



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885 | www.weci.net

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Josh Young
Vice President

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John Sullivan
Trustee

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Trustee

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

Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885
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

New in 2024: Trustee Voting by Mail-In Ballot



Bruce W. Mueller

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) the active involvement of its members in the decision-making process is of paramount importance.

As a cooperative, WEC operates on the principle of Democratic Member Control, emphasizing the significance of each member's voice in shaping the organization's direction. Members play a crucial role in policies and strategic initiatives. This inclusive approach ensures that the cooperative's actions align with the needs and preferences of its diverse membership. By actively engaging members in the decision-making process, WEC not only promotes transparency and accountability but also fosters a sense of ownership, reinforcing the cooperative values that underpin its

operations. This collaborative approach underscores the cooperative's commitment to serving its members and maintaining a democratic and participatory governance structure.

WEC members decided to implement mail-in ballot voting for trustee elections during the 2023 annual meeting. The engagement and involvement of the cooperative members deepen the cooperative's commitment to inclusive decision-making and adapting to more accessible voting methods.

I encourage you to read more about the upcoming trustee elections, the 2024 annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the Great Bend Events Center, and the new mail-in ballot process on Page 12C.

UNTIL NEXT TIME TAKE CARE

7 CO-OP PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Voluntary and Open Membership
- ▶ Democratic Member Control
- ▶ Members' Economic Participation
- ▶ Autonomy and Independence
- ▶ Education, Training and Information
- ▶ Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- ▶ Concern For Community



Demand Billing Begins with March Usage, April Billing

As part of the three-part rate structure recently approved by the WEC Board of Trustees, members will soon see a demand charge as part of their electric bill.

Demand is determined by the highest level of power in kilowatts (kW) that a co-op member draws from the grid during any 15-minute interval in each billing cycle. Demand is different from overall energy consumption, which measures how much electricity a member uses over a period of time and is measured in kWh.

Peak demand is a measure of your highest monthly demand, which is listed on the back side of your monthly WEC electric bill.

Beginning with your April 2024 bill, which reflects March 2024 usage, demand will be billed (per kW) based on your existing rate class. The rate classes can be found in the chart on Page 12C.

WEC currently purchases kilowatt-hours from our power supplier based on the average demand of our members, which means that when members use more electricity during peak demand periods, it often costs more. Peak hours often occur during the early morning when members are getting

FIND YOUR DEMAND ON YOUR MONTHLY BILL

Service Description: 120 MAIN S					
Days	Readings		Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	kW Demand
31	Previous	Present	1	2,715	13
	119659	122374			
Service Availability Charge					\$32.11
Energy Charge					2,715 kWhs @ 0.096485 = \$261.96
Demand Charge					13 kWhs @ 0.000000 = 0.00
Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)					2,715 kWhs @ -0.010620 = -28.83
CAT 1 PSLM (Qty:1)					6.73
Property Tax Surcharge					2,715 kWhs @ -0.00120107 = -3.26
County Tax					3.51
Total Current Charges					\$273.61

Demand is the rate at which a member uses electric energy and can be found on the back of your monthly bill. WEC will begin charging for kilowatt (kW) demand on residential accounts in April for the March usage.

ready for school or work and in the early evening when they are cooking dinner, doing chores (like laundry and dishes), and using electronic devices.

The average residential household (using just under 800 kWh in a billing cycle) typically generates an average demand charge of 7 kW. Under the new rate structure, this residential household would see \$14 (\$2 x 7 kW) as their demand charge.

The WEC Board of Trustees approved the three-part rate structure, which includes demand billing, during a public, open meeting held Dec. 19, 2023, in Scott City, which was

open to all members. The decision followed the conclusion of a cost-of-service study completed late last year by C.H. Guernsey & Associates, our rate consultants. This cost-of-service study determined that base rates would need to increase by 9% overall for WEC to continue to provide reliable electric service and cover increasing operational costs, affected by rising costs and inflation of electric utility materials.

Demand charges more accurately and fairly collect costs from the overall cooperative membership because utilities like ours need to build and maintain infrastructure capable of meeting the highest demand peaks.

