




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

It's Time for a Cost-of-Service Study



Bruce W. Mueller

Earlier this year, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) hired a consultant, C. H. Guernsey, to prepare a study that examines the cooperative's cost

of providing electric service. This cost-of-service study (COSS) determines the revenue needed to cover the cooperative's operating expenses and debt obligations, as well as examines the equitability of the rates among various consumers classes.

How Do We Design Rates?

Fundamentally, the concept of electric rates is straightforward. As a member-owned not-for-profit cooperative, we rely upon the revenue received by selling electricity to our member-owners to pay for the costs of the cooperative. These costs include the physical assets (poles, meters, fleet vehicles, etc.) of the cooperative, as well as the expenses (wholesale cost of electricity, employee wages and tools, etc.) of the cooperative.

To get the income necessary to pay those costs, WEC must collect revenues from the member-owners in the form of rates for electric service.

Our consultant will look at WEC's

current costs, debt obligations, and future expected costs for maintenance and construction. Once they determine how much revenue WEC needs to cover these costs in any given year, the total amount is then allocated among various rates classes: residential, small commercial, large commercial, irrigation, etc.

In addition to determining the rate requirement for each rate class, the COSS also looks at how WEC should collect the revenue in each class. When looking at revenue collected from a rate class, Wheatland needs to ensure that each charge type adequately covers the cost type. By reviewing this, we can ensure we don't over or under collect from various charges.

Lastly, the COSS looks at WEC's costs to serve electricity to each rate class to ensure that one rate class is not overly burdened by costs that should be attributed to a different rate class. This helps to ensure rates are fair and equitable among the various rate classes.

What Causes Our Rates to Change?

► WHOLESALE POWER SUPPLY:

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower) provides all of WEC's wholesale power. The wholesale power cost is about 70% of our total

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KEEPING THINGS COOL

All Summer Long!

We've had so much fun this summer hanging out with our co-op members at ballgames, supporting local businesses, and engaging with our communities' youth! Check out our photos to see some of our favorite stops across southwest and central Kansas!



Players at the Southwest Kansas Builders Association Golf Scramble pose with our 100% electric vehicle in Garden City. Players were treated to a free energy drink at our "charging station" during the June 24 tournament.



Quinten Wheeler, manager of safety and compliance, visits with elementary-age students during a safety demo on June 19 at our Scott City warehouse.



Kayanna Hammeke, member services and key accounts manager, talks about the advantages of our 100% electric vehicle with elementary-age students from Great Bend.



Dax Walk, line foreman, helps a child try on lineworker's rubber gloves during a Touch-A-Truck event in Great Bend on June 30.



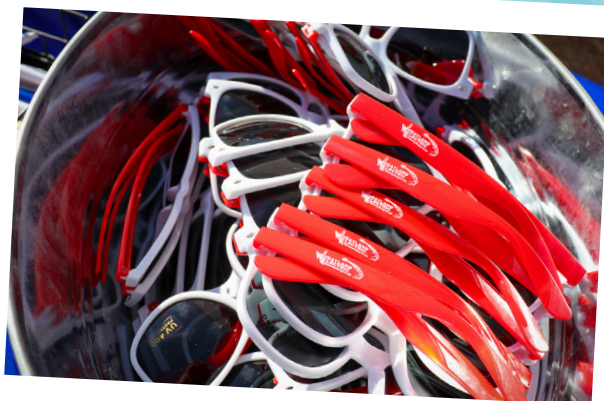
We had over 300 attendees at “Let’s Paint It Red,” our Great Bend Chamber Business After Hours at Dry Lake Brewing on June 14.



Community members visit during the Great Bend After Hours event. From left: Megan Barfield, president of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce; Lindsey Baskerville; and Rich Baskerville and Patrick Cowan, both chamber ambassadors.



Hannah Suchy sports a temporary baseball tattoo during our “Power Play” at the Great Bend Bat Cats ballgame on June 29.



These cool summer shades were giveaways during our summer “Power Play” game nights at the Great Bend Bat Cats (June 29) and Garden City Wind (July 6).

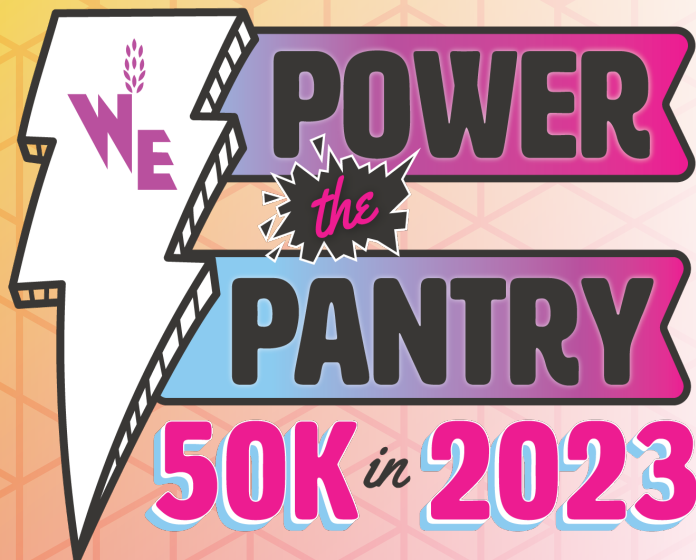


Attendees at our “Power Play” at the Garden City Wind ballgame received free hot dogs and hamburgers on July 6.



