

WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS



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Harper, KS 67058

Leoti — 620-375-2632

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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

Why Your Participation Powers Our Annual Meeting in April



Bruce W. Mueller

On behalf of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), I'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 27, 2022, for our 74th Wheatland

Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting.

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road in Scott City, Kansas, and seven other remote locations near you: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

We look forward to gathering with you — the members of WEC — at each of these locations to listen, learn and enjoy good food and fellowship. We will have great door prizes to give away, and we'll be announcing the winners of the 2022 high school senior and junior scholarships.

This event is not only a chance to visit with other members of the cooperative, but also a great opportunity to learn about what we've accomplished in the previous year, and what we are planning in the upcoming year and beyond. It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of

the greatest benefits of being a member of WEC, by voting for the **UPCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES**.

WEC is not owned by far away investors. We're run by a democratically **ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, which is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. Our trustees are members of your community, and they are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

You may be thinking, "what's in it for me?" As a member of WEC, you have a valuable perspective — and we invite you to share it with us at this year's annual meeting. Maybe you feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting.

However, every energy bill you pay to WEC helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and so we're always ready to hear from you, as it enables us to make better decisions as we plan for the future.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ONE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEATS up for election, the process is outlined on Page 12E.

Continued on page 12E ▶

ChooseEV[®]

with Our New Digital Toolkit!

At Wheatland Electric we're proud to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE**. That means providing essential services that are safe, reliable and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our cooperative members. As electric vehicles, or EVs, become more and more popular, we're also here to **DRIVE ENERGY FOR LIFE ...** for your pocketbook and our planet!

Purchasing an EV is a little different than purchasing a gas-powered vehicle. It is important to understand key elements, such as vehicle range per charge and how tax credits work. That's why we've partnered with the folks over at

ChooseEV to provide members like you with the digital tools necessary to make smart and informed decisions about driving electric.

You can now access these tools directly on our website — www.weci.net/electric-vehicle — using your smartphone or any computer device! Here are the typical steps to take when considering an EV for yourself, your family or your business:

1. Find out if an EV is right for you.
2. Choose an EV model.
3. Find rebates, tax credits, incentives and discounts.
4. Test drive and purchase your new EV.
5. Install a Level 2 240V charging system.

Our ChooseEV digital tool kit will help you navigate each of these steps and boasts the latest and most up-to-date market information about EV models, tax incentives and charging systems that are available to consumers across the country right now.

Let's take a deeper dive into these tools:

Is an EV Right for You?

Most of today's electric vehicles have a driving range per charge between 50 to 330 miles. If your daily commute is under 250 miles per day, there is likely an affordable EV model that will fit your needs.

Currently, EVs work well for households with more than one vehicle and represent a big opportunity for families to save money while improving the quality of the environment. That's because one vehicle can be used for long distances, while the EV can be used for the daily work commute and errands.

By the way, when you're looking at EVs, be sure to check the "range per charge" for the vehicle. This is the number of miles the car can typically drive between full charges. For example, if the range per charge for an EV is 200 miles and your daily commute is 60 miles, you should be able to go about three days between charges (60 miles + 60 miles + 60 miles = 180 miles).

More information about EVs, batteries, vehicle charging options, and maintenance is available under the **EV FACTS** section on our ChooseEV toolkit!

Choose Your EV

Already in the market for a specific EV or want to compare what the latest EVs on the market have to offer? Our **VIEW EV MODELS** interactive tool allows you to do exactly that and more.

Explore both all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles by type, manufacturer, driving range, or even the number of seats you need in your next car! You can even sort by price and driving range to find what works best for your wallet and lifestyle.

The interactive tool even showcases what federal tax credits might be available for specific vehicles, making purchasing and savings calculations that much simpler!



Calculate your Savings

One of the coolest pieces of our new digital toolkit is a **SAVINGS CALCULATOR** that can compare what you're driving now and paying for gas, with what you would pay if you invested in a specific EV model.

Input the number of miles you drive each day, how often you drive, and your current vehicle and compare with literally any EV available on the market today. For many, the cost savings can contribute to hundreds, potentially thousands of dollars per year, given that the average EV costs drivers roughly \$1.20 per gallon for the same driving distance offered by their gas cousins.

The cost-savings simply can't be denied, and this interactive tool helps illustrate just how much you can save in the long-term.

Explore Additional Incentives

Tax credits at both the state and national level are available for purchasing and operating electric vehicles.

The IRS, for example, offers a federal tax credit up to \$1,000 for individuals who purchase and install charging equipment.

All this information, including new rebates or incentives as they become available, is found in our digital toolkit under **INCENTIVES & TAX CREDITS**.

Install a Level 2 Charger at Home

Because most EV charging happens at home or at work, Level

As both vehicle industry and consumer behaviors shift, Wheatland Electric is ready for great things are on the road ahead!


