

WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Thankful for Our Co-op's Bright Future Ahead



Bruce W. Mueller

The start of November reminds us that we have a lot to be thankful for: family, friends, good health, and much more. Personally, I'm thankful to be a part of Wheatland Electric Cooperative and to serve our membership. I am thankful for our dedicated and hardworking employees and how our organization serves as a vibrant force in the local economy. We exist to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE** and provide services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our members.

It's a mission and vision we take seriously, especially as we look to the

future. As an organization that provides essential services, we know we need to be prepared for what's ahead, diversifying our offerings to meet our membership's evolving needs. This includes educating consumers about electric vehicles. A rapidly growing share of car owners in the US are trading filling up for **PLUGGING IN AS THEY LEARN** the benefits of owning and operating all electric vehicles (EVs): long-term cost savings, improved vehicle performance, and cleaner and greener energy, to name a few.

To show our members the benefits of EV ownership firsthand and prepare the future ahead, we've begun taking multiple steps.

ONE, we've begun traveling with our new, 100% electric Hyundai Kona, so members like you can get behind the wheel and experience what EV

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SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Studies have shown that November is the month that has the highest number of reported wildlife-related collisions. In fact, it is well-known that deer activity increases quite drastically between late October through November, which also increases the potential of seeing deer very close to or on our roads. With the dwindling hours of daylight we experience at this time of the year, our visibility can be compromised more easily, making it more challenging to see deer and other wildlife at twilight, night and in winter weather conditions. Let the road command your full attention.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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 — nearly every car manufacturer offers at least one model — we're also here to **DRIVE ENERGY FOR LIFE** ... for your pocketbook and our planet!

That's because EVs provide **LOWER OPERATING COSTS, A QUIET & SMOOTH RIDE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS** over their gas-powered cousins. And we're seeing these benefits firsthand with our new 100% **ELECTRIC VEHICLE** — a 2021 Hyundai Kona Electric — the newest member of our fleet!

Earlier this fall, we began traveling with our Kona Electric across

our southwest and south-central Kansas service territory to share the advantages of EV use and operation, educate cooperative members about plugging in at home or on the road, and even allow members to get behind the wheel at our **RIDE + DRIVE EVENTS!** (If you missed us, don't dismay. We're busy scheduling more events, so follow us on social media or visit our website to stay up to date!)

Ditch the Gas

While conventional vehicles have an internal combustion engine (with the most common fuels being gasoline and diesel), all electric vehicles (sometimes referred to as battery electric vehicles, or BEVs) use electricity as their only fuel and must be **PLUGGED IN** to charge.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, the average person drives about 40 miles each day commuting to and from work and running errands. If that aligns with your daily mileage, charging your all-electric vehicle at home should keep it more than ready for your daily commute.

Drive Home the Savings

For families that take longer trips or have longer daily drives, an all-electric EV may be the right option as a second vehicle, and the cost savings are key. Though specific savings will

depend on gas prices and your driving habits, EVs cost less to operate than gas-fueled

vehicles. The electricity costs are equivalent to approximately **\$1.20 PER GALLON OF GASOLINE**. Plus, electricity prices are far more stable than gasoline prices, which means less fluctuation in how much you'll pay throughout the year. And because our electric supply doesn't rely on imported petroleum, the long-term outlook for pricing is better, too.

Drivers purchase vehicles for all kind of reasons, but for most early adopters of EVs it's **ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS**. While the upfront price of an EV is still higher than its gas-powered cousin, EV drivers see about **\$700 IN SAVINGS** per year in gasoline expenses when they drive an average of 12,000 miles. There are additional savings in regular oil changes and other car maintenance expenses that typically befall gas-powered engines, which have more moving parts. Those savings equate to an additional **\$800 IN SAVINGS** per year. In addition, in some states, EVs can also realize substantial tax credits that encourage low-emission and emissions-free driving, environmental improvements because of reduced vehicle emissions, energy independence by way of using locally generated electricity, and high-quality driving performance. All in all, there are a lot of reasons to **GO ELECTRIC!**

Power On

With all the fanfare, we're sure some of our members might be scratching their heads and asking, is it **SMART** to rely on such new technology? Well,





electric-powered vehicles are not actually new and have been around for **OVER A CENTURY**. In the 1890s, electric cars were more popular than gas-powered cars because of their simplicity, reliability and low operation costs. For a variety of reasons, they disappeared for much of the 20th century but are now back on the rise, with some major car manufacturers promising to go **ALL ELECTRIC** in the next decade or two.

This resurgence is fueled by significant advancements in power electronics and battery technologies, with most EVs today covering a 200-plus mile range on a full charge. In fact, our Kona will get you 250-plus miles on a full charge. Not only are **EVS FUN TO DRIVE**, generating much more torque than gas vehicles, they are also **HIGHLY EFFICIENT**, converting around 77% of their power into movement. Gas-powered vehicles, on the other hand, only convert somewhere between 12-30%.