Kiddos pose for a photo in our Power Play sunglasses at the Garden City Wind ballgame.

HELP US



*Wheatland Electric
is committing*

\$50,000

to area food banks in 2023



Fall is around the corner, which means it's almost time to Cram the Van — except we're doing things a little differently this year!

2023 is a special year for us. Not only does it mark WEC's 75th anniversary but also a full decade since the start of our annual food drive to support our local food banks!

Starting in 2014, our cooperative — employees, volunteers and co-op members just like you — have all pitched in to cram our **BIG RED VAN** with food donations for the communities we serve.

Over the past decade, we've collected a staggering 113 tons (226,908 pounds) of food donations! In truth, we've only played a small part in facilitating the response from our cooperative members, who want nothing more than to help other members within their own communities.

So we're especially excited to share that this year we're gearing up to **POWER THE PANTRY** with a **\$50,000 COMMITMENT** to our local food banks!

Over the years, **CRAM THE VAN** has played a special part in Concern for Community, our Seventh Cooperative Principle. As our campaign and the outpouring from our communities has grown bigger and better every year, our focus this year is to maximize our impact through the dollars we dedicate to our food drive.

This means instead of traveling in our big, red van and hosting in-person events this fall across our southwest and central Kansas service territory, we'll be giving cash donations from our \$50,000 pool to the 12 food banks that serve our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

But we still need your help because our local food banks rely on **YOUR SUPPORT** to help feed our neighbors in need.

We encourage you to log onto our website and donate to your local food bank. Every dollar you donate to **CRAM THE VAN** will help us **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2023!

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for helping us Cram the Van each and every year and making 2023 our most **POWERFUL** year yet! Together, **WE** can make a difference!

**DONATE
NOW
AND YOU COULD
WIN!**



Visit our site or scan here to learn more!

Member Satisfaction Highest to Date, Achieving ACSI® Score of '92'

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., (WEC) recently completed a member-wide customer satisfaction survey in which over 230 anonymous members scored us higher than any other measured utility company.

The member responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire nation.

For 2023, WEC received an ACSI score of 92 out of a maximum score of 100, the highest score the cooperative has received to date. The score is higher than any utility score published publicly by ACSI's syndicated study that measures energy utility companies all the way back to 1994, according to ACSI officials.

"We are thrilled to receive our latest ACSI score," Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager, said.

"We have been working hard over the past few

years to improve member satisfaction through our capital credits program, new young adult member engagement events, supporting community initiatives through our Sharing Success Fund, and supporting our local food banks through Cram the Van each fall."

Members at WEC's 2023 Annual Meeting, held on April 26, 2023, were asked to complete the survey, with the option of remaining anonymous prior to submission. Over 230 written responses were collected and submitted to ACSI.

WEC's score of 92 is higher than scores from all 2023 investor-owned utilities (72 average score) and municipal utilities (71 average score), according to the industry ratings in the 2023 ACSI Utility Sector Report.

"We are thankful to our co-op membership for ranking us the best co-op in the country!" Mueller added.

"We are thrilled to receive our latest ACSI score. We have been working hard over the past few years to improve member satisfaction ..."

BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO



YOUR 2022 CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION NOTICE HAS ARRIVED TO YOUR MAILBOX!

Statements were mailed to all our co-op members at the end of July. As a valued member, your allocation notice details the amount of capital credits (in dollars) you have been allocated in 2022 and the source of these credits.



Learn more at weci.net/2022-allocation-statement or scan our QR code. Questions? wecibi@weci.net or call your local office today!

SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SOLAR POWER WITHOUT THE COST OF INSTALLING ROOFTOP PANELS

- ☀️ AN AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OWNING AND MAINTAINING A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM
- ☀️ NO ROOF DAMAGE
- ☀️ NO LARGE, UPFRONT INVESTMENT
- ☀️ SIMPLE SIGN-UP AND BILLING
- ☀️ AVAILABLE TO OWNERS AND RENTERS
- ☀️ EASY WAY TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

