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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### DISTRICT OFFICES

**Garden City — 620-275-0261**

2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973  
Garden City, KS 67846

**Great Bend — 620-793-4223**

200 10th St., P.O. Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS 67530

**Harper — 620-896-7090**

906 Central, P.O. Box 247  
Harper, KS 67058

**Leoti — 620-375-2632**

101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861

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101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230  
Scott City, KS 67871

**Syracuse — 620-384-5171**

206 N. Main, P.O. Box 1010  
Syracuse, KS 67878

**Tribune — 620-376-4231**

310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490  
Tribune, KS 67879

## FROM THE MANAGER

### Coming Together to Power the Pantry

As we close out 2025, I am reminded of what makes our communities truly special — the power of people coming together to care for one another. This December, we're proud to highlight a shining example of that spirit: **TYSON FRESH MEATS'** donation of more than \$32,000 worth of turkey deli meat to our **POWER THE PANTRY** food drive.

Thanks to Tyson's generosity, thousands of families across our service area will have access to nutritious protein this holiday season. This donation is more than just food — it's a symbol of partnership, compassion and the shared commitment to supporting neighbors in need. Read more about Tyson's contribution on **PAGE 12G**.

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE** extends far beyond keeping the lights on. It's about energizing our communities — both literally and figuratively — through programs like Power the Pantry, ensuring no one in our service territory goes hungry. Every can, every dollar, every act of kindness helps us light up lives and strengthen the bonds that make rural Kansas remarkable.

Stay tuned for the **JANUARY ISSUE** of

*Kansas Country Living*, where we'll announce total dollars donated to a dozen local food banks from our campaign. Together, we're building a brighter, more caring tomorrow.

As we celebrate this season of giving, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our members for a joyful holiday season. In this issue, you'll also find a special **"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR"** greeting from the entire WEC team — our employees and board of trustees — who work tirelessly to serve you all year long.

2025 has been a big year for WEC. We're proud to close the year with a major national honor — the **2025 NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC UTILITY AWARD** from Plug in America, recognizing our leadership in bringing EV technology to small-town America. Read more about how WEC is redefining rural electric mobility on **PAGE 12D**.

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.**



**Bruce W. Mueller**

## OPEN MEETING NOTICE TO DISCUSS SPECIAL CONTRACT RATE

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees will meet on **DEC. 17, 2025, AT 1 P.M. CST** at the Wheatland Electric office, 2005 W. Fulton, Garden City, Kansas. During the meeting, the WEC Board of Trustees and management will discuss and vote on proposed changes to the special contract rate schedule for developers between 5 MW to 15 MW demand. The portion of the meeting where rates are discussed and voted on is open to all members. WEC members are advised that any member has a right to receive customer information and request that the Kansas Corporation Commission review the rate changes pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d(g).



# Happy Holidays

From our Wheatland Electric Cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a blessed and delightful holiday season.

All WEC offices will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.



District 1 — *Scott City*



District 2 — *Leoti*



District 5 — *Garden City*



District 6 — *Great Bend*



District 7 — *Harper*



Water Division — *Garden City*



District 3 — *Tribune*



District 4 — *Synacuse*



*Executive Team*



*Board of Trustees*



## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC WINS

## 2025 National Drive Electric Utility Award



Recognition honors WEC's leadership in advancing electric vehicle education and access

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) is proud to be the winner of the **2025 NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC UTILITY AWARD** by Plug In America, a leading nonprofit dedicated to accelerating electric vehicle (EV) adoption nationwide. The prestigious award recognizes utilities that demonstrate exceptional innovation, leadership and community impact in promoting transportation electrification.

Out of a strong field of utilities from across the country, WEC was selected as one of only four national finalists — and went on to win top honors over three major investor-owned utilities in Michigan, New York and New Jersey. The cooperative earned recognition for its **GRASSROOTS APPROACH** to EV education and outreach, bringing hands-on learning and charging infrastructure to some of the most underserved areas in Kansas. Through creative, community-centered programming — including its award-winning Dine & Drive event in 2024 and this year's EVs & Espressos initiative during National Drive Electric Month — WEC is redefining how small-town America engages with electric mobility.