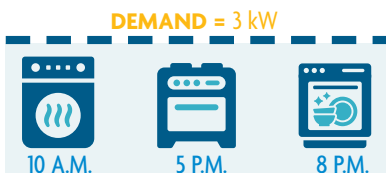
It also gives members more control of their electric bill by taking usage practices into account. By spreading

WHEN IN DOUBT, SMOOTH IT OUT

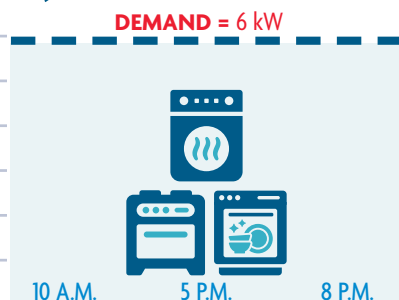
AVOID MULTITASKING: using multiple appliances at the same time will increase your demand usage and thereby increase any potential demand charges on your monthly bill.



DO
SMOOTH IT OUT



DON'T
STACK IT UP



RATE CLASS	DEMAND CHARGE (BILLING kW)	
	CURRENT	NEW
RESIDENTIAL URBAN	\$0.00	\$2.00
RESIDENTIAL RURAL	\$0.00	\$2.00
RESIDENTIAL HEAT & COOL	\$0.00	\$2.00
GENERAL SERVICE URBAN	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) 8.75 (over 10 kW)	\$2.00 (first 10 kW) 9.25 (over 10 kW)
GENERAL SERVICE RURAL	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) 8.75 (over 10 kW)	\$2.00 (first 10 kW) 9.25 (over 10 kW)
GENERAL SERVICE HEAT & COOL	\$0.00	\$2.00
GENERAL SERVICE TIME OF DAY	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) \$3.11 (over 10 kW) \$12.53 (Peak Billed Demand)	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) \$3.75 (over 10 kW) \$13.00 (Peak Billed Demand)
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE	\$13.12	\$14.75
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE ELECTRIC HEAT	\$13.12	\$14.75
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE TIME OF DAY	\$3.75 \$13.19 (Peak Billed Demand)	\$5.38 \$14.75 (Peak Billed Demand)
IRRIGATION	\$14.00 (July-Aug.)	\$16.00 (July-Aug.)
MUNICIPAL SERVICE		\$2.00
MEDIUM POWER		\$12.65

The chart above shows the current demand charges, as well as the new charges effective March 1, 2024. To view tariffs in full for each rate class please visit www.weci.net/tariffs. Most residential members living within city limits fall in the first rate class depicted above: Residential Urban. For specific questions about your account, please call your local Wheatland office.

out the use of major appliances and other high-demand items, members can avoid increased demand charges and potentially lower their electric costs (see example at left).

WEC members are encouraged to use their SmartHub data to see when their energy use increases and consider what electric devices are in use during those times. The best way to reduce demand is by spreading out the use of those items in your home.

For example, starting the laundry and the dishwasher at the same time you start preheating the oven creates high energy use and can peak demand. Instead, run your dishwasher at night when everyone has gone to bed, cook with an air fryer instead of the oven, and don't start your dryer at the same time you start dinner. By spreading out your common household chores rather than multitasking, you can lower your demand and potentially save money on your energy bill!



FIND OUT MORE

More information about our new three-part rate structure, which takes effect on your April bill (reflecting March usage), is available at www.weci.net/rate-adjustment-proposal-passes or scan the QR code!

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BY MAIL THIS SPRING

Three board seats up for election

Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., will receive ballots by mail in March to vote for trustees for the first time in WEC history.

Cooperative members who attended last year's annual meeting on April 26, 2023, voted 320-287 to pass revisions to the cooperative's bylaws, which included mail-in ballot voting for trustee elections.

Prior to this year, elections were held in-person at our annual meeting locations through paper ballots distributed to members in attendance.

Ballots will be mailed in late March and must be returned by April 19, 2024, at least five days prior to this year's annual meeting.

Our 2024 annual meeting will be held on April 24, 2024, in Great Bend, Kansas. The primary meeting in Great Bend will be livestreamed to seven additional remote meeting locations: Scott City, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Harper and Caldwell.

Members across our service territory are encouraged to attend any of these meeting locations to hear cooperative news and updates, enjoy a meal, ask questions, enter for door prizes, and more. For more information on this year's annual meeting, see Page 12F.

