



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 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**

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

# Powering Our Communities Forward

As we kick off our 12th consecutive year of **POWER THE PANTRY**, I am filled with gratitude and pride in our cooperative's unwavering commitment to supporting those in need across our service territory. Since its inception in 2014, Power the Pantry has been a beacon of hope, rallying our communities to donate over **214 TONS** (427,980 pounds) of food. This remarkable achievement underscores the compassion and dedication of our members, whose generosity continues to make a profound impact year after year.

This year, we have again pledged **\$50,000** to Power the Pantry, aiming not only to match our previous efforts but to surpass them. Our goal is to break last year's **RECORD-BREAKING \$110,287** in combined monetary and canned donations. Your monetary contributions are crucial in helping us achieve this ambitious goal and provide vital support to local food banks and families facing food insecurity.

In addition to our commitment to Power the Pantry, WEC is excited to celebrate **NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC**

## MONTH with our EVS

## & ESPRESSOS events

throughout our service territory. For the past four years, we have been at the forefront of educating our members about electric vehicles (EVs), showcasing the latest advancements and benefits of EV technology. These events are a testament to our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**, empowering our communities with sustainable energy solutions that pave the way for a brighter future.

I invite you to join us in these endeavors, whether by making a monetary donation to your local food bank through our Power the Pantry campaign, attending one of our EVs & Espressos events, or simply spreading the word about the positive impact of cooperative efforts. Together, we can continue to power our communities forward with compassion, innovation and a steadfast commitment to service.

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.**



Bruce W. Mueller

## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

The safest place to be when your vehicle has come in contact with power lines is inside your vehicle. While it may appear a power line has become de-energized and it is safe to exit the vehicle, the only way to know for sure is if a power utility company has confirmed the line has no electricity flowing through it. If the line is energized and you exit the vehicle improperly, you can provide a path to the ground and electrocute yourself. Unless an immediate danger is present, stay put and wait for confirmation before exiting the vehicle.

# 10 TOP

## Reasons to Donate to Your Local Food Bank!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of members like you, last year's **POWER THE PANTRY** campaign raised a record-breaking \$110,287 in food and monetary donations for a dozen local food banks.

This year, we're proud to kick-start our 2025 campaign with another **\$50,000** donation — and our WEC team is working to **DOUBLE** that amount through our annual charity golf tournament, the Great Bend Schools Competition (Oct. 21-31), online fundraising, and continued support from members like you!

Since 2014, our cooperative has helped collect more than

214 tons of food — over 427,000 pounds — demonstrating our shared commitment to **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**, the seventh cooperative principle. Though our campaign has grown and changed over the years, our goal remains the same: supporting our neighbors in need!

Every dollar donated makes a real impact — and enters you to **WIN** prizes while giving back. Check out Page 12H to learn more about this year's big giveaway and how you can donate. You can also make a cash or check donation in person at any local WEC office now through Oct. 9 to enter to win our grand prize!

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for making a meaningful difference in your community and lending a hand to those who need it most.

#1

### 1 IN 8 NEIGHBORS ARE FOOD INSECURE

In western Kansas, one in eight adults and one in six children face food insecurity daily — that's over 23,000 Kansans who don't have reliable access to nutritious food.

#2

### CASH DONATIONS STRETCH FURTHER

Local food pantries can purchase food at wholesale prices and rescue food from retailers, making every dollar go further than individual food donations.

#3

### SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Nearly 30% of Kansas counties are food deserts, according to the Kansas Health Foundation. Your donation helps locals overcome geographic and transportation barriers to access needed food.

#4

### FRESH FOOD, NOT JUST SHELF-STABLE

Cash can help fund cold storage — sometimes through partnerships with local grocers — enabling some food bank patrons to access produce, dairy or meat, some of the most expensive and needed items for families.

#5

### ASSISTING OUR SENIORS

For many seniors, living on a fixed income means making impossible choices — paying for medication, keeping the lights on, or buying groceries. By donating to your local food pantry, you're helping those individuals who are often most vulnerable to economic downturns and other crises.

