



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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

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

Rate Adjustment Proposal Passes

New rates take effect with March usage, April billing



Bruce W. Mueller

On Dec. 19, 2023, a rate adjustment proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees of the Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC). The cost-of-service study was completed by Mike Searcy of C.H. Guernsey & Associates. As announced in the December 2023 issue, the December board meeting was open to all members during the section of the meeting when the rate adjustment proposal was discussed and voted upon.

During the presentation, Searcy demonstrated the rates of all classes of service and how rate changes were applied to the various classes. The board, staff and members in attendance asked Searcy numerous questions about the proposed rate structures. Members also asked cooperative staff how the proposed rate structure would be implemented.

After all questions were answered, the WEC Board of Trustees discussed the matter thoroughly and decided it was in the best interest of the cooperative and its members to adopt the rate proposal. The rates will go into effect March 1, 2024.

THREE-PART RATE STRUCTURE

A three-part rate structure is being implemented to ensure a fair and transparent system for our members. This three-part rate structure is designed to encompass the various components that contribute to the overall cost of providing electricity.

► **SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE:** Fixed monthly charge designed to recover the costs of providing equipment, materials, labor and business overhead necessary to serve each meter, regardless of the amount of electricity consumed.

► **ENERGY (kWh) CHARGE:** The cost for the total amount of energy, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), used within

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SAMPLE BILL IMPACT FOR RESIDENTIAL URBAN MEMBER

The average WEC member uses 797 kWh per month (billing cycle).

	CURRENT RATES	NEW RATES Effective March 1, 2024
Service Availability Charge	\$28.50	\$30.00
Demand Charge	\$0.00	\$2.00
Energy Charge	\$0.096485	\$0.105950
TOTAL BILL	\$105.40	\$128.44

Billing Demand (kW)	7	
kWh Usage	797	

*DOES NOT INCLUDE TAXES, FEES, POWER COST ADJUSTMENT, OR PROPERTY TAX SURCHARGE.

POWER *the* PANTRY

\$90,785 Raised for 12 Local Food Banks

Thanks to our combined efforts WEC and our members raised \$90,785 in cash and food donations for 12 local food banks during our 2023 Power the Pantry campaign!

This year's collection, 90% of which reflect monetary donations, is the equivalent of just over 45 tons of food (\$1 = 1 pound)! It's also a 66% increase over last year's Cram the Van collection (54,599 pounds in 2022).