2 charging — sometimes called AC charging — is the best choice for everyday charging, adding about 25 miles of range per hour (RPH).

Before you install an at-home EV charger, however, you'll need to purchase one from a trusted source. That's why our digital toolkit provides information about some of the best 240-volt Level 2 chargers on the market today. And you'll find this information listed under **HOME CHARGERS**.

We're excited to share that we've even partnered with trusted, local electricians in your area to make purchasing, setup and installation of an at-home charging station easier than ever. Contact our offices today to get started!

Charging Forward

As both the vehicle industry and consumer behaviors shift, Wheatland Electric is ready for great things on the road ahead! The EV industry is gaining momentum as prices drop and driving ranges expand. As these trends continue, we'll be ready to help our cooperative members "fuel up" and steer forward as we **DRIVE ENERGY FOR LIFE!**






Ride + Drive

**100% ELECTRIC
100% POWERED BY
YOUR CO-OP**

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC
Driving Energy for Life

**100% ELECTRIC POWERED
BY YOUR CO-OP**

Come TEST DRIVE our ALL-ELECTRIC VEHICLE at any one of these spring events!

 03.31.22 GREAT BEND	Great Bend Chamber Coffee	Wheatland Electric, 200 10th St. (Immediately following 9:30 AM meeting)
 04.07.22 SCOTT CITY	Sunflower Electric Electrally	Spencer Flight+Education Center 300 Mesquite Rd. (10 AM- 1 PM)
 04.27.22 SCOTT CITY	74th Annual Meeting	Scott Community Building 600 Fairground Rd. (10:30-11:30 AM & 1:30-2:30 PM)

The Wheatland *Difference*

“People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Electricity is electricity, but does it truly make a difference where you get it?

Unlike the big for-profit electric conglomerates out to maximize shareholder earnings, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) is a nonprofit organization owned by you, our members. 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.

But what else sets Wheatland Electric apart?

One of our Seven Cooperative Principles is Concern for Community. While focusing on member needs, we work for the sustainable development of our communities. We understand the struggles and needs of our communities because we live, work and volunteer right alongside you.

How does Wheatland Electric give back to the community?

CRAM THE VAN — With your help, in 2021 Wheatland’s Cram the Van food drive collected 44,576 pounds of cash and can donations for our local food banks. This brings our combined eight-year total to over 86 tons of food!

We do this by hosting six school-wide competitions, donation events, the annual Co-



WEC’s annual Cram the Van campaign helps restock local food pantries in our service territory ahead of the holidays.

ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, and online collection efforts. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Cram the Van events beginning this September!

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS — Each year, Wheatland awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a senior at each of the 13 schools in our service territory, as well as one at-large award for a member’s child not attending a school in our service territory. Seniors planning to attend an accredited university, community college or technical school can apply for consideration from November through January each year.

YOUTH TOUR AND COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP — High school juniors, whose primary residence is in the WEC service area, can apply for the opportunity to attend a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about our nation’s government and how rural electric cooperatives interact with legislators. Additional applicants are selected to attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at the Glen Eden Resort, located just north of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to learn about cooperatives and government and further develop communication and leadership skills. Juniors can apply for consideration from November through January each year.

SHARING SUCCESS FUND — Wheatland’s Sharing Success program awards \$1,000 grants to local organizations to help fund special projects.



General Manager Bruce W. Mueller (left) presents Conway Springs High School student Owen Balman with a \$1,000 scholarship at Wheatland’s 2021 Annual Meeting in Great Bend.



The Scott Recreation Commission Wellness Center was built in 2020 through the combined support of the Scott Community Foundation's Wellness Fund and a WEC loan through the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan Grant program.

These grants are made possible through contributions by WEC and CoBank and are administered by the Scott Community Foundation.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS — WEC is committed to economic growth in the communities we serve. This is why we have loaned more than **\$2 MILLION** for community and economic development projects in the form of zero-interest loans and grants. This is done in partnership with the USDA.

BOTTLED WATER — Each year, WEC donates hundreds of cases of water for community events. It's another way we give back to the community, saving worthy organizations the cost of purchasing bottled water for their events.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS — Christmas can be a difficult time for many, but it is especially difficult for children in our foster care system. For the past five years, WEC employees and trustees have opened their hearts to sponsor children, by providing gifts and donations to Saint Francis Ministries' Christmas Wish List program, helping to make the holidays a little brighter for area children.

How can you get more involved?

Wheatland Electric values member engagement, and we encourage you to attend our annual meeting on April 27, 2022, to learn more about your cooperative.

We also would like to get your feedback. Beginning in March, you may be contacted to participate in a short survey about us. This survey is conducted via email contact, and will help us to better serve you, our member-owners.

Why Your Participation Powers Our Annual Meeting *Continued from page 12A* ▶

Please contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel/assistant general manager, at 620-786-6017 if you have any questions.

