



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS

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FROM THE MANAGER

This Fall, Refresh Your Cybersecurity Habits



Scott Ayres

As the leaves begin to change and we settle into the routines of fall, it's a good time to take stock of a few things around the house — preparing for

cooler weather, checking our heating systems, and getting ready for the months ahead. It's also a good time to refresh our cybersecurity habits.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but protecting your personal information is something that deserves attention all year long.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, cybersecurity is a critical part of providing safe, reliable electric service. While much of our focus is on protecting the physical systems that operate the electric grid, we also work to protect the systems and information that help us serve you — including online accounts, payment systems, member portals and outage communications.

Unfortunately, scammers are becoming more sophisticated. Artificial intelligence (AI) is making it easier for cyber criminals to create convincing emails, text messages, websites and even voice messages that can look and sound legitimate. The

FBI has warned that generative AI can make fraudulent schemes more believable by eliminating many of the errors that once helped us identify a scam.

That matters when it comes to utility scams.

A scammer may impersonate Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative and claim your account is past due, your service is about to be disconnected, or you need to make an immediate payment. The message might even include our logo, use professional-looking language, or direct you to a website that appears legitimate. With AI helping scammers create more convincing communications, simply looking for spelling mistakes or other obvious warning signs may no longer be enough. And these scams are not a small problem.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing \$3.5 billion to imposter scams in 2025, making these types of scams the most commonly reported type of fraud. Nearly one in three fraud reports involved an imposter scam.

So, what should you do if you receive an unexpected message claiming to be from Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative?

If a message creates a sense of ur-

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Is Your HVAC System Ready for Winter?

Here's what to check this fall

As cold weather approaches, fall is a good time to ensure your heating and cooling system is ready for winter. A few simple maintenance steps can improve comfort, reduce energy use, and help prevent a breakdown when you need heat the most.

SCHEDULE A PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION

- ▶ Have your heating system inspected by a qualified HVAC professional each year, preferably before winter weather arrives. A professional can check for worn parts, airflow issues, safe operation, and other problems that may not be obvious to a homeowner.
- ▶ Ensure the inspection includes checking for proper ventilation and signs of carbon monoxide risks if your home has a gas, propane or oil furnace.

CHANGE OR CLEAN AIR FILTERS

- ▶ Check your air filter regularly and replace or clean it as needed — usually every one to three months. A dirty filter can block airflow, make your system work harder and affect indoor air quality.
- ▶ Consider filter changes more often for homes with pets, allergies, heavy system use or significant dust.

CHECK AIRFLOW THROUGHOUT THE HOME

- ▶ Ensure all registers and vents are clean and not blocked by furniture, rugs, curtains or other items.
- ▶ Vacuum vents to remove dust and keep air moving freely. If you notice excessive dust around vents, uneven heating, or weak airflow, it may be time to have a professional check your system and ductwork.
- ▶ Keep most of the registers open throughout your home. Closing vents in unused rooms may seem like a way to save energy, but it can disrupt airflow and make your system work harder.

REDUCE HEAT LOSS

- ▶ Look for drafts around windows and doors and seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk.
- ▶ Check insulation in attics, basements and crawl spaces. Proper insulation can help keep warm air inside and reduce strain on your heating system.

PREPARE OUTDOOR HVAC EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Remove leaves, branches, grass clippings and other debris around outdoor HVAC equipment. Trim shrubs and vegetation to maintain at least two feet of clearance around the unit.
- ▶ Check gutters and downspouts to ensure water drains away from HVAC equipment.
- ▶ Check your furnace's outdoor air intake and exhaust pipes. Snow, ice or debris can block airflow, keep your furnace from operating properly and increase the risk of carbon monoxide buildup.
- ▶ Keep outdoor heat pumps clear of snow, ice and debris during the winter. Do not cover a heat pump while it is operating, because it needs airflow to work properly.

ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

- ▶ Install or program a smart thermostat to match your household schedule. Lowering the temperature when you are asleep or away from home can help save energy without compromising comfort.
- ▶ Review the settings on your smart or programmable thermostat before winter begins. You could set the fan to "auto" during mild fall weather to circulate air efficiently without unnecessary energy use.

KNOW WHEN IT MAY BE TIME FOR A REPLACEMENT

Heating systems more than 10 years old may operate less efficiently than newer models. Planning ahead can help you avoid an emergency replacement during extreme cold. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.

- ▶ Watch for signs such as increasing energy bills, uneven heating, frequent repairs, unusual noises or a system that takes too long to heat your home.
- ▶ When it is time to replace your system, consider Energy Star-labeled equipment for long-term energy savings and efficiency. These include high-efficiency furnaces, air-source heat pumps or geothermal heat pumps, depending on your home, climate and budget.

This Fall, Refresh Your Cybersecurity Habits

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gency or threatens immediate disconnection, take a moment to verify it. Don't click the link or call the phone number provided in the message. Instead, contact Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative directly using our trusted methods. You can reach us by phone at 316-542-3131.

You can also take steps to protect your online accounts before a scam occurs. Start with your password. Longer is generally better than simply adding more special characters. Choose a long, unique passphrase that is difficult for others to guess, and don't reuse the same password across multiple accounts.