WEC's mail-in voting will be conducted and managed by Survey and Ballot Systems, a national data solutions company based in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, as a trusted third-party provider. Trustees selected the reputable firm to ensure a transparent, effective and fair election process. Members with questions about our mail-in voting process are encouraged to call their local WEC office or email us at memberservices@weci.net.

WEC is governed by a 10-member board of trustees elected by the cooperative's membership. Board seats in the following districts are up for election this year:

- **DISTRICT 3** (Greeley County in Kansas; Kiowa and Cheyenne counties in Colorado)
- **DISTRICT 6** (Great Bend, Kansas)
- **DISTRICT 7** (Harper, Kingman, Sumner and Sedgwick counties in Kansas)

WEC'S BYLAWS ALLOW FOR TWO METHODS FOR TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS:

► NOMINATION BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees appoints a nomination committee made up of one member from each of our seven districts. Members should contact WEC to get the contact information for their fellow member who represents their district on the nominating committee or contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 or jmcvay@weci.net, **BY FEB. 15** if they are interested in being nominated.

► NOMINATION BY A PETITION OF MEMBER

Twenty-five, or more, members of WEC can nominate any member as a trustee candidate. Nominations by petition must be sent to WEC **BY MARCH 10**.

Members interested in running should contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 or jmcvay@weci.net, **BY FEB. 15**.



PUTTING
THEIR

Hearts



AARON SHERRILL
Journeyman Lineman, Garden City



CHAD DENISTON
District Manager, Garden City



COLTON GREEN
Serviceman, Syracuse

ON THE
Line!

**Our hardworking
lineworkers put their
hearts — and lives —
on the line every day!**

They play a crucial role in our industry, and their jobs can be extremely demanding. Through all types of weather — rain, wind, hail, snow, and more — our lineworkers are there, helping us deliver safe, reliable, and cost-effective energy for our most basic daily needs. Thank you to these heroes in hardhats!



MARK MAIER
Serviceman Foreman, Garden City



DAKOTA ZECHA
Apprentice Lineman, Great Bend



MATT HOSSLER
Substation Maintenance Foreman, Great Bend



ERIC NEWBERRY
Substation Maintenance Foreman, Garden City



QUINTEN WHEELER
Manager of Safety and Compliance, Scott City



JESUS VILLEGAS
Journeyman Lineman, Great Bend



WADE GRUMBEIN
Area Wide Supervisor, Harper

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

ILLUMINATING CONNECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER | 3111 10TH ST., GREAT BEND

10 A.M. MT / 11 A.M. CST REGISTRATION

10:30 A.M. MT / 11:30 A.M. CST LUNCHEON

11 A.M. MT / NOON CST BUSINESS MEETING

AT ALL LOCATIONS

Join us for an

ILLUMINATING

annual meeting at the
Great Bend Events Center
on April 24, 2024!

OR AT ONE OF OUR REMOTE LOCATIONS:

DISTRICT 1 – SCOTT CITY

Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, 212 E. Fifth St.

DISTRICT 2 – LEOTI

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 103 West F

DISTRICT 3 – TRIBUNE

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 310 Broadway Ave.

DISTRICT 4 – SYRACUSE

VFW Building, 609 N. Main St.

DISTRICT 5 – GARDEN CITY

Wheatland Electric Office, 2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 7 – HARPER

Westview Lodge & Apartments, 1300 N. Westview

DISTRICT 7 – CALDWELL

Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First St.





DESIGN THIS YEAR'S **MEETING BAG**

Students (grades K-12) in our service territory are
invited to design this year's annual meeting artwork!

Each year, goodie bags are distributed to members attending our annual meeting at all eight locations across southwest and central Kansas. This year, we'd like to feature a design (or designs) created by our mini members! All design submissions will be considered, but priority will be given to submissions reflecting this year's annual meeting theme:

**ILLUMINATING CONNECTIONS:
HOW DOES ELECTRICITY ILLUMINATE YOUR LIFE?**

To submit your design, send your high resolution artwork in digital format (JPEG, AI, PNG, EPS, TIFF, PSD or PDF) to contests@weci.net or by hard copy to any local Wheatland Electric office **BY MARCH 8**. Questions? Contact us at memberservices@weci.net.

