




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885
www.weci.net

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Co-op 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
N. Hwy. 25, P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885
101 Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
Syracuse — 620-384-5171
206 1/2 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

The Holidays are the Perfect Time to Reflect

The holidays are the best time of the year. A time of comfort and nostalgia, and a time for family gatherings and traditions that warm the heart and fill the senses.

The holidays are also a time for reflection. And I'm grateful not only for my own family but for our co-op family, too. At Wheatland, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because this is our home, too.

These feelings were most evident as we completed our latest Cram the Van deliveries just this past month, including delivery of tens of thousands of pounds of food and several thousands of dollars to nearly a dozen local food banks across our southwest and south central Kansas communities. This would not have been possible without the effort of

multiple employees, volunteers, area schools who partnered with us to hold food drive competitions, and members like you. As we crunch the numbers and make our last deliveries, next month we'll be sharing total pounds of food collected in each of our communities. As we head into the holidays, it warms my heart to consider that for eight consecutive years, you've shown us why Cram the Van is worth all the effort: to make sure our local food banks are stocked ahead of the holidays and provide assistance to our neighbors in need.



Bruce W. Mueller

\$1 Million Capital Credits

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, **WE WILL NOT BE HOSTING OUR TRADITIONAL CAPITAL CREDITS**

Continued on page 16E ►

Notice of Open Meeting to Discuss Experimental Commercial Electric Vehicle Charging Station Tariff

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees will convene a meeting on Dec. 21, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Wheatland Broadband Office (Bryan Conference Center), 416 S. Main in Scott City, Kansas. During the meeting, Wheatland Trustees and management will be discussing and voting on a potential Experimental Commercial Electric Vehicle Charging Station Tariff based on the findings of consultant, C.H. Guernsey.

The portion of the meeting where rate changes are discussed and voted on is open to all members. For more information regarding any potential rate adjustments, visit www.weci.net. Wheatland members are advised that any member has a right to receive customer information and request that the Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas review the rate changes pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d(g).

Learning from Winter 2021, Preparing for Winter 2022

How Wheatland and Sunflower are working together to protect against electric energy market blowouts

A polar vortex across the country caused historically low temperatures and 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 to move power from state to state and region to region. During this winter weather event, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which acts as the regional transmission operator and balancing authority over 14 states across the Midwest, declared multiple emergency situations. Many electric cooperatives, including ours, were forced to institute rolling outages due to the inability of electric generation supply to meet demand. The combination of lower supply and higher demand resulted in record-high electric and natural gas prices.

Winter Storm Uri was a historic event, but now that it has occurred, we would be foolish to think it could never happen again.

There are indicators that we could be heading towards higher energy prices in 2022. After the extremely high prices last February, natural gas prices stabilized, but they have since doubled. Current natural gas price projections for January and February 2022 are approximately two times higher than average. If these prices play out, the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your electric bill will increase even without a weather event.

Sunflower, Wheatland's power supplier, takes a cost-based approach in its utilization of electric generation resources — natural gas, coal, wind, solar and hydro — resulting in more affordable energy. In late September, the Sunflower board approved additional hedging strategies. A fixed-price energy block was purchased to cover the portion of member load above Holcomb Station's dispatchable generation capability. Sunflower Electric Power Corporation designed and constructed Holcomb Station as a reliable, economic and environmentally responsible source of electric power for western Kansas. Being able to use this as a source of energy last February saved members approximately 20 cents per kWh during Winter Storm Uri.

What does this mean on my electric bill?

There are two components to your electric bill: the **PRICE PER KILOWATT-HOUR**, which is the unit of measurement for electricity, and how much electricity you use. The price for electricity is set in Wheatland's tariffs, but the amount of electricity that you use varies with each monthly bill.

The **POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA)** is a rate mechanism electric utilities use to recover fluctuating purchased power costs. The PCA **FLUCTUATES MONTHLY** and serves as a pass-through charge (or credit) related to the cost of producing electricity.

How does energy hedging work?

HEDGING CAN KEEP COSTS DOWN. The same strategy holds for natural gas. Energy hedging can protect G&T's, like Sunflower, against the risk of unexpected price surges, and prices can be locked in for future output to help meet — or surpass — financial targets.

Additionally, a financial natural gas swap was purchased to lock in the price of natural gas for the quantity of natural gas expected to be consumed by Sunflower's gas-fired units.

Even with the additional hedging strategies, Sunflower is projecting the monthly PCA's to be higher than average due to the expected long-term duration of the increased natural gas prices.

When utilities develop strategies to hedge against the market price of energy, the concept is similar to purchasing an insurance policy. The more you're willing to spend on an insurance premium, the more protection you will get. The additional hedging products that Sunflower purchased for January and February 2022 will reduce the risk of high market energy price spikes (insurance protection), but it will also add cost if market energy prices don't spike (insurance premium).

Wheatland will continue to work with Sunflower Electric to look at additional reasonable steps to protect against electric energy market price blowouts like we experienced last February.

As always, we are here for your questions or concerns. Call your local Wheatland office or send us a message at memberservices@weci.net.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

The holiday lighting season is here! Make sure to inspect all decorations for frayed or pinched wires. Also, never string together multiple extension cords or run them under rugs, carpets or furniture as this poses a fire hazard. Make sure any lighting used outdoors is labeled for outdoor use.