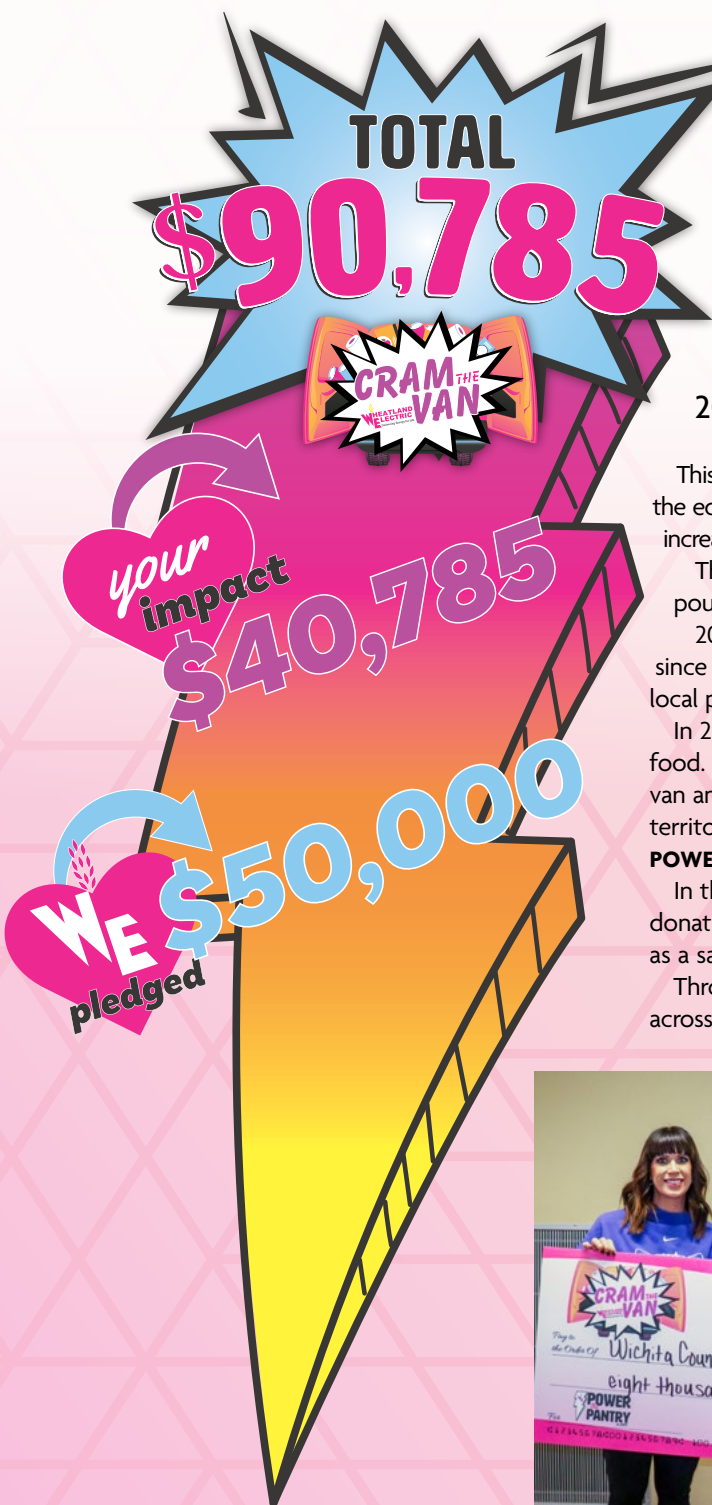
This brings our combined 10-year food drive total to 317,693 pounds, or just over 159 tons of food!

2023 marked not only our 75th anniversary, but also the 10th year since the inception of **CRAM THE VAN**, a campaign designed to support local pantries across our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

In 2014, our inaugural year, our food drive collected 6,615 pounds of food. This year, in lieu of traveling in our big, red extended passenger van and hosting in-person community events across our service territory, we **COMMITTED \$50,000** across one dozen food banks to **POWER THE PANTRY**.

In the fall, WEC worked to **DOUBLE THE IMPACT** of our cash donation, with a goal of raising \$100,000 for the food banks that serve as a safety net for the communities we serve.

Through online fundraising, monetary donations from co-op members across our seven districts, local business partnerships, a friendly school



\$500

CONGRATULATIONS!

JIMMY HUNT

of Argonia won the \$500 cash prize drawing during our Power the Pantry campaign.

competition in Great Bend, and our Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, now in its fifth year, in September, we raised a total of \$90,785 (using a scale of \$1 = 1 pound of food) of our \$100,000 goal!

In addition to monetary donations (totaling \$78,932), additional food items from our Great Bend School Competition (7,501 pounds) and Cardinals Care Challenge in Conway Springs (1,252 pounds) were also delivered to our food banks. A handful of local businesses also made cash contributions (totaling \$3,100) directly to area food banks on behalf of Power the Pantry!

Cram the Van has played a special part in **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**, our Seventh Cooperative Principle, over the past decade.

As our campaign and the outpouring from our communities has grown, our focus shifted to maximizing our impact through **CASH DONATIONS**. Local pantries prefer monetary donations because they eliminate waste, reduce storage needs, offer flexibility and allow for the purchase of perishable items (like meat and cheese) at local grocers and through voucher systems for food bank patrons.

“Our goal was to raise \$100,000, and though we didn’t quite make it, we had a lot of support from our communities this year, including local businesses,” said Alli Conine, WEC director of member services and corporate communications. “We are grateful and blessed for the generosity shown by the communities we serve. We look forward to meeting our goal when we Power the Pantry in 2024!”