**YOUR
DESIGN
HERE**

**SUBMIT YOUR
DESIGN BY
MARCH 8!**

SCAN FOR
CONTEST RULES
AND INFO



COMMUNITY SOLAR

A **NEW** PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Our new program — **COMMUNITY SOLAR** — is now available to residential co-op members just like you! The subscription-based program allows homeowners or renters to subscribe to solar shares at **\$5 PER SHARE** — equivalent to 125 kWh or two solar panels.

By participating in **COMMUNITY SOLAR**, you, our electric co-op member, are literally harnessing the power of the sun! There is no change to your electric service — you'll use electricity just as you do now. The only difference is that the energy generated on your behalf will be **100% RENEWABLE ENERGY**.

Based on the last three years of performance, a subscriber investing in 7 COMMUNITY SOLAR SHARES SAVED \$442.63* total on their electric bill! That's after taking the \$35 monthly subscription cost into account!

*THE WINTER WEATHER EVENT (FEB. 13-18, 2021) ACCOUNTED FOR 40% OF 2021'S COST-SAVINGS.

THREE-YEAR COMMUNITY SOLAR COST/SAVINGS ANALYSIS

SHARES	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION COST	2021 SOLAR CREDIT ¹	2022 SOLAR CREDIT	2023 SOLAR CREDIT ²	3-YEAR SAVINGS	AVERAGE SAVINGS PER YEAR
1	\$5.00	-\$101.67	-\$94.51	-\$47.06	-\$63.23	-\$21.08
2	\$10.00	-\$203.34	-\$189.01	-\$94.12	-\$126.47	-\$42.16
3	\$15.00	-\$305.01	-\$283.52	-\$141.18	-\$189.70	-\$63.23
4	\$20.00	-\$406.67	-\$378.02	-\$188.24	-\$252.93	-\$84.31
5	\$25.00	-\$508.34	-\$472.53	-\$235.30	-\$316.17	-\$105.39
6	\$30.00	-\$610.01	-\$567.03	-\$282.36	-\$379.40	-\$126.47
7	\$35.00	-\$711.68	-\$661.54	-\$329.42	-\$442.63	-\$147.54
8	\$40.00	-\$813.35	-\$756.04	-\$376.48	-\$505.87	-\$168.62
9	\$45.00	-\$915.02	-\$850.55	-\$423.54	-\$569.10	-\$189.70
10	\$50.00	-\$1,016.68	-\$945.05	-\$470.60	-\$632.33	-\$210.78
11	\$55.00	-\$1,118.35	-\$1,039.56	-\$517.66	-\$695.57	-\$231.86
12	\$60.00	-\$1,220.02	-\$1,134.06	-\$564.72	-\$758.80	-\$252.93

¹ – A POLAR VORTEX ACROSS THE COUNTRY CAUSED HISTORICALLY LOW TEMPERATURES, ICE AND SNOW TO GRIP MUCH OF THE NATION DURING WINTER STORM URI, FEB. 13-18, 2021, STRESSING BOTH ELECTRIC GENERATING CAPACITY AND THE ABILITY OF THE TRANSMISSION GRID. DUE TO THE UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF THIS INCIDENT, MEMBERS SAW AN ABNORMALLY HIGH SOLAR CREDIT IN FEBRUARY 2021. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SEEING A CREDIT OF THAT SIZE AGAIN. ² – DECEMBER 2023 IS ESTIMATED.

**CREDITED
TO YOUR BILL!**

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

- ▶ Wheatland Electric members can subscribe on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ▶ Subscriptions will be applied to accounts starting in **FEBRUARY 2024** and will be reflected on bills starting in **MARCH 2024**.
- ▶ Subscriptions implemented after that time will always see a two-month bill delay.
- ▶ Contact your local Wheatland Electric office to calculate your allowed number of solar shares based on your 12-month average electric consumption.
- ▶ Members interested in participating can sign up by completing the **WHEATLAND COMMUNITY SOLAR SHARE AGREEMENT**.

**SHARES ARE LIMITED!
ACT SOON!**

CALL YOUR LOCAL WEC OFFICE

GARDEN CITY

620-275-0261

SCOTT CITY

620-872-5885

GREAT BEND

620-793-4223

SYRACUSE

620-384-5171

HARPER

620-896-7090

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