Since 2021, WEC has installed three **CHARGEPOINT® LEVEL**

**2 PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS** across its southwest and central Kansas service territory — locations previously more than 100 miles from the nearest public charger. As of October 2025, these stations have supported more than 1,500 charging sessions by nearly 670 unique drivers. The cooperative has also electrified a few of its own fleet vehicles, integrated the **CHOOSEEV** platform into its website for free public education, and hosted dozens of community Ride+Drive events where members can experience the power of driving electric for themselves — often for the very first time.

“Winning this award is truly an honor and a testament to the power of community-driven innovation and our commitment to strengthen the communities we serve,” said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO and general manager. “As a cooperative, our goal has always been to help our members stay informed about emerging technologies and make confident, practical decisions about their energy use. This recognition shows that innovation and leadership don’t depend on size or location



WEC has also been recognized at the state-level for excellence in business innovation. The cooperative received a 2024 Kansas Business Award from the Kansas Department of Commerce for its efforts to expand electric vehicle infrastructure and education across our region.



Since 2021, WEC has installed three ChargePoint® Level 2 public charging stations across southwest and central Kansas — in Great Bend at 200 10th Street, in Garden City at 2005 W. Fulton Street and in Harper at 906 Central.



WEC often showcases its electric vehicles alongside its bucket trucks at school and community events, including the Little Panthers Touch-a-Truck event in Great Bend on May 5, 2025.

— they depend on people working together with purpose.”

In fact, WEC's efforts have reached far beyond its 21,000-plus member service territory. Cooperative employees have also mentored sister cooperatives across Kansas and Oklahoma — sharing strategies, event models, and community engagement practices to help replicate its success in other rural regions.

“All of our outreach begins with a simple philosophy: meet people where they are,” said Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications. “Our team has worked tirelessly to make EV education approachable — hosting **RIDE+DRIVE EVENTS** throughout the year, creating opportunities for hands-on experiences,

and providing clear, practical information through our publications and digital platforms. This national award validates that even in the most rural corners of Kansas, meaningful engagement and education can drive real change.”

Plug In America recognized WEC for proving that electrification isn't just for big cities. In announcing the award — and its decision to honor WEC over three major investor-owned utilities serving millions of customers — the organization wrote: “Though small, Wheatland Electric leads with innovation — bridging the gap in rural America and proving no community is too small, too rural, or too remote to be part of the clean transportation future.”

As WEC looks ahead, we remain energized by the opportunity to continue **DRIVING ENERGY FOR LIFE** — empowering our members, strengthening our rural communities, and leading the charge toward a more connected future.

“All of our outreach begins with a simple philosophy: meet people where they are.”

ALLI CONINE, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



WEC first added a Hyundai Kona Electric to its operations fleet in 2021 and a second all-electric vehicle, a Ford F-150 Lightning in 2023. Both vehicles are used in Ride+Drive events across WEC's service territory so cooperative members can get behind the wheel and experience the power of driving electric.



## SENIORS! APPLY NOW FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- ✓ Graduating high school seniors planning to attend a college or trade school for the 2026–2027 school year.
- ✓ Must attend one of 13 high schools in Wheatland Electric's service territory.

Scan the QR code above or visit [www.weci.net/scholarship-program](http://www.weci.net/scholarship-program)

Apply  
online by  
Jan. 12!



## WEC Strengthens Community Connections With Member Engagement

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) recently brought together cooperative members, community leaders, and local stakeholders for a **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** at Dry Lake Brewing in Great Bend.

The Nov. 4 event offered an opportunity to share updates, exchange ideas and celebrate the cooperative spirit that defines WEC's mission: **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.**

WEC's executive staff covered several key topics including member **DATA PROTECTION** and **SAFETY AWARENESS** — a cornerstone of WEC's commitment to its members.

CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller thanked the roughly 50 attendees for their active participation, which helps strengthen the cooperative's mission.

