


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts discussed in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Kansas, what does grid resiliency mean for you as a Wheatland Electric Cooperative member?

Resiliency is many things—it's reliability in your electric service, it's Wheatland's ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve your distribution electric service without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how Wheatland delivers on our Mission: Delivering Energy for Life.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities

on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, Wheatland regularly conducts pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. If we find a weak or damaged pole, we replace that pole to ensure it is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Living in Kansas, we know that significant power outages can occur because of inclement weather year-round. Whether we're at the mercy of tornadoes, thunderstorms or winter storms, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

When it comes to providing our members with resilient service, this is what we work toward—day in and day out!

Until next time, take care.



Bruce W. Mueller

Co-op Connections® Card

We've Got Connections

When you think about finding a great deal on food, shopping or hotel stays, where do you look? We hope you think first of your Co-op Connections card! This is a great benefit that Wheatland offers to its members. There are a lot of great local and national deals along with many other savings tools.

The Co-op Connections card app can be downloaded at www.connections.coop. This app provides a virtual card with discount information right on your phone. You can also use your phone's GPS feature to find nearby businesses that accept the card, and identify and save your favorite discount deals in "My Deals" for easy access.

The www.connections.coop website is a great place to find all the deals and steals that this card provides. Here are just some of the ways you can save money:

- ▶ Local deals around your community;
- ▶ Healthy savings discounts for prescriptions, dental and more;
- ▶ Cash back online shopping at over 3,000 retailers;
- ▶ Hotels savings at more than 400,000 hotels;
- ▶ Save 10 percent on all concerts, sports events, and theaters;

- ▶ Insurance savings to protect your family; and
- ▶ National discounts to help you save money wherever you travel.

If your business would like to participate in the Co-op Connections Card Program, please contact us at connectionscard@weci.net. Still need a Connections Card? Contact your local office for more information on how to start saving now with the Connections Card!

Your Connections App

DINING – National & local savings

SHOPPING & SERVICES – View discounts nationwide

THINGS TO DO – Visit local attractions offering discounts

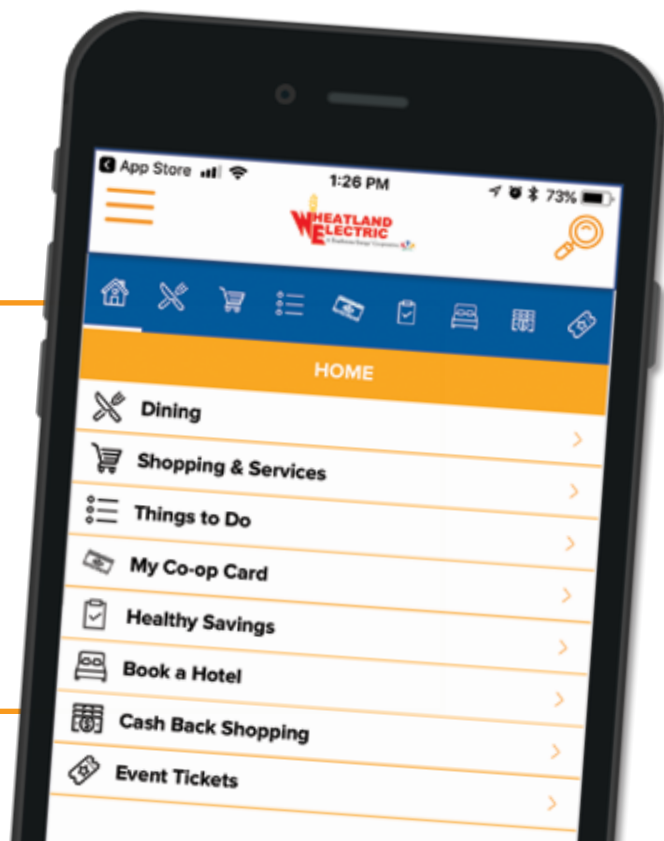
MY CO-OP CARD – Proudly show this card to get your discount

HEALTHY SAVINGS – Find prescription discounts

BOOK A HOTEL – Save at more than 400,000 hotels

CASH BACK SHOPPING – Get cash back on online shopping

EVENT TICKETS – Save 10% concerts, sports events & theater tickets



Start Shopping, Start Saving



Healthy Savings



Co-op Deals



Book a Hotel



Shop Online and
Get Cash Back



Book a Concert or
Sporting Event



National
Discounts

Don't Forget These Great Local Deals

Everything from coffee to clothing to candles. Check out these available deals!