- ▶ **NOMINATION BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** Every year, the board of trustees appoints a nomination committee. The committee is made up of one member from each of our seven districts. You are welcome to contact WEC to get the contact information for your fellow member who represents your district on the nomination committee.
- ▶ **NOMINATION BY A PETITION OF MEMBERS.** Fifteen members, or more, of WEC can nominate any member as a candidate for trustee. These nominations by petition must be sent to WEC at least 40 days before the annual meeting. However, if your petition doesn't make it in time, that petitioned nominee will be presented as a candidate at the annual meeting and considered a nomination from the floor. That candidate would then be a "write-in candidate" at the meeting.
- ▶ **NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR.** Any member can make

a nomination from the floor at the annual meeting to present a member as a trustee candidate. For the fourth consecutive year, we'll be hosting **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** in: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell. (See a full list of meeting address locations on 12G). Members in attendance at **ANY LOCATION** will be able to:

- ▶ **ATTEND**
- ▶ **NOMINATE**
- ▶ **VOTE**
- ▶ **WIN A DOOR PRIZE (IF SELECTED)**

Lunch will be provided at every location. Mark your calendar for our **74TH WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ANNUAL MEETING** on April 27, 2022, and exercise your rights as a member. Because when members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

Is Rooftop Solar Right for YOU?



Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we're here to look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all. If you're considering a photovoltaic "solar system" for your home, there is more to consider than promised monthly savings. Here are some aspects to consider:

- ▶ Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.
- ▶ In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey "soft costs" that can cost more than the system itself, according to Energy.gov. They include permit acquisition, financing charges, and "pass-along" marketing, advertising and research costs.
- ▶ Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? How long has it been in business? Is it contracted to do business in your state?
- ▶ Are installers specially trained and certified to install solar?
- ▶ Is the work supervised by a master electrician?
- ▶ Who maintains the equipment and how much does that cost?
- ▶ Does the company carry major insurance for individuals working on your property?
- ▶ How does the system interface with your electric utility and its requirements?
- ▶ Consider whether to purchase or lease the system and what happens if you move?
- ▶ What are the safety issues surrounding solar?
- ▶ How is the power safely disconnected if needed?
- ▶ Does your utility require you to carry special insurance?

Before You Say Yes to Solar



Wheatland must approve all applications for grid interconnection, so if you're serious about solar or other renewable energy resources, contact us as early in the process as possible.

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels.

The interest in alternative energy sources is also being fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation.

However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for our members to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings.

We're Here to Help

As your trusted energy adviser, we're here to explain how our net metering tariff works and details related to the application process. After all, our "bottom line" is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service — our cooperative exists for members like you, and we constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently.

We're always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology, and we're exploring more options that will help you manage your energy use, such as our existing HVAC rebate program. Overall, we take a more holistic, objective view of how to achieve energy savings.

Serious About Solar?

We recognize that consumer interest in green energy sources is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options. For example, when assessing solar options, it might be an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements for your home, such as insulating the attic at the same time as installing solar.

As always, contact us directly with questions about solar versus traditional electric energy transmission and delivery, as well as concerns about connection to the power grid. Wheatland Electric must approve all applications for grid interconnection, so if you're serious about solar or any other renewable energy resource, it's important that you contact us as early in the process as possible. Email us at memberservices@weci.net or call your local Wheatland office today.

**Save
the Date!**

Wheatland Electric 74th Annual Meeting

April 27, 2022

**Scott Community Building,
600 Fairground Road, Scott City, KS**

Registration
11:00 AM CST
Luncheon
11:30 AM CST
Business Meeting
12:00 PM CST

Join us in Scott City or
a **remote location**
near you:

District 1 - Scott City

Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road

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 Street

District 5 - Garden City

Wheatland Electric Office, 2005 W. Fulton

District 6 - Great Bend

Wheatland Electric Office - 200 10th Street

District 7 - Harper

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 302 W. 6th Street

District 7 - Caldwell

Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First Street

**Driving Energy
for Life**

Join us as we put 2021 in the rearview and lay the road map for what's ahead with your local electric cooperative!

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a “chirping” sound, replace the battery immediately.



COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION ENDS MARCH 15

As spring draws near once again, Wheatland would like to remind you that the **Cold Weather**

Accommodation for residential members ends March 15.

For more information, please visit www.weci.net. If your service is disconnected for non-pay, please review Wheatland’s rules and regulations, found on our website under the ‘My Cooperative’ tab.

With Wheatland Electric’s Prepay Power program,

YOU HAVE THE POWER!

YOU HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY

Add funds as needed - daily, weekly, or monthly - over the phone, on the SmartHub app, or in person.

YOU HAVE THE ACCESS

See your daily usage and up-to-date account balance.

YOU HAVE THE CONTROL

Prepay Power puts you in control to pay as you go.

**NO DEPOSIT.
NO LATE FEES.
NO DUE DATES.**

PREPAY POWER

SIGN UP TODAY!