#6

### RISING FOOD COSTS

With grocery prices climbing, families are struggling — and food banks are feeling the strain. More resources are needed to keep shelves stocked and to ensure that everyone has access to the food they need to stay healthy and strong.

#7

### BECAUSE NO CHILD SHOULD GO TO BED HUNGRY

One in six kids across western Kansas doesn't know where their next meal will come from. Your support helps stock local pantries and ensures no child goes to bed hungry. You're not just providing food — you're giving kids the energy to learn, grow and dream.

# WE **POWER** *the* **PANTRY** **50K** *in* **2025**

**GOAL**  
**\$100,000**

## #8 **BECAUSE HUNGER DOESN'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE HUNGER**

Food insecurity affects people from all walks of life — including working families, veterans and seniors who've spent their lives contributing to their communities. Nearly 47% of households served by Kansas food pantries have at least one working adult, and 12% include a veteran. Your donation helps ensure that pride and circumstance don't stand in the way of a healthy meal.

**#9**

## **BECAUSE RESILIENCE NEEDS FUEL**

In Kansas, families are resilient — they work hard, weather tough seasons and support one another. But resilience alone doesn't put food on the table. With local pantries seeing demand double from one month to the next, your donation provides the steady support that helps families get through hard times with dignity and hope.

**#10**

## **HOPE AT EVERY TABLE**

Nearly half of food pantry clients earn less than \$15,000 a year. Many must choose between food and utilities (42%), food and medical care (34%), or food and housing (8%), according to the Kansas Food Bank. Your donation helps ease these impossible decisions, and delivers more than just food — it delivers hope.

*your impact*

**WE** **\$50K** *pledged*



Scan the QR code or turn to Page 12H  
TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!



# EVs & ESPRESSOS

## Perk Up & Plug In!

Wheatland Electric is hosting “EVs & Espressos” across Kansas during National Drive Electric Month!



Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. is putting a spark in your morning routine this fall with **EVs & ESPRESSOS** — a series of come-and-go community events that blend **HOT COFFEE WITH HIGH-VOLTAGE INNOVATION!**

In celebration of **NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC MONTH** (Sept. 12–Oct. 12, 2025), WEC will host events in four Kansas communities: **GREAT BEND (SEPT. 17)**, **SCOTT CITY (SEPT. 24)**, **CALDWELL (OCT. 1)**, and **LEOTI (OCT. 8)**.

Part coffee break, part EV expo, EVs & Espressos gives members the chance to sip locally brewed coffee for free while getting up close with WEC’s all-electric Hyundai Kona and Ford F-150 Lightning — plus connect with local experts about electric vehicles and renewable energy programs at the cooperative like Community Solar.

“With the rise of EVs and growing interest in clean energy, this event is a great way to connect our communities with tools and knowledge that empower smarter energy choices,” said Alli

Conine, WEC director of member services and corporate communications. “Electric vehicles aren’t just the future — they’re here now, and they’re more



## ChooseEV, a Free Digital Toolkit!

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., we’re proud to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE** — but we’re also **DRIVING ENERGY FOR LIFE** by helping members explore the growing world of electric vehicles (EVs)!

To make the switch easier, we’ve partnered with **CHOOSEEV** to offer a free online digital toolkit that walks you through every step of the EV journey — from comparing models and calculating cost savings, to understanding tax incentives and installing home chargers. It’s all available at [www.weci.net/electric-vehicle](http://www.weci.net/electric-vehicle), and it works on any device!

Part coffee break, part EV expo, these events give members the chance to sip locally brewed coffee for free while getting up close with WEC's all-electric Hyundai Kona and Ford F-150 Lightning.



accessible, efficient, and sustainable than ever before. These events are all about helping our members feel informed and empowered, all while enjoying a good cup of coffee and conversation.”

In addition to free coffee and hands-on learning, attendees can:

- ▶ Learn how today's EVs can go 300-plus miles on a single charge
- ▶ Discover how charging an EV can cost as little as the price of a large latte per day
- ▶ Explore how EVs reduce emissions and maintenance costs

Members in **GREAT BEND** will also enjoy a special look at WEC's outdoor **GREEN SPACE**, featuring local solar, wind and water conservation systems.