"When we come together to share ideas and listen to one another, we build a stronger, more connected cooperative for everyone we serve," Mueller said. "Your voices help shape where we go next, and that's what makes this cooperative truly member-driven."

During the evening presentation, **JEVIN KASSELMAN**, director of information technology, offered practical tips for protecting personal data and identifying misinformation online.

WEC recently developed a new lunch and learn series — **MEMBERS ARE OUR JAM** — which launched Oct. 15 at the Great Bend Senior Center with a session focused on spotting and stopping scams. Similar sessions are planned for Scott City and Tribune in the coming months.

Protecting members' privacy and



Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager, (far left) visits with cooperative members at Dry Lake Brewing in Great Bend.

data remains a top priority for WEC, Kasselmann said, and the cooperative continues to invest in education and security initiatives that keep members informed and empowered.

**ALLI CONINE**, director of member services and corporate communications, gave an update on WEC's Community Solar, a renewable energy program.

Additionally, Manager of Safety and Compliance **BRAD THYNE** led a live safety demonstration highlighting what to do if something comes in contact with overhead power lines. The interactive display underscored WEC's strong emphasis on safety education and its ongoing efforts to help members stay informed and prepared.

Throughout the evening, WEC trustees engaged directly with attendees, answering questions and gathering feedback on ongoing projects and services.

Member engagement meetings are held annually on an invitation-only basis, rotating between WEC's east and west districts. These gatherings offer members a valuable opportunity to share input, connect with cooperative leaders, and help shape the future of WEC's programs and services.

## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're traveling this year for the holidays, be sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. Hundreds of people die every year in crashes on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day, according to Injury Facts. Alcohol impairment is involved in about a third of these fatalities.

## Honey Turkey for the Holidays

### Tyson Fresh Meats Powers the Pantry with Generous Deli Meat Donation for Local Families

Just in time for the holidays, **TYSON FRESH MEATS** has given the gift of nourishment to Kansas families in need, donating more than \$32,000 worth of **HONEY TURKEY DELI MEAT** — more than 11,000 pounds — to help Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) Power the Pantry in 2025.

This generous donation — valued at **\$32,742** — is helping fill shelves at nearly a dozen local food banks across WEC's service territory, bringing vital protein to households facing food insecurity and showcasing the strength of community partnerships in action.

On Oct. 20, WEC employees picked up and delivered thousands of boxes of honey turkey to food banks and community organizations including the Community Food Bank of Barton County in Great Bend, First Baptist Church in Holcomb, Hamilton County Food Bank in Syracuse, Greeley County Food Bank in Tribune, Wichita County Food Bank in Leoti, Hope's Closet in Scott City, and both Genesis Family Health and the Emmaus House in Garden City.

Employees also visited senior centers and churches along the way — including a few stops in Lakin — ensuring families across WEC's service territory received a share of the donation.

During the extended government shutdown, many families faced heightened financial stress and were struggling to keep nutritious food on the table. Tyson's donation of protein-rich deli meat helped bridge that gap — providing a much-needed