Yes WE Can!

We've just wrapped up our eighth consecutive year of Cram the Van, our annual food drive, and what a successful season it's been! As of today, all our cash and can donations collected at community events, school drives, our office locations, and more have now been delivered to nearly a dozen food banks, to stock shelves and feed hungry families ahead of this holiday season. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of members like you and the communities we serve across our southwest and south-central territory.

Stay tuned, as we'll be sharing total figures and more information about this year's Cram the Van season in next month's issue of *Kansas Country Living*!

**WE'RE
RETIRING
ANOTHER**

\$1 MILLION!

**IN
CAPITAL
CREDITS**



Wheatland Retires \$1 MILLION in Capital Credits

We're retiring the funds — and you're getting the credit!

Eligible members will see their capital credits in the form of a bill credit this month, visible either via SmartHub or on their paper bill.

Because electric cooperatives like ours operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to cooperative members in the form of capital credits.

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees voted in September to retire \$1 million in capital credits to eligible members.

The credit amount that members will receive this December is based on the amount of electricity used (kilowatt-hours) in 1989 and 2020, and their duration of membership.

These allocations reflect members' contributions of capital to the cooperative and ownership of the cooperative during these two calendar years. So, the more electricity you buy and the longer you use service, the more monetary equity (allocations) you accumulate.

Every year, our trustees evaluate the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if we can retire capital credits. That's because one of the Seven Cooperative Principles is Members' Economic Participation. Capital credits is just one way we honor the cooperative spirit!

Capital credits are just one more way it pays to be a cooperative member! Questions? Learn more at weci.net/capital-credits or contact your local Wheatland office.



\$1,000

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ONLY 14 AVAILABLE!

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FEB. 1, 2022

GRADUATING SENIORS ATTENDING A HIGH SCHOOL ON WHEATLAND ELECTRIC LINES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

AND ONE AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP IS AVAILABLE

MORE INFO AT WWW.WECI.NET

2021 - 2022

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Wheatland Electric will not be participating in the 2022 Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

This year, **WE** will award *four*



\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY!

VISIT **WWW.WECL.NET/YOUTH-TOUR-PROGRAM**
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



The Holidays are the Perfect Time to Reflect *Continued from page 16A ►*

HARVEST DAYS at each of our district offices as we normally do each December. However, eligible members will still see their capital credit refund as a credit on their December bill this month. Earlier this fall, Wheatland's Board of Trustees chose to retire, or pay out, \$750,000 in capital credits to eligible members from 1989 and 2020, thanks to the financial strength of our cooperative. Sunflower Electric's Board of Trustees also approved retiring capital credits to its membership. (Wheatland Electric is a member of Sunflower.) Our Wheatland trustees approved \$250,000 of Sunflower's retired capital credits to be paid to our members. **THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL RETIREMENT TO \$1,000,000.**

How much eligible members will receive depends on how much electricity they used in the two payout years and how long they've been a Wheatland member. Those WEC members will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years.

Inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from WEC, but who were distribution members during those years will be receiving a check in the mail for their capital credits (if the amount is \$20 or more). It is very important that WEC has the current mailing address of all inactive members to ensure the delivery of the capital credits checks. To confirm or update your mailing address, please call us at 800-762-0436.

Learning from Winter 2021, Preparing for Winter 2022

Winter Storm Uri was a historic event, but now that it has occurred, we would be foolish to think it could never happen again.

After the extremely high prices last February, natural gas prices recovered to \$2.60/MMBtu in March 2021, but they have doubled since then. Current natural gas price projections for January and February 2022 are approximately \$6/MMBtu. The increase in natural gas prices has led to a corresponding increase in market electricity prices. Read more on page 16B about the efforts taken by Wheatland Electric and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation to protect against electric energy market blowouts like we experienced last February.

Season's Greetings

In this month's local pages, you will see a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting from all of the Wheatland employees (including the Water and Broadband divisions) and board of trustees. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

As we reflect on this holiday season, I'm grateful for the many wonderful community partners, employees, and our cooperative making a positive impact in the communities we serve. On behalf of our team at Wheatland Electric, I know the future will be bright as we carry out our mission to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE**. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.







District 7 – Harper



Wheatland Broadband – Scott City



Water Division – Garden City



WE WISH YOU
**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 24, for the Christmas holiday.

We will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, for the new year.

FROM ALL OF US AT
**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
Delivering Energy for Life
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Holiday Lights CONTEST

*Show us your dazzling display and
be entered to win bill credits!*

Begins Nov. 26 at 8 am

Ends Dec. 17 at 11:59 pm

3 WINNERS

receive bill credits

1ST \$200

2ND \$150

3RD \$100

WINNERS

ANNOUNCED DEC. 23

on our Wheatland
Electric Facebook page

Submit Your Entry

Send **PHOTO or VIDEO** to sdonecker@weci.net
or submit via Facebook message to
Wheatland's Facebook page. The decorated
property submitted for consideration
must be owned or rented by the member
submitting the property to the contest.

