P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732
www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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FROM THE MANAGER

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op Named 5-Star Co-op

Scott Ayres

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is proud to be recognized as a 5-Star Co-op for our efforts through the Co-ops Vote initiative.

Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has recognized Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative and member cooperatives nationwide for their efforts in promoting civic engagement among members.

Co-op Adds Electric Vehicle to Fleet

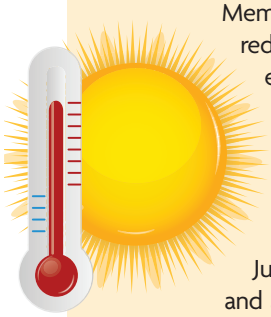
In July, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative took delivery of their 2022 Rivian pickup truck. The Rivian has an average of 400-plus miles per charge.

In July, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative received its 2022 Rivian pickup truck. The Rivian has an average of 400-plus miles per charge, up to 11,000 lbs. towing capacity and over 62 cubic feet of storage. More information regarding the Rivian electric vehicles can be found at https://rivian.com/r1t.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is offering members a demonstration ride on Monday, Oct. 24, from 2-4 p.m. If you are interested in a test ride, contact Cindy Kill at 316-542-3131 to schedule.

Thank You for Participating in Peak Control

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op would like to thank those members who participated in peak alerts.



Members who reduced their electric usage from 3-6 p.m. on days when temperatures were 95 degrees or higher during June, July, August and September helped keep the peak demand cost down.

Working together and using energy wisely help keep our costs down and electric rates stable.

Encountering a Downed Power Line

Storms, fires, car accidents or animal interference are all examples of events that can damage overhead power lines, pad-mounted transformers (green boxes) or other electrical equipment. While these are not examples of everyday occurrences, it's important to know what to do if you encounter downed power lines.

(Spoiler alert. Do not do any of the following in these scenarios.) If you were in an accident involving a downed overhead power line, would you get out of the car and run? If you saw a car accident involving a downed line or damaged green box, would you run to the scene to help? If you saw a downed line across a road, would you approach it or try to move it?

Any of these actions can cause serious injury or electrocution (death). Downed lines and other damaged equipment can energize the ground, nearby people and objects. Never go near a downed power line or try to move it with an object. Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

The safest place to be after getting into an accident involving a downed power line is inside your vehicle or cab. Unless your vehicle is on fire or giving off smoke, here is what you should do:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 911 and report there are downed or damaged power lines.
- Try to remain calm.
- Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.
- Do not get out until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, cross your arms over your chest and make a clean, solid jump out, then intentionally hop with your feet together as far away as you can. If you are unable to make solid hops, shuffle with your feet close together.

When you exit, do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. You could become electricity's path to ground from touch potential (touching something energized and the ground at the same time).

Hopping helps avoid step potential (placing each foot at a different voltage). When electricity escapes into the ground, it is likened to ripples in a pond, with each ripple representing a different voltage.

Have an Outage?

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative works with Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC) for all our after-hours outage reporting. CRC has been instructed to verify individual outages by returning the phone call from a CRC toll-free number. This will permit CRC to prioritize outages to ensure power is restored in a safe and timely manner. CRC will also verify main fuse/breakers have been checked, ask member if meter has a display, and relay fees if outage is on the member's side.

Focused on YOU.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

Help Us Update Our Records

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative wants to make sure we have current phone numbers and email addresses for our member-owners.

Members Who Receive Monthly Paper Statements:
Please review and update email and phone numbers located on the bottom portion of your payment stub. Update and return with payment.

Members Who Use SmartHub Website or App:
Click on My Profile, phone number information is located under Update My Billing Address & Contact Information.

Members Who Pay Using Our Toll-Free Number:
Please call 316-542-3131 to provide updated information to our customer service representatives.

Retain this [illegible] for your records.

Return Bottom Portion With Your Payment

Check box ☐ (indicate change of address or phone # on back)

Email:
Home Phone:
Mobile Phone:

Amount Paid _____

Account Number	
Current Bill Due Date	04/01/2019
Amount Due	59.05
Amount Due with Penalty	60.23

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

1

All Members Entered to Win a Chance for $20 Off Your Bill!