THE FOLLOWING MONETARY DONATIONS WERE DELIVERED TO THE FOLLOWING FOOD BANKS JUST BEFORE THANKSGIVING:

- ▶ **CALDWELL** – United Methodist Food Pantry (\$2,485) and Caldwell Food Bank (\$4,985)
- ▶ **CONWAY SPRINGS** – Conway Springs Mission Mart (Cardinals Care: \$5,432)
- ▶ **FINNEY COUNTY** – Emmaus House (\$4,665) and Genesis Family Health (\$4,370)
- ▶ **GREAT BEND** – Community Food Bank of Barton County (\$13,080)
- ▶ **HARPER** – Harper Mission Mart (\$8,190)
- ▶ **HOLCOMB** – Horns for Hope c/o USD 363 (\$2,885)
- ▶ **LEOTI** – Wichita County Food Bank, Leoti (\$8,030)
- ▶ **SCOTT CITY** – Hope’s Closet/Ministerial Alliance (\$12,415)
- ▶ **SYRACUSE** – Hamilton County Food Pantry (\$6,245)
- ▶ **TRIBUNE** – Greeley County Food Bank (\$6,150)

SCHOOL COMPETITION, SPONSORED BY GIFTING FORWARD, COLLECTS 7,501 POUNDS OF FOOD!

The **GREAT BEND SCHOOLS COMPETITION**, sponsored by Gifting Forward, partnered with Wheatland Electric's annual Cram the Van food drive to collect nearly 4 tons of food to benefit the **COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF BARTON COUNTY**. Students from 12 area schools participated in a friendly food drive competition, collecting 7,501 pounds in October 2023.

GIFTING FORWARD generously sponsored \$1,500 in cash prizes for this year's competition by awarding prizes to the top four schools with the highest pounds of food donated per student. All donations were delivered straight to the Community Food Bank of Barton County in Great Bend, just in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

THIS YEAR'S COLLECTION BRINGS THE COMBINED 10-YEAR COLLECTION TOTAL IN GREAT BEND TO 82,631 POUNDS. That's over 41 tons of cash and non-perishable food items donated since the Cram the Van's inception in 2014 (\$1 donation = 1 pound of food).

"This event not only gives our area students the opportunity to help those less fortunate than themselves, but also helps them to better understand how a small act of kindness on their part can make a huge difference in the lives of others," said Mary Hoisington, member services and key accounts manager for WEC. "All of this is made possible through the financial generosity and support of Gifting Forward."



Central Kansas Christian Academy won first place in WEC's Cram the Van competition collecting 12.94 pounds of food per student. Dena Hiss, Gifting Forward, and Mary Hoisington member services and key accounts manager at WEC, present students and staff with a \$600 prize sponsored by Gifting Forward.



Second place went to Holy Family School for collecting 10.76 pounds of food per student. Holy Family students representing each grade were presented a \$400 prize by Dena Hiss (far right) with Gifting Forward and Mary Hoisington (far left), WEC's member services and key accounts manager.



With 6.92 pounds per student, Lincoln Elementary School won third place and a \$250 prize from Gifting Forward presented by Dena Hiss (far right), Gifting Forward, and Mary Hoisington, WEC's member services and key accounts manager.



Fourth place winners, Golden Belt Home Educators, collected 5.43 pounds of food per student and won a \$250 prize presented by Dena Hiss (far right), Gifting Forward, and Mary Hoisington (second from right), WEC's member services and key accounts manager.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2024

AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.,
sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments,
touring world-class museums and meeting
elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong
friendships with delegates from
across the country!

FIND OUT MORE



JULY 12-18, 2024

★★★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★★★

LEADERSHIP

Learn about the co-op business model
and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY

Students from Colorado, Kansas,
Oklahoma and Wyoming create a
candy co-op, run camp activities and
make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES

From rafting on the Colorado River
to exploring downtown Steamboat
Springs — you'll be sure to capture
memories to remember for a lifetime.