Driving Forward

We know change doesn't happen overnight, but we also know great things are on the road ahead! The EV industry is gaining momentum, as prices drop and range expands (meaning more miles per charge). With a little bit of planning, EV owners will be able to confidently drive nearly everywhere in the US!

And as these trends continue, we'll be ready to help our cooperative members **FUEL UP AND STEER INTO THE FUTURE AS WE DRIVE ENERGY FOR LIFE!**

Public EV Charging Stations Now in Great Bend and Garden City

With the influx of electric vehicles comes a need for charging infrastructure — both at home and on the road.

Throughout the country, businesses, governments and utilities have been installing electric vehicle charging stations for over a decade. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center, there are over 50,000 EV charging stations across the nation today, with the two newest ones right next door — Great Bend and Garden City!

Both our **LEVEL 2 CHARGEPOINT EV STATIONS** were recently installed at our Wheatland Electric offices in Great Bend (200 10th Street) and Garden City (2005 W. Fulton) and ARE NOW AVAILABLE for use by downloading the ChargePoint app on your Android or Apple smartphone.

In fact, these two charging stations are part of a much wider network of ChargePoint stations across the country, and the app makes it easy to find them all, charge quickly and get going!

What's more, Wheatland Electric is currently working with ChargePoint and local electricians to offer at-home Level 2 charging, including equipment setup and installation. We'll be rolling out this program next year, so stay tuned for more information, opportunities and pricing.

Because most EV charging happens at home or at work, Level 2 charging — sometimes called AC charging — is the best choice for everyday charging, adding about 25 miles of range per hour (RPH). **LEVEL 2 EV CHARGERS**, like the ones from ChargePoint, can power your EV up to nine times faster than a conventional wall outlet. An overnight charge, for example, will give you the full range that your EV is capable of, which is over 250 miles in the case of our Hyundai Kona Electric.

When you're short on time or are traveling long distances, the ChargePoint app can also help you quickly and easily locate DC Fast Chargers on your route. Also known as Level 3 chargers, these chargers can add anywhere from 60-80 miles of range in only 20 minutes!

As we work more closely on developing our at-home EV charging program, we'll be sharing additional details with our co-op membership! Stay up-to-date by following us on social media or stay tuned for the next few issues of your *Kansas Country Living*!

FAST FACTS ABOUT EVs

Making the switch from a gas pump to an outlet is a big decision, yet around 1 million drivers across the U.S. have already decided to make the switch and purchase an electric vehicle. Why? There are numerous reasons people choose to drive electric. Here's a few of them:



1 | EVs Cost Less to Operate

EVs are performance vehicles that can save you money! They are typically three to five times cheaper to operate than their gas — or diesel-powered cousins.



2 | EVs Perform Better

EVs are a performance vehicle that will save you money! Electric motors provide instant torque, a quiet, smooth operation, and require less maintenance.



3 | EVs Drive Farther and Charge Faster Than You Think

The average American in rural areas drives about 40 miles a day, according to the Federal Highway Administration. EV range is typically around 259 to over 400 miles on a full charge. Fully recharging the battery pack can take four to eight hours, typically done at home overnight. A “DC fast charge” to 80% capacity can take only 30 minutes!



4 | You'll Never Have to Pump Gas Again

EVs don't require gas and can be charged at home or at one of the more than 50,000 public EV charging stations across the country!



5 | EVs are Cleaner and Greener

EVs have no tailpipe emissions and are better for the environment, even when accounting for their manufacturing carbon emissions and when using electricity from coal plants. Plus, electricity from hydro, solar, nuclear and wind-powered plants — all growing sources of energy — is generally emission-free!

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Thankful for Our Co-op's Bright Future Ahead Continued from page 16A ▶

ownership and operation has to offer. Our Kona has a 250-plus mile range on a single charge and offers instant torque and plenty of speed.

TWO, we recently installed two Level 2 ChargePoint EV stations at our Great Bend and Garden City offices for both member and public use. ChargePoint is the world's leading EV charging network, and our two stations are part of a larger network that spans our nation and where EV drivers can charge up quickly and easily using a smartphone application.

THREE, we'll be working with ChargePoint and partnering with local electricians starting next year to begin installation and setup of at-home EV chargers, because most EV charging happens at home, typically overnight. I encourage you to read more about our initiatives and all the benefits of EVs — for your wallet and for our planet — on page 16B-C. Feel free to reach out to us directly if you have questions.

Capital Credits Retirement

The future is looking bright, not just outside our organization but inside it, too. In October of this year, Wheatland's Board of Trustees decided how much to retire, or payout, in capital credits based on the 2020 financial year. The board of trustees considered the impact the retirement would have on the financial strength of the cooperative. The board decided it was economically feasible to retire \$750,000 in capital credits. Sunflower Electric's Board of Trustees also approved retiring capital credits to its membership (Wheatland Electric is a member). The Wheatland Board of Trustees has approved \$250,000 of those retired capital credits to be paid to the Wheatland membership. **THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL RETIREMENT TO \$1,000,000.** These retirements will be in the form of bill credits.

DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WILL NOT BE HOSTING OUR TRADITIONAL CAPITAL CREDITS HARVEST DAYS AT EACH OF OUR DISTRICT OFFICES. Just as we did with the 2020 capital credits payouts, we will be issuing **BILL CREDITS** on your **DECEMBER 2021 ELECTRIC BILLS.**

The **AMOUNT** that members will receive depends on how much electricity you used in the payout years and how long you have been a WEC member. **THE PAYOUT THIS YEAR IS FOR MEMBERS OF WEC FROM 1989 AND 2020.** 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.

Years Retired 1989 & 2020

While 1989 may seem like a long time ago, those funds helped Wheatland reduce the amount of money needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system. The board of trustees wanted to make sure our longtime members received capital credits along with our newer

members, who haven't been members of Wheatland for such an extended period. If you **WERE A MEMBER IN 1989 AND 2020 YOU WILL RECEIVE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS.**

Inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from WEC, but who were distribution members during the years of the capital credit retirements 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 WEC at **800-762-0436.**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING from all of us here at Wheatland Electric, and a friendly reminder that we will be closed **NOV. 11 TO CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY.** Thank you to all those in and outside of our membership who have served in our armed forces. **WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.**

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



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CAPITAL CREDITS

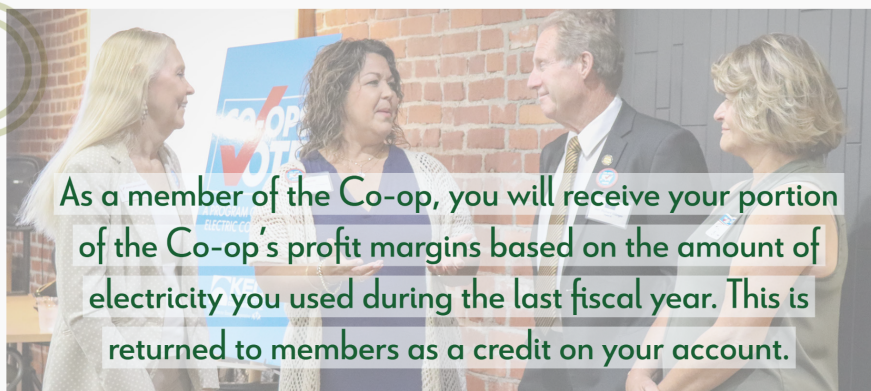
21



WE'RE RETIRING
ANOTHER
\$1 MILLION!



BECAUSE YOU'RE MORE
THAN JUST A CONSUMER OF ELECTRICITY,
YOU'RE A CO-OP MEMBER.



As a member of the Co-op, you will receive your portion of the Co-op's profit margins based on the amount of electricity you used during the last fiscal year. This is returned to members as a credit on your account.



MEMBERS WILL SEE CREDITS EITHER IN SMARTHUB
OR ON THEIR DECEMBER BILL.



ARRIVING DECEMBER



YES WE CAN CRAM THE VAN IN 2021!

YES WE CAN! And cooperative members like you showed us how! Thank you to our members and school partners for once again helping us Cram the Van in 2021! Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to collect thousands of pounds of food donations and plenty of cash for our local food banks — in every single district we serve!

Check out these photos from some of our stops and stay tuned as we share more in January's *Kansas Country Living* about our donation totals!



Giving Goodness



A CHARITY CHALLENGE ON FACEBOOK!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO PARTICIPATE!



How to Play

Starting Oct. 25, nominate a local non-profit for the chance to win a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant!

How to Win

One of our "FINAL FOUR" will win this tournament of charities by rallying their Facebook fans!

Cold Weather Accommodation Begins Nov. 15

As of March 1, 2016, Wheatland Electric has adopted the following Cold Weather Accommodation policy for residential members. All delinquent accounts are subject to disconnection when temperatures exceed 35 degrees for a 48-hour period between Nov. 15 and March 15, unless a member requests a cold weather accommodation. In order for a member to retain electric service when temperatures are above 35 degrees during the cold weather period, they must comply with the following cold weather accommodation provisions:

- Inform Wheatland of their inability to pay their account in full;
- Pay half of each current bill during the cold weather period;
- Past due balances, including the bill due Nov. 5, must be paid in full at the inception of the cold weather period;
- Apply for federal, state or local funds for which the member may be eligible;
- Agree to a payment plan at the conclusion of the cold weather period; and
- Complete and sign a Cold Weather Accommodation agreement at any Wheatland district office.

Members who do not adhere to the Cold Weather Accommodation rules are not eligible for payment arrangements at the conclusion of the cold weather period. The entire outstanding balance, reconnection fees and increased deposit, if applicable, are due and payable prior to reconnection if service is disconnected.

