



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.

Board of Trustees

- Mark Arnold**
President
- Josh Young**
Vice President
- Stacey Addison-Howland**
Secretary
- John Kleysteuber**
Treasurer
- Wes Campbell**
Trustee
- Lynn Freese**
Trustee
- Bob Hiss**
Trustee
- Dustin Stansbury**
Trustee
- John Sullivan**
Trustee
- Mike Thon**
Trustee

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

Rates to Be Discussed on Dec. 19

Cost-of-Service Study

As I have discussed the past several months, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) engaged C.H. Guernsey to prepare a study on the costs of providing electric service and the rates WEC charges for its service (cost-of-service study). The preliminary results of the study show a need to adjust our base rates approximately 9%.

Based on rate classifications and energy consumption the rate adjustment impacts will vary, with some rate classes seeing a rate adjustment increase of more than is projected and some seeing an adjustment that is less than projected. Raising rates is never a popular decision, as no one wants higher electric bills. However, without some adjustment, WEC cannot continue to provide the level of reliable service that you, the members, expect and deserve.

The WEC Board of Trustees and management carefully consider the interests of the membership when a rate adjustment is recommended. Below is a notice for the WEC Board of Trustees meeting where proposed rate adjustments will be discussed on **TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 2023, AT 1 P.M. CST**, at the cooperative's Scott City office (warehouse meeting room, 125 S. Main St.) The portion of this meeting where rates are discussed is open to all members who wish to attend.



Bruce W. Mueller

Cram the Van Wrap-Up

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our members for their generosity over the past two months.

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Notice of Open Meeting to Discuss Rate Changes and Adjustments

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees will convene a meeting on **DEC. 19, 2023, AT 1 P.M.** at the Wheatland Electric warehouse meeting room, 125 S. Main Street in Scott City, Kansas. During the meeting, the Wheatland Board of Trustees and management will be discussing and voting on potential electric rate changes and adjustments 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. 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).

Rates to Be Discussed on Dec. 19

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The Cram the Van food drive “Power the Pantry” was a huge success, and we will share fund totals in our January issue. As of Thanksgiving, donations were delivered to our 12 food banks across the WEC service territory. These funds will be used to purchase food for our friends and neighbors this holiday season. Because of you and the WEC employees and trustees who worked hard to make this happen, Christmas will be better for many families in our communities.

Capital Credits Coming Soon

WEC will be paying out capital credits in December in the amount of \$750,000 in the form of mailed checks (\$25 minimum). These capital credits are for margins allocated during the years 1990 and 2022. The payment of these capital credits retirements does not affect the margins for 2023, as they have been allocated in past years.

Happy Holidays

Lastly, in this month’s local pages you will see a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting from all the WEC employees and board of trustees. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Top 10 Reasons to Participate in COMMUNITY SOLAR

1 NO NEED FOR SOLAR PANELS

— Community Solar allows you to access solar energy without the expense and maintenance associated with installing and managing your own solar panels!

2 FLEXIBLE PARTICIPATION — WEC offers flexibility when participating in community solar! You can participate at 50% or 100% of your eligible shares and you can move your shares up or down once a year!

3 BY PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY SOLAR, YOU ARE LITERALLY HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE SUN!

In return, your energy credits will reflect the performance of your subscribed number of shares, based on the amount of power generated by Johnson Corner and the market revenue from the power sold into the energy market.

4 IT'S EASY — There is no change to your electric service, and you'll use electricity just as you do now! The only difference is that the energy generated on your behalf at Johnson Corner will be 100% renewable energy!

5 THERE ARE NO UPFRONT COSTS associated with participation.

6 JOHNSON CORNER IS A 20 MW FACILITY and about 2,000 times larger than a typical residential rooftop solar installation. The utility-scale size of Johnson Corner provides a significantly lower price for solar energy compared to solar energy from rooftop installations because Community Solar systems have the advantage of economies of scale, meaning that costs decrease as the size of the system increases. The costs can also be spread out amongst many participants. That makes a portion of a large solar system less expensive than a comparable residential rooftop system.

How Do I Sign-Up?

1. Wheatland Electric members can subscribe on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Subscriptions will be applied to accounts starting in February 2024 and will be reflected on bills starting in March 2024. Subscriptions implemented after that time will be applied to the next billing period.
2. Contact your local Wheatland Electric office to calculate your allowed number of solar shares based on your 12-month average electric consumption.
3. Members interested in participating can sign up by completing the Wheatland Community Solar Share Agreement.
4. Shares are limited, so we encourage you to act soon!