Whether you're already driving electric or just curious about how EVs work, **EVS & ESPRESSOS OFFERS A RELAXED, NO-PRESSURE WAY TO LEARN MORE — OVER A COMPLIMENTARY CUP OF COFFEE.** Join us to see how WEC is helping energize the future of Kansas, one charge at a time!

To learn more about WEC's renewable energy efforts, education and opportunities, visit [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) or call your local office today!



## BREW UP BRILLIANCE – TAKE OUR QUIZ!

Bring this completed quiz with you to any EV & Espressos event this fall for a special giveaway! See you there!

### 1 HOW FAR CAN MANY MODERN ELECTRIC VEHICLES TRAVEL ON A SINGLE CHARGE?

- A. 40-60 miles
- B. 100-150 miles
- C. 250-300-plus miles
- D. Only as far as the nearest coffee shop

### 2 WHICH OF THESE IS A COMMON BENEFIT OF DRIVING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

- A. Lower fuel costs
- B. Less maintenance
- C. Reduced emissions
- D. All of the above

### 3 WHAT DOES “EV” STAND FOR?

- A. Electric velocity
- B. Environmental vehicle
- C. Electric vehicle
- D. Energy van

### 4 WHAT KIND OF FUEL DO ELECTRIC VEHICLES USE?

- A. Magic beans
- B. Electricity
- C. Unicorn dust
- D. Regular gasoline

### 5 WHAT'S ONE WAY YOU CAN CHARGE YOUR EV AT HOME?

- A. Plug it into your toaster
- B. Use a wall charger or charging station
- C. Let it sit in the sun for a while
- D. Ask your dog to pedal a generator

ANSWERS: (1) C, (2) D, (3) C, (4) B, (5) B





# EVs & ESPRESSOS

**9 - 11 A.M. CT**

## PERK UP & PLUG-IN

*at a location near you!*

**9/17 GREAT BEND**  
*Avast Ye Java  
Coffee Truck -  
200 10th St.*

**9/24 SCOTT CITY (10 A.M.-12 P.M.)**  
*TruNorth Cafe -  
Scott City Middle School  
West Parking Lot*

**10/1 CALDWELL**  
*Suzy's Bakery &  
Coffee Shop -  
Heritage Park*

**10/8 LEOTI**  
*Wichita Co. Health  
Mart Pharmacy -  
111 W. Broadway*

**JOIN US**  
**FOR COFFEE AND A JOLT  
OF EV KNOWLEDGE!**

**FUEL UP ON  
EV UPDATES!**

**TEST DRIVE OUR FORD  
F-150 LIGHTNING!**

**SEPT. 12 - OCT. 12**

 **NATIONAL  
Drive Electric  
MONTH**




# HIGH SCHOOL LINEMAN OF THE WEEK

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT  
ON OUR LOCAL HIGH  
SCHOOL POWER PLAYERS!



#LINEMEN MAKE  
THE DIFFERENCE

   FOLLOW US DURING HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON!



## LABOR Day *Office Closing*

In observance of  
Labor Day, our  
offices will be closed  
on Monday, Sept. 1.



# 7th Annual CO-OPS CARE Charity Golf Tournament

Hosted by  


## Sponsor Now! SEPT. 26, 2025

Golf Club at Southwind  
Garden City

8 A.M. REGISTRATION  
9 A.M. SHOTGUN START



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.WEQ.COOPS-CARE](http://WWW.WEQ.COOPS-CARE)  
FOR MORE INFO!

QUESTIONS?  
620-874-4563 | [ACONINE@WECL.NET](mailto:ACONINE@WECL.NET)





# WIN 4 TICKETS TO SEE THE **SUNFLOWER SHOWDOWN**

*Oct. 25, 2025*

**KANSAS STATE VS KANSAS**

**DAVID BOOTH KANSAS  
MEMORIAL STADIUM  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS**

**For every \$20 you donate  
to your local food bank  
you'll be entered to win!**

**Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.weci.net/power-the-pantry](http://www.weci.net/power-the-pantry) to make a  
difference!**



**DONATE BY OCT. 9 TO ENTER!**