- ▶ **A440 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**, Great Bend
15% off accessories
- ▶ **AJ GRAPHICS**, Garden City
10% off all products
- ▶ **BECKER TIRE & TREADING, INC.**, Great Bend
\$25 off a set of new tires
- ▶ **CORNERSTONE INTERIORS**, Great Bend
Buy any Robert Rothchild Farm sauce or dip and get a sample flavor free
- ▶ **D'MARIO'S PIZZA**, Harper
Large pizza for medium charge
- ▶ **DAIRY QUEEN**, Scott City
Buy one Orange Julius, get one FREE
- ▶ **EZ TAN**, Great Bend
\$10 off any tanning package
- ▶ **FIRST NATIONAL BANK**, Scott City
10% off any purchase of \$50 or more
- ▶ **GIFTS, ETC.**, Scott City
\$5 off a Trapp Candle (limit one per visit)
- ▶ **GREAT BEND COFFEE**, Great Bend
½ off coffee drinks from 2-3 p.m. Monday-Friday
- ▶ **HAIRPORT**, Harper
Buy 4 products get 1 FREE
- ▶ **HAIRPORT**, Harper
25% off haircut for new clients
- ▶ **HAMILTON COUNTY MUSEUM**, Syracuse
FREE admission
- ▶ **HIGH CALL OUTFITTERS**, Great Bend
Denim-Buy one get one half off
- ▶ **KEY OFFICE**, Garden City
For every \$100 spent, Key will donate \$5 to the PEAR Program
- ▶ **LIFETEAM**, Newton
30% off a Lifeteam Membership
- ▶ **MARIA'S MEXICAN GRILL**, Great Bend
Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage
- ▶ **MIDWEST APPLIANCE SERVICE**, Great Bend
5% off parts and labor
- ▶ **NORTHROP THEATRE**, Syracuse
\$1 off medium or large special (tub of popcorn and two drinks)
- ▶ **NOSTALGIA NOOK**, Caldwell
10% off select items on Saturdays
- ▶ **OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC.**, Great Bend
Copiers and printers over \$500, 90 days no interest. Subject to finance charges after.
- ▶ **PAPER GRAPHICS INC.**, Garden City
\$25 off graphic design services
- ▶ **PERKS**, Great Bend
20% off specialty drinks on Saturdays
- ▶ **PIZZA HUT**, Scott City
Large pizza for medium charge
- ▶ **PLAYA AZUL**, Great Bend
Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage
- ▶ **RENEWAL BY ANDERSON**, Great Bend
FREE installation
- ▶ **REVCOM ELECTRONICS**, Scott City
Buy two packs of batteries, get one FREE
- ▶ **REVOLT TECHNOLOGY GROUP LLC**, Garden City
10% discount on networking, security and computer services
- ▶ **SUPERIOR CAR CARE CENTER**, Syracuse
FREE alignment check
- ▶ **SUZY B'S FLOWERS & MORE**, Scott City
\$1 off a pound of any bulk Jelly Belly Jelly Beans
- ▶ **TATE'S**, Scott City
Buy one get one half off cheeseburger (excludes specialty burgers)
- ▶ **THE BROILER RESTAURANT & CLUB**, Scott City
2 (1/4 lb.) rack of ribs baskets for \$8.95 on Thursday nights
- ▶ **THE COUNTRY STORE**, Scott City
20% off lasered pictures through Christmas
- ▶ **THE GREEN HAUS**, Scott City
Buy three geraniums get one FREE
- ▶ **THE RED BARN FAMILY RESTAURANT**, Caldwell
Buy a dinner special and get a second for ½ off or \$2 off any large pizza
- ▶ **THE TAYLOR HOUSE**, Scott City
15% off flavored espresso drinks 10 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday
- ▶ **THE YMCA OF SOUTHWEST KANSAS**, Garden City
Joining fee waived for new members
- ▶ **TNT RENOVATIONS, INC.**, Great Bend
\$10 off any service or \$20 off any service over \$200
- ▶ **YOURS TRULY**, Great Bend
25% off on regularly priced item