If the accounts you access online offer multifactor authentication (MFA), consider using it. MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring an

additional way to verify your identity, such as a code sent to your phone or an authentication app.

Most importantly, remember that you don't have to make a payment simply because someone tells you that you do. We want you to have an opportunity to verify any unexpected request.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is committed to protecting the systems that help us deliver your electricity and serve our members. You can help by protecting your own account, slowing down when something seems urgent and contacting us directly when you're unsure.

For questions about your account or payment options, contact Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative at 316-542-3131.

ALL MEMBERS
ENTERED TO WIN
A CHANCE FOR

\$50 OFF YOUR BILL!

October is cooperative month and we here at Sedgwick County Electric Co-op 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 \$50 October bill credits.

2026 CO-OP MONTH \$50 DRAWING WINNERS

- ▶ Nicole Aiken
- ▶ Doug & Becky Anderson
- ▶ Wyatt Austin
- ▶ Raymond & Emily Bannan
- ▶ Steve Baxter
- ▶ Svetlana Bradburn
- ▶ Theresa Burks
- ▶ Gary & Kimberly Twist-Clinesmith
- ▶ David & Jessica Flores
- ▶ Brandi Foley
- ▶ Mike & Nicole Harrison
- ▶ Leo Hilger
- ▶ Bilal Khanzada
- ▶ Lauren King
- ▶ Josh & Alayna Klausmeyer
- ▶ Brittney & Bailey Kroulik
- ▶ Michelle Purcell
- ▶ Leland Riemann
- ▶ Trevor Schweikert
- ▶ Joe Showalter
- ▶ Roy & Alfreda Stanley
- ▶ Keith & Sara Stimatze
- ▶ Nancy Thompson
- ▶ Lukas & Hope Vohs
- ▶ Shawn Witherspoon

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, if needed, 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.

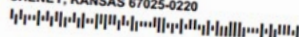
Return Bottom Portion With Your Payment
Check box ☐ (indicate change of address or phone # on back)

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. 1
BOX 220
CHENEY, KANSAS 67025-0220



SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC CONTINUES OUTSTANDING SAFETY RECORD

Every employee has the right to go home safe and healthy at the end of every day. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is committed to the safety of their employees. Safety is practiced in our day-to-day activities from tailgate discussions and reviewing work procedures to monthly safety meetings.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative earned a No-Lost-Time Accident Award and was recognized at the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Summer Meeting in August for working **265,694 EMPLOYEE HOURS** with no lost time.

Help Us Locate the Following Members

The names listed below have capital credit refunds due to them, but we are unable to locate these former members. If you have information that would help us contact any individual listed below, please call the office at 316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732.

Mary Ashton	Natalie Hertzell	Gary or Natalie Reittinger
Randy or Gloria Barr	Anita C Isbell	Eliazar or Sandra Resendez
Ashley Bratton	Michael Jeffery	Dave Robins
Kelsie Bryant	James C or Anne Johnson	Michael or Kelley Robinson
Carol Burdick	Diane Johnston	Jamie or Patti Scheer
Justin or Jenny Camfield	David or Patricia Knight	Kelly or Rebecca Schrant
Patricia Carpenter	Edward or Kate Koehler	Jason Scobee
Brian J Coffman	Samuel R or Judy Ky	Samantha Smith
Robert Cornejo	Ronald or Kristen La Point	Alex D Snodgrass
Tiffany Courtney	Megan J Lynch	Shawn or Audrey Donovan
Donald Curtright	Shannon Maddox	Sheryl Stephens
Lynn Draper	Ryan Mahaffey	Benny R or
Jahawn Duke	Liz Means	Cassandra J Taylor
Cynthia Espinosa	Stonie Morrison	Roy Thrush
Mike or Mary Jane Furches	Russell or Michelle Orton	Phap Truong
Chris R Gernaat	Ryan or Cynthia Overcash	Bill or Wendy Vanmeter
John or Michelle Goodwin	Roy F Parker	Jeff or Andrea Wake
Eric or Angela Hart	Chris or Renee Reed	Michael Wallace
		Darryl White

ARE YOU A CO-OP VOTER?

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has again joined America's electric cooperatives to help our community get out and vote, by being a part of the Co-ops Vote program. This collaborative effort provides us the opportunity to educate lawmakers, build awareness about our issues and concerns, and advocate for policies that are important to our co-op and our community.

Federal, state and local elections offer opportunities to vote for leaders who support energy policies that promote safe, reliable and affordable energy. In particular, they allow us to elect public officials who understand and appreciate America's electric cooperatives and will serve as our champion during policy discussions.

Now is the perfect time to confirm that you are registered to vote and encourage new voters to get registered. For voter resources and to learn the five simple steps to being a co-op voter, visit the Co-ops Vote website at www.vote.coop.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives. Co-op voters across 48 states work together to ensure that electric co-ops have a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

Co-ops are a trusted voice in Washington, D.C. The more our community members turn out to vote, the greater the opportunity we have to elect leaders who understand co-ops and the issues we face.

The co-op voice is powerful, and it starts with you!

