors.*

The Cooperative members shall elect Directors by a plurality of the votes cast, and Cooperative members may not vote for write-in candidates, by proxy, and there shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot and from the members of the Cooperative. The individual presiding at the annual meeting shall announce the results of the election.

All persons desiring to run for an open seat on the Board of Directors shall submit an Application for Director to the Cooperative at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The Cooperative shall then post a list of candidates running

for Director on the Cooperative's website at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4.03. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AND BE ELECTED AND REMAIN A DIRECTOR.

Any natural person shall be eligible to apply to be a director candidate, be elected and remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

(a) Is a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative for at least three years; and

(b) Has not been employed by the Cooperative within the past thirty-six (36) months; and

(c) Is not in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, energy services or energy supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, and

(d) Is not closely related to an incumbent Director or an employee of the Cooperative. The term "closely related" means the relationship of spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparent, and grandchild existing by reason of blood, marriage, or adoption; and

(e) Other reasonable qualifications, procedures or policies approved by the Board. Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

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SAVE THE DATES!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JO LUEHRS, 316-542-3131,
JLUEHRS@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP

Home Lighting 101

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bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way, the look stays consistent, and you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

DIMMERS AND SWITCHES

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double-check labels before buying.

While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them — and in the right places. A light you can only turn off from one end of a hallway quickly becomes annoying. For new installations or upgrades, it's best to hire a licensed electrician to ensure everything is wired safely and efficiently.

FIXTURES: FORM MEETS FUNCTION

Bulbs are only part of the equation — fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, like sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, like pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses light where you need it most.

When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: Does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table but it leaves the rest of the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room

with more light than you need, wasting both energy and money.

SMART LIGHTING: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS CONVENIENCE

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors — all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want the lights to dim automatically for movie night? Or to turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy.

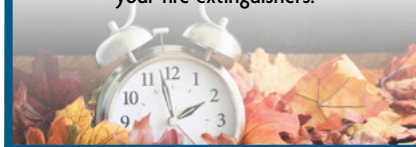
Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood — anything from a soft glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the "on" position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch. Many of today's smart switches also feature motion detectors, adding an extra level of efficiency and convenience.

Good lighting doesn't just make your home look better — it makes it feel better too. With a little planning, you can create spaces that are welcoming, functional and energy efficient.

Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come.

Fall back on Nov. 2

On Sunday, Nov. 2, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.



VETERANS DAY

★ ★ ★
*Honoring All
Who Served*
NOV. 11, 2025



ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 7

The Annual Membership Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg in Wichita.

APRIL
7

- ▶ Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Cooperative update.
- ▶ Door prizes.
- ▶ Youth Tour winners announced.
- ▶ Employee service awards and introductions.

IMPORTANT PAYMENT DATE FOR NOVEMBER BILLS



Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, members who are signed up to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank account or credit/debit cards on the last Friday of the month, will have their November statement amount deducted on Dec. 1, 2025. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer at 316-542-3131 or jkrehiel@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

Don't Let Energy Slip Through the Ceiling

A quick guide to insulation

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable and boost energy efficiency year-round. Older homes can save up to 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

STEP 1: SEAL AIR LEAKS

Before adding insulation, address air leaks. Common trouble spots include:

- ▶ Recessed lighting
- ▶ Chimneys
- ▶ Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
- ▶ Pipes, ductwork and wiring

Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during the summer.

STEP 2: UNDERSTAND R-VALUES

R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness and density — the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

- ▶ **MILD CLIMATES:** R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)
- ▶ **COLD CLIMATES:** R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

QUICK CHECK: If you can see the ceiling joists, you probably need more insulation.

You don't need to remove existing insulation unless it's wet, moldy or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave it in place and add new insulation on top.

STEP 3: PICK THE RIGHT TYPE

There are two main types of attic insulation:

- ▶ Batt or roll insulation:
 - ▶ Easier to install for do-it-yourselfers.
 - ▶ Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps,

especially around obstructions like pipes and vents.

- ▶ Blown-in or loose fill insulation:
 - ▶ Installed with a machine that “blows” insulation into place.
 - ▶ Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas.
 - ▶ Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage and air-sealing benefits.

STEP 4: PLAN FOR STORAGE

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere.

If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

STEP 5: CHECK OLD WIRING

If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard — have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

STEP 6: INSULATE THE ATTIC HATCH

Whether you have an attic hatch or a drop-down ladder, this opening can leak a lot of air if it's not sealed properly.

- ▶ For standard hatches:
 - ▶ Add insulation to match your attic's R-value.
 - ▶ Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or ¾-inch plywood.
 - ▶ Install weather stripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling.
- ▶ For drop-down ladders:
 - ▶ Add an insulated cover box in the attic.
 - ▶ Seal the frame with foam or weather stripping.
 - ▶ Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder.

YOU'LL FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs and picking the right insulation for your space — your future self (and wallet) will thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving

from our co-op family to yours

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, to celebrate the holiday.