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Understanding Appliance Energy Use

BY PAT KEEGAN AND BRAD THIESSEN



Patrick Keegan



Brad Thiessen

DEAR PAT AND BRAD: Several of my appliances are getting older and will need to be replaced soon. Will the appliance choices I make have much impact on my energy bill?
— Chelsea

DEAR CHELSEA: Your energy use varies month to month, so it can be difficult to see how much difference an appliance purchase makes. It's best to view the purchase over the lifetime of the equipment. Think about the up-front cost and the lifetime energy cost. In a *Consumer Reports* test, the most efficient refrigerator used \$68/year less electricity than the least efficient model. Multiply that difference over a decade or two, and the lifetime energy savings could be greater than the up-front cost. All it takes to get the best appliance for your needs is some initial research.

Appliance energy use is usually less, on average, than home heating and cooling bills, but can be several hundred dollars each year. Your appliance use depends on factors like the model, how

often you use it, the settings you use for its particular function and even the time of day it is most used.

Over the last few decades, new appliances became more energy efficient, driven partly by minimum government standards. These standards, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, save consumers more than \$60 billion each year. Appliances are required to include an Energy Guide label that shows estimated energy use and operating cost per year. These labels help you compare different models and calculate the initial cost against the long-term savings.

Some appliances will also have an ENERGY STAR label. This indicates the appliance is substantially more efficient than the minimum standard. Your greatest energy savings opportunities can come from replacing an old appliance with an ENERGY STAR-rated appliance. Removing a refrigerator that's 20 years old and replacing it with a new ENERGY STAR model can lower the monthly electricity cost by 75 percent,

Continued on page 16F ▶



PIXABAY, CREATIVE COMMONS

All the most efficient 2018 models of washers and dryers were front-loading.



PIXABAY, CREATIVE COMMONS

A new ENERGY STAR fridge/freezer can use 70 percent less energy than a model that's 10-plus years old. Models with the fridge above the freezer are two-thirds more efficient than side-by-side models.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL **FOOD BANK!** SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER



WATCH FOR THE
BIG RED VAN
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Drop off non-perishable
food items at your local
Wheatland Electric office
and we'll deliver to your
local food bank at the
end of October!

Understanding Appliance Energy Use *Continued from page 16D*

from \$16.50 to less than \$4.

In some cases, the configuration of the appliance can also make a substantial difference. For example, a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer uses about 70 percent more energy than other configurations, with the most efficient models having the refrigerator stacked on top of the freezer. All 36 of the most efficient clothes washers of 2018 are front-loading models.

Consider how much you use the appliance. The more you use the appliance the greater your savings will be from choosing a more efficient model. If you use the appliance less or have a small household, you may get by with a smaller refrigerator or freezer, which will save you money.

How you operate appliances can also make a difference. Here are some easy ways to save.

Refrigerator/Freezer

- ▶ Set your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees and your freezer at zero degrees.
- ▶ Make sure there is adequate air flow between the wall and the back of the unit.
- ▶ Keep the refrigerator relatively full when possible.



GETTY IMAGES/DAISY-DAISY

Check to make sure your dishwasher is full before starting the cycle to save on energy.



PIXABAY, CREATIVE COMMONS

To maximize energy savings when using your stove top, be sure to match the size of the pot to the burner.