LEARN
MORE

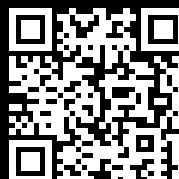


2 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS WILL BE SELECTED FOR EACH TRIP!

APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.WECI.NET/YOUTH-TOUR-PROGRAM

BY JAN. 19 AT 5 P.M. CT.

SCAN TO APPLY



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

Who is eligible to apply?

- Graduating seniors planning to attend college or trade school who attend one of the 13 high schools on our lines: Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott County, South Haven, Syracuse, or Wichita County.
- One at-large scholarship is also available for a senior who does not attend one of these schools but whose parent/legal guardian receives our electric service.



**APPLY
ONLINE BY
JAN. 19!**

WWW.WECI.NET/SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM

THANKS TO YOU, WE RAISED
\$90,785

when combined with our
\$50,000 donation, in both cash and food
donations to Power the Pantry!



90%
CASH DONATIONS

This year for Cram the Van, we shifted
our focus to collect monetary donations
(vs. food items) to Power the Pantry.



**1 KANSAS
BUSINESS
AWARD**

WEC was selected for the
Apprenticeship Champions
and Partners Award by
the Kansas Department of
Commerce for our nearly
50-year-old apprenticeship
training program.

**POWERFUL
NUMBERS FROM
2023**

**1 NRECA SPOTLIGHT ON
EXCELLENCE SILVER AWARD**

Our member services team won a national
NRECA Spotlight on Excellence silver award for
Best Annual Report, for our 2022 report
published in April 2023.



WEC EMPLOYEES AND
TRUSTEES SPONSORED

**89
CHILDREN**

through Saint Francis
Ministries' Christmas for Kids
and awarded a \$1,000
Sharing Success grant to
fulfill additional wish lists
for children in need.



WEC RECEIVED AN ACSI® SCORE OF
92 OUT OF 100

for member satisfaction — the highest score we have received to date
and the highest ACSI® score in the nation last year!



American Customer
Satisfaction Index

WEC CELEBRATED 75 YEARS

On Oct. 25, 1948, WEC was chartered bringing electricity to rural southwest Kansas.



\$750,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS WERE RETURNED

Eligible members from 1990 and 2022 received checks (totaling \$25 or more) in December 2023.



There was so much to celebrate in 2023! Check out these numbers that powered us through the last year, from the record setting \$90,785 in donations for Cram the Van to the small, but significant, receiving our first Kansas Business Award! These numbers prove we have a lot to be proud of as a member-owned cooperative here to serve you!



\$1,000 GRANTS WERE GIVEN TO 19

community-based organizations in the WEC service territory to support projects and improve the quality of life for the communities we serve. Our Facebook followers pitched in during our Sharing Success Charity Challenge choosing the recipients of \$4,500 of these grants.

LINE CREWS HOSTED 38 SAFETY DEMOS

to educate the public, including school-age children and critical first responders, like EMTs and firefighters, on safety around power lines.



IN 2023, WE'VE HAD AT LEAST

235
INDIVIDUAL
CHARGING
SESSIONS

77
UNIQUE
DRIVERS

WEC put southwest and central Kansas on the national EV map in 2022 by installing public charging stations at our Garden City and Great Bend offices. In 2023, we added a third station in Harper.

\$14,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

were distributed to 14 outstanding high school seniors across WEC's service territory at the 2023 WEC Annual Meeting.



814 ATTENDEES SET A RECORD

at our 2023 WEC Annual Meeting across eight meeting locations.