7 THE JOHNSON CORNER SOLAR PROJECT ALSO HAS TRACKING MOTORS

that adjust the angle of the solar panels throughout the day to maintain maximum exposure to the sun. This provides maximum utilization of solar irradiance with no impacts from shading from trees or adjacent buildings.

8 IF A SUBSCRIBER MOVES TO A NEW HOUSE WITHIN WEC'S SERVICE TERRITORY, THEIR SUBSCRIPTION MAY TRANSFER TO THEIR NEW SERVICE.

The subscription may need to be adjusted based upon the past year's usage of their new home.

9 MINIMAL RISK. If the program does not provide the benefits desired by the member, they may leave the program at any time.

10 SOLAR POWER IS A CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTION, promoting the health of the planet.

WEC Hosts Member Engagement Event in Harper

Wheatland Electric recently hosted a member engagement meeting with cooperative members and other community stakeholders in Harper to share news and updates on Nov. 6 at the Westview Lodge. Several members of WEC's executive staff covered a range of topics including our current cost-of-service study, demand billing, and Community Solar, a new cooperative program which will be available to residential co-op members beginning January 2024.

Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager, thanked the crowd of about 50 community members for attending and engaging with cooperative staff and trustees at the annual event.

Jim McVay, assistant general manager/counsel, discussed the cost-of-service study recently completed by C. H. Guernsey, an Oklahoma-based consultant. The cost-of-service study helps determine the revenue needed to cover operating expenses and debt obligations, in addition to examining the equability of electric rates among the various consumer classes, according to McVay.

During the meeting, WEC trustees visited with attendees to ask questions and receive feedback on the cost-of-service study and other topics.

WEC's Board of Trustees will consider action on proposed recommendations from the cost-of-service study during a public meeting in Scott City on Dec. 19 (see Page 12A for more details).

At the meeting, Alli Conine, director of member services



Nearly 50 community members learned about WEC news and updates during the Member Engagement Meeting in Harper on Nov. 6.

and corporate communications, gave an overview of WEC's upcoming Community Solar program. Conine discussed the advantages of signing up for the new solar subscription program that will allow residential co-op members to invest in solar generation without the ownership hassles of their own system. For more information about Community Solar, see Page 12B.

Member engagement meetings are held annually on an invitation-only basis. Meeting locations rotate from our west to our east districts. For more information or questions, contact memberservices@weci.net.

We're retiring
\$750,000
in capital credits in 2023!

Because your electric cooperative operates at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated to co-op members like you in the form of capital credits.

When economically feasible, trustees determine how and when to retire (pay out) capital credits. This December, eligible co-op members from **1990** and **2022** will receive their retirement in the form of a check by mail for amounts totaling \$25 or more. **Questions?** Contact your local office today!



At the start of this year's Cram the Van campaign, we set our sights high not only committing \$50,000 to a dozen local food banks that power the communities we serve, but we also wanted to **DOUBLE THE IMPACT!**

How? Through our annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, contributions from community partners and local businesses, our online fundraising campaign, a friendly school competition in Great Bend sponsored by Gifting Forward, and donations from members like you from across our entire service territory!

To **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2023, our goal was to raise \$100,000 for our food banks, and we've worked hard over the last few months to reach that summit — all for the betterment of our communities we serve.

Instead of collecting perishable food items this year, our focus has been on monetary donations to better serve the food pantries that themselves serve as a safety net in our local communities. The 12 food banks serve the impoverished members of our communities across southwest and central Kansas. Each food bank received their share of this year's campaign dollars ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2023! Stay tuned as we share more on our deliveries and donation totals (and the outcome of our goal!) in January's issue of *Kansas Country Living*, or follow us on social media for timely updates!



APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME



JUNE 14-20, 2024
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

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



EMPOWER



JULY 12-18, 2024

*** COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ***



COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP | MEMORIES

FIND OUT MORE

SPEAKERS
RIVER RAFTING



EXPLORE
STEAMBOAT
SPRINGS

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.WECL.NET/SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM

Happy Holidays

From our Wheatland Electric Cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a blessed and delightful holiday season.



All WEC offices will be closed for the holidays
on Dec. 25, Dec. 26, and Jan. 1.



District 5 — *Garden City*



District 6 — *Great Bend*



District 7 — *Harper*



Water Division — *Garden City*



Executive Team



Board of Trustees



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Nov. 24 – Dec. 17

Share your dazzling
outdoor display!

3 winners receive bill credits:

1st place – \$200

2nd place – \$150

3rd place – \$100

**SUBMIT
YOUR PHOTO
OR VIDEO:**

Email: contests@weci.net

Via Messenger on our official Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/WheatlandElectric

The decorated property must be owned or rented
by the individual making the submission.

Winners will be notified and announced online by Christmas!