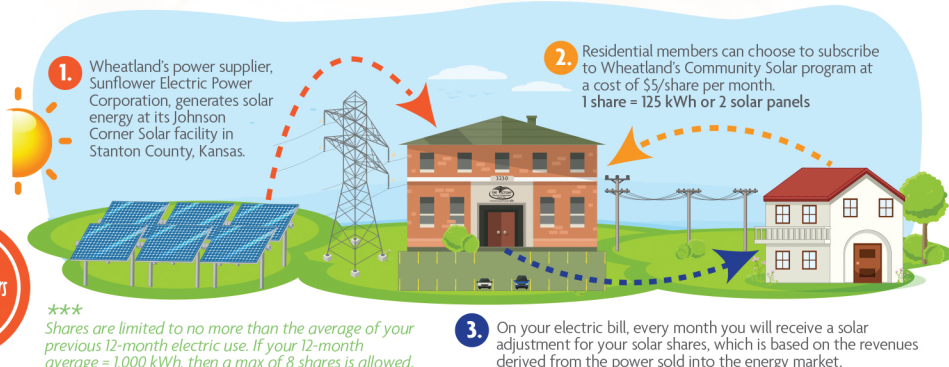
We're removing barriers to solar energy

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JANUARY 2024

Solar Made Easy!

Wheatland Electric Cooperative COMMUNITY SOLAR



CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:



WECI.NET



CALL YOUR LOCAL OFFICE



It's Time for a Cost-of-Service Study

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cost of providing electricity to our members. The other 30% is WEC's costs (expenses) to deliver electricity to 34,000 plus meters.

► **WEC'S COSTS:** typical changes in costs include:

- Materials (poles, transformers, etc.).
- Fuel for co-op vehicles.
- Repair and maintenance of equipment and facilities.
- Wages and benefits.
- Regulations and compliance (EPA regulation, wildlife habitat mitigation, etc.).

Why Is WEC Evaluating Its Rates Now?

WEC's Board of Trustees requested staff conduct a COSS this year. The purpose was two-fold. First, the board wanted to ensure WEC would have adequate revenues for the next few years. Secondly, the board wanted to make sure the financial integrity and obligations of the cooperative will be adequately achieved.

WEC last increased its rates in 2016. The time before that was 2009 in the west service territory and 2011 in the east service territory. That has been seven years ago and many of the expenses outlined above have increased dramatically since then. High inflation over the past two years has added even more increases to those expenses. I would like to point out that WEC did adjust rates starting in 2020, but that was a revenue neutral rate adjustment, meaning the service availability charge went up, but the kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges went down.

What Has WEC Done to Manage the Rates of Our Members?

WEC continually looks for ways to minimize costs. One way WEC has

helped to control costs is through the use of new technologies.

The installation of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) in conjunction with the SmartHub mobile app allows members like you to manage your electricity costs, while assisting WEC in recognizing potential service issues and restoring service quickly and efficiently. By removing the need to dispatch personnel to read meters, connect service to new members, or to quickly locate outages, WEC is reducing operating costs while providing superior service to the membership.

WEC has also implemented a new purchase order process that allows the cooperative to save money on bulk purchases.

WEC acts as an advocate for our member-owners by representing WEC on the board of directors at Sunflower and Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. our statewide organization. These roles enable WEC to participate in the budget processes of both organizations.

Lastly, the WEC Board of Trustees governs the budget and planning process at our cooperative. These trustees, who are elected by the membership, represent the member's interests and ensure that WEC can provide safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity.

What's Next?

We will continue to update you with information in *Kansas Country Living* magazine as we continue to work on and finalize the COSS results. A meeting notice will be sent to the membership in an upcoming edition of the magazine announcing when the WEC Board of Trustees will consider action on the proposed COSS.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

Stevens to Represent Kansas at 2024 National Meeting

BRINLIE STEVENS, a high school senior from Scott Community High School, was selected to represent Kansas on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) at the the 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) PowerXChange in San Antonio, Texas.



Brinlie Stevens in front of the White House.

Stevens, along with Ashlyn Howard, a senior from Great Bend High School, represented Wheatland in June during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Electric cooperatives across Kansas select students who travel to Washington, D.C., and visit the United States Capitol, national monuments, and learn about the policy process and electric cooperatives. One Youth Tour delegate from each state is chosen to participate in YLC.

During the weeklong trip, Stevens interviewed with trip chaperones for the YLC position and was then elected by her fellow Youth Tour delegates.

Stevens, along with other YLC winners from 44 states, will take part in a series of virtual leadership meetings throughout this fall, which will culminate with their participation in the PowerXChange conference Feb. 29-March 6, 2024.

For Stevens, the Youth Tour trip in June was an inspirational experience, she said.

"Seeing all the things that we have been learning about in history since we were little kids was so amazing," Stevens said. "It was incredible to see how generous our electric cooperatives are in providing an experience like this."

As a part of NRECA's PowerXChange meeting, the YLC students will open the general session in front of thousands of electric cooperative representatives from around the country and assist with the meeting, expo, and education forum breakout sessions.

Congratulations, Brinlie Stevens! Thank you for representing our great state and WEC!



5th Annual
CO-OPS CARE
Charity Golf Tournament



SEPT. 15, 2023

Golf Club at Southwind
Garden City

8 A.M. REGISTRATION	4-MAN SCRAMBLE
9 A.M. SHOTGUN START	\$100/PLAYER
	\$400/TEAM



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the
PANTRY
50K in 2023

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