Rate Adjustment Proposal Passes Continued from page 12A ►

CHANGES IN SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE, DEMAND CHARGE AND ENERGY CHARGE						
RATE CLASS	SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE		DEMAND CHARGE (BILLING kW)		ENERGY CHARGE	
	CURRENT	NEW	CURRENT	NEW	CURRENT	NEW
RESIDENTIAL URBAN	\$28.50	\$30	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.096485	\$0.105950
RESIDENTIAL RURAL	\$33.50	\$35	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.096485	\$0.105950
RESIDENTIAL HEAT & COOL	\$28.50	\$30	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.056372 (Oct.-May) \$0.120541 (June-Sept.)	\$0.064750 (Oct.-May) \$0.119750 (June-Sept.)
GENERAL SERVICE URBAN	\$34	\$39	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) 8.75 (over 10 kW)	\$2.00 (first 10 kW) 9.25 (over 10 kW)	\$0.09455 (first 375 kWh/kW/month) \$0.04955 (over 375 kWh/kW/month)	\$0.106500 all kWh
GENERAL SERVICE RURAL	\$39	\$44	\$0.00 (first 10 kW) 8.75 (over 10 kW)	\$2.00 (first 10 kW) 9.25 (over 10 kW)	\$0.09455 (first 375 kWh/kW/month) \$0.04955 (over 375 kWh/kW/month)	\$0.106500 all kWh
GENERAL SERVICE HEAT & COOL	\$34	\$39	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.051856 \$0.143050	\$0.057339 \$0.149339
GENERAL SERVICE TIME OF DAY	\$39	\$39	\$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)	\$0.075879	\$0.099350
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE	\$46	\$50	\$13.12	\$14.75	\$0.063222	\$0.077190
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE ELECTRIC HEAT	\$46	\$50	\$13.12	\$14.75	\$0.058222 (Oct.-May) \$0.068222 (June-Sept.)	\$0.070348 (Oct.-May) \$0.080348 (June-Sept.)
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE TIME OF DAY	\$46	\$50	\$3.75 \$13.19 (Peak Billed Demand)	\$5.38 \$14.75 (Peak Billed Demand)	\$0.062920	\$0.075046
IRRIGATION	\$41	\$45	\$14.00 (July-Aug.)	\$16.00 (July-Aug.)	\$0.079741 (Sept.-June) \$0.079741 first 375 kWh/kW/month \$0.043821 over 375 kWh/kW/month	\$0.09837 (Sept.-June) \$0.098370 first 375 kWh/kW/month \$0.062370 over 375 kWh/kW/month
ATHLETIC FIELD	\$31.50	\$35			\$0.111373	\$0.146370
MUNICIPAL SERVICE	\$31.50	\$35		\$2.00	\$0.103936	\$0.115910
MEDIUM POWER		\$50		\$12.65		\$0.100000 first 375 kWh/kW/month \$0.055000 over 375 kWh/kW/month

The chart above shows the current service availability 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.

the billing period. It is calculated by taking the total kWh used by the member and multiplying it by WEC's kWh charge for the member.

- **DEMAND CHARGE (kW):** A charge to appropriately allocate costs to build, maintain or upgrade the infrastructure (power lines, transformers, substation upgrades, etc.) needed to ensure enough energy is delivered to meet members' needs. The charge is determined by the maximum demand of energy at any point within the billing cycle multiplied by the determined rate for a member's specific rate class.

INTRODUCE NEW GENERAL SERVICE MEDIUM POWER TARIFF

WEC aims to ensure fairness and equity among all our member-owners. By creating specific tariffs for different types of members (e.g., residential, small commercial, large commercial), the cooperative can tailor rates to match the cost structures associated with serving each group. This prevents one group from subsidizing the electricity costs of another, promoting fairness.

Medium-sized commercial or industrial members often have varying load profiles and usage patterns. By implementing a general service medium power tariff, WEC can encourage these customers to better manage their energy demand. It is part of our strategic approach to provide reliable and competitively priced electricity to our diverse member-owners while ensuring the cooperative's financial stability.

MEMBERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GENERAL SERVICE MEDIUM POWER TARIFF WILL BE NOTIFIED.

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

As we have expressed in earlier articles, raising electric rates is a matter of paramount importance to the Wheatland Board of Trustees. The cooperative's board has evaluated this issue for some time and decided the increase was necessary for the responsible operation of the cooperative – both for the quality and reliability of service and the financial integrity of the cooperative. Please email memberservices@weci.net if you have additional questions or concerns.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.