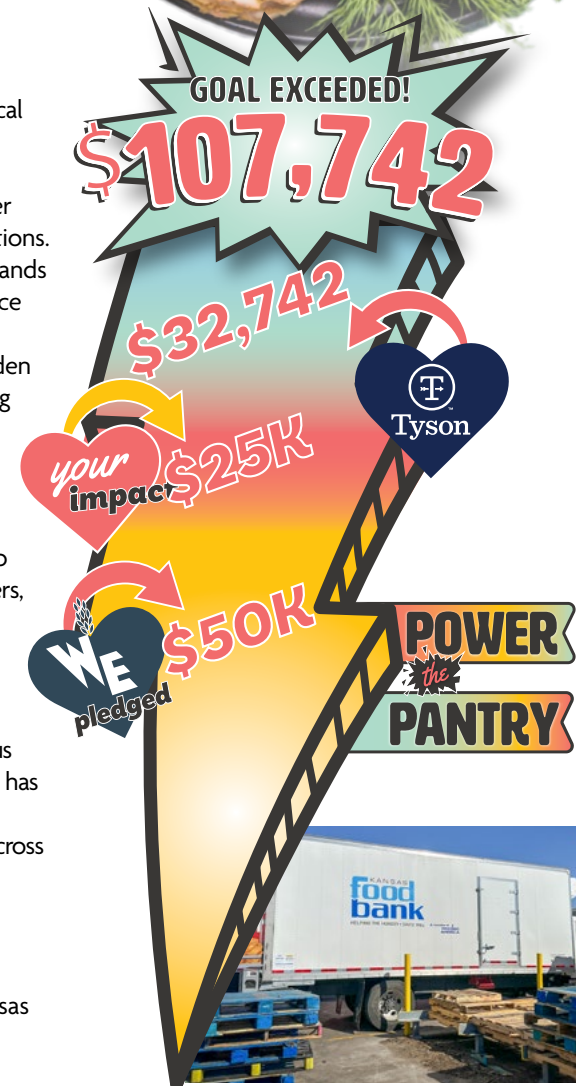
boost to local food banks at a critical time. "We're grateful for Tyson's commitment to our communities," said Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications. "This donation will help feed thousands of families and make a real difference this holiday season."

The **KANSAS FOOD BANK** in Garden City also played a key role in making WEC's efforts a success. Their staff picked up and stored about half of the donated meat in their walk-in freezers. This capacity allowed for expanded distribution to emergency aid services, senior centers, and other local food pantries in advance of the holiday season.

"Without the support of the Kansas Food Bank, we couldn't have accommodated Tyson's generous donation," Conine added. "Their help has made it possible for us to reach even more of our cooperative members across our vast service territory."

When organizations unite with compassion and purpose, entire communities grow stronger. Tyson's contribution — along with the Kansas Food Bank's support — is a shining example of what can happen when people come together to care for one another.

From all of us at WEC: Thank you for helping us share the true spirit of the holidays! Stay tuned for campaign **DONATION AND DELIVERY TOTALS** in next month's *Kansas Country Living*, or follow us on social media and visit our website for the latest updates.





COORDINATED BY **KEC**  
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.  
A Tractor Supply Company

SPONSORED BY  
WHEATLAND ELECTRIC CO-OP

**CYLC**

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP  
**MAKE YOUR OWN PATH**

**JULY 10-16, 2026**

**COMMUNITY**  
Form a candy cooperative, lead camp activities, and connect with students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

**LEADERSHIP**  
Learn about the cooperative business model, strengthen leadership skills, and hear from nationally recognized speakers.

**MEMORIES**  
Raft the Colorado River, tour a power plant, and compete with your small group in fun activities. You'll be sure to make memories to last a lifetime.

**APPLY NOW**



**MAKE THE MARK!**



**YOUTH TOUR**  
NRECA

**June 13-19, 2026**  
A week of building memories, skills, leadership and friendships that will last a lifetime!

*Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!*  
Wheatland Electric will sponsor two high school juniors on an inspiring Washington, D.C. trip to build leadership skills and lifelong connections!

**Deadline: Jan. 12, 2026**  
[www.weci.net/youth-tour-program](http://www.weci.net/youth-tour-program)



A Little Sugar, a Lot of Cheer  
- It's that Time of Year!

# Holiday Open House

Stop by to enjoy a sweet treat and enter to win a holiday giveaway at each of our locations!

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. local time

**Join us at any of our locations!**




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| <br><b>WHEATLAND ELECTRIC</b><br>Delivering Energy for Life<br><small>A Tractor Supply Company</small> | <b>SCOTT CITY</b><br>Warehouse<br>Meeting Room<br>101 S. Main St. | <b>LEOTI</b><br>101 W. F St.         | <b>SYRACUSE</b><br>206 N. Main St. | <b>GREAT BEND</b><br>200 10th St. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>TRIBUNE</b><br>310 Broadway St.                                | <b>GARDEN CITY</b><br>2005 W. Fulton | <b>HARPER</b><br>906 Central       |                                   |