October is cooperative month and we here at Sedgwick County Electric Co-op we want to take a moment to thank YOU, our member-owners! If you recall in previous years, we held a drawing for one bill credit during the month of October that required submittal of a ticket to be placed in the hopper. This year each membership was entered into a random drawing for the chance to win one of 25 $20 October bill credits.

$20 Bill Credit Winners Are:

Meghan Graham
Steven Dahlstrom
Duane Boerger
Andrew Gorges
Susan Wetta
Jeff Strausberg
Tammy Stuhlsatz
Dana Leeper
Than Underwood
Rhonda Potter
Austin Leatherman
Kris Young
Jessica Linn
Dylan Cox
Garry Smith
Cody Neville
Allan Bennett
Marion Walty
Connie Wiss
Randy Goodman
Nicholas Langerot
Joe Showalter
George Palmer
Merle Bally
Lee Bogart

The Electric Co-op History of Innovation

BY PAUL WESSLUND

From high-tech to high-touch

Did you know one of the most cutting-edge places for technology is right up the road at your local electric cooperative?

That's right! Innovation isn't happening just in computer labs or on satellites rocketing into space. Electric co-ops lead even the highly-technical electric utility industry in such fast-changing areas as renewable energy and installation of smart meters that allow the more efficient use of electricity.

While it may seem surprising to think of your electric co-op as a high-tech leader, it's part of a way of doing business that has been finding new approaches to solving modern problems for nearly 100 years.

Making Light Out of Darkness

In fact, electric co-ops were originally created to solve one of the most basic and complex of needs and desires — making light out of darkness.

That legacy still works today, and it's why time is set aside each October to recognize National Co-op Month. It's a reminder that business succeeds not just through competition, but also through cooperation.

As a result of the member-owned cooperative form of business, co-ops stand out in many areas of the electric utility industry. They lead the way in community solar — an initiative in which the co-op utility builds a solar array that is supported by interested co-op members buying shares of the project. Electric vehicles are getting a boost from co-ops as well, with many placing charging stations in public parks and other rural locations.

And just as co-ops first brought electricity to unserved rural areas nearly a century ago, today many of them are working to bring high-speed internet service to their local communities.

In the early part of the last century, America's cities were being transformed by this new thing called electricity. But outside the municipal boundaries, people could only look with envy at the glow from over the horizon. Setting poles and stringing power lines miles outside of town for one or two customers was deemed too expensive.

Luckily, go-getters in America's rural communities believed they could solve the problems that kept the power companies from connecting them to modern society.

They called their friends and neighbors together and started forming their own utilities. They were community-based organizations, democratically-run, not-for-profit businesses called cooperatives. Today, there are more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

It wasn't easy, especially at first. They got a huge boost when, after getting the attention of some key politicians, the federal government created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The REA made loans available, helping finance expensive utility construction. It provided technical consulting, developing engineering techniques to carry electricity longer distances. The agency drew up model co-op bylaws and even went on the road with tent shows to demonstrate how to use the latest conveniences like electric ovens and washing machines.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Electric co-ops were originally created to solve one of the most basic and complex of needs and desires — making light out of darkness.

A True Grassroots Movement

But the biggest innovation is simply the co-op itself, and the notion of a utility with only one mission — to make life better for its members, who are also its customers.

Electric co-ops didn't spring from a national directive or organization. They are truly homegrown products of what local people wanted for their community. Electric co-ops first started forming as early as 1914, and the formation of the REA in 1935 helped smooth the way forward. But it was local community initiative over the next three decades that finally brought electric service to nearly everyone.

The story of electric co-ops is of a true grassroots movement of unique, homegrown organizations. The one characteristic that applies to all of them is that they care for and listen to the local members they serve.

For electric co-ops, one size does not fit all — it's the local community that's in charge. In recognizing that every one of us is different, co-ops make both an electric connection, and a human connection. And that's a truly powerful innovation.

PAUL WESSLUND writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

DAVID MAXWELL

Electric co-ops stand out in many areas of the electric utility industry. They lead the way in community solar — an initiative in which the co-op builds a solar array that is supported by interested members buying shares of the project.