- ▶ Replace the seals around the doors if they appear to be leaking air.
- ▶ Defrost the refrigerator and freezer regularly.

Stove/Oven

- ▶ Use the correct size of burner to fit the pan.
- ▶ Use smaller appliances like a microwave or slow cooker instead of the oven when possible.

Dishwasher

- ▶ Use the most energy-efficient and shortest setting that gets your dishes clean.
- ▶ Air dry rather than use the heated dry function.
- ▶ Wait to run a load until the dishwasher is full.

Make the most out of your appliance energy use with a little research before buying a new model and a few easy adjustments to the way you use them.

This column was co-written by **PAT KEEGAN** and **BRAD THIESSEN** of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on saving energy on your appliances, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

SAFETY Tip of the Month

When preparing to go on vacation, be cautious about sharing your plans on social media. Try to wait until you are back home to post photos and comments or you will be announcing to would-be thieves exactly when your home will be vacant.

Saturday, Aug. 18 | The Golf Club at Southwind in Garden City | 9 a.m. Shotgun Start

GOOLF

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TOURNAMENT

TO REGISTER | 3 FLIGHTS WITH 3 PRIZES PER FLIGHT

CALL 620-275-4080

OR EMAIL

ACONINE@WECI.NET

1st Place \$75 | 2nd Place \$60 | 3rd Place \$45

\$70 per person (includes cart & lunch)

4-man scramble

Breakfast provided



**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
Delivering Energy for Life
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



QUINTEN WHEELER
Manager of Safety and Compliance

A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY ALLI CONINE

Many areas of safety must be recognized at Wheatland Electric: member safety, employee safety, community-wide safety

education, electrical safety and the list goes on. Safety is at the forefront of the co-op's daily operations. **QUINTEN WHEELER**, manager of safety and compliance, is tasked with the responsibility of making sure employees approach their daily responsibilities with an intense focus on safety. He has been in this role since July 2017.

I started the day by asking Quinten what his typical day is like. He quickly answered that no day is the same and that's one of the reasons he enjoys his job so much. Each day starts by reviewing job briefings filled out by each crew. Every day is different; one crew might have several jobs in one day and another might only have one. Job briefings are also done after-hours, allowing linemen to slow down and analyze job situations and/or hazards promoting a safer work environment. Quinten gets alerts now that job briefings are being done electronically. This gives him the ability to view, monitor and manage jobs. He's always aware of where the crews are. Quinten makes an effort to get out and see all seven crews in addition to their monthly safety meetings.

Quinten talked about the number of serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) among co-op lineworkers across the country and how the numbers remain high. It's a trend that Quinten and Wheatland want to stop through a new initiative of NRECA and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange called

"Commitment to Zero Contact." Bruce Mueller, general manager, signed the commitment at a recent meeting. Wheatland is one of eight Kansas co-ops to date that have pledged to work safer and smarter. Creating a strong culture of safety is THE top priority at Wheatland, and Quinten is excited for the co-op to be part of it.

We talked a lot about how different his current job is compared to when he worked as a lineman. He said it was a big change, but a good one. Each month Quinten travels to five different locations to hold safety meetings and trainings he coordinates with Kansas Electric Cooperatives' staff. He understands the importance of record keeping—everything has to be documented. And to stay current with safety regulations he reads, A LOT! In addition, Quinten is working to earn the Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP) credential, which serves as a benchmark of competency and commitment to safety in the industry.

In his free time, Quinten enjoys golfing, hunting and fishing. He and wife, Julie, have four kids: Kale, 14; Emma, 12; Matthew, 10; and Noah, 7. We also talked about our families, and after listening to Quinten, you know his family is his number one priority.

When I asked what he loved most about Wheatland, he said the people. He said there is vast knowledge within the company—well-trained linemen who have gained significant experience through a variety of different situations and know how to do things right. He believes this is why Wheatland has such a high standard of safety.

ALLI CONINE, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications