

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

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#### District Offices

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P.O. Box 973  
Garden City, KS  
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620-275-0261

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Great Bend, KS 67530  
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**Harper**  
302 W. 6th  
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Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

**Leoti**  
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**Scott City-Main**  
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Scott City, KS 67871  
620-872-5885

**Syracuse**  
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620-384-5171

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Tribune, KS 67879  
620-376-4231

#### FROM THE MANAGER

### Co-op Plans “Positive Energy” Outreach

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable New Year's. With the start of the New Year, it is always a good time to visit with the membership on new initiatives Wheatland Electric Cooperative will be unveiling in 2015.

One of those initiatives is our new website. Be sure and check it out at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net). We think you will find the new site more intuitive, attractive, and packed with great useful information.

Some of the new features include: a community calendar, redesigned homepage buttons and new billing and community tabs.

The Community Calendar will allow both Wheatland and other organizations to promote local events that are open to the public. The new Homepage Buttons are a fast and easy way to help you find all the ways Wheatland can help you save energy and money. Our brand new billing tab will give you all the information you need to know to help you manage your account. Lastly, the new Community tab will help us tell you about all the things Wheatland is doing to help out in your communities.

The new website will also serve as a forum for another new Wheatland initiative: our year-long “Positive Energy Outreach.” Each month in 2015, we will highlight

good news about Wheatland, our members, and our community. A few of those positive programs include Energy Efficiency Rebates, the Co-op Connections Card, Rural Economic Development Loans and the Sharing Success program. Programs like our Energy Efficiency Rebate program put money back in your pocket for installing new energy efficient HVAC equipment in your home. Other programs, like the Sharing Success program, award grant money to local non-profits who are doing great things in your communities.

To help define this renewed focus on positive contributions in the community, we came up with a new slogan “Delivering Energy for Life.” We felt this caption was appropriate since Wheatland is a distribution cooperative that delivers power into our member's homes and businesses to help them as they go about their lives. Please be looking for the upbeat, good news stories we'll deliver—along with your electricity—throughout 2015. You can find more details about the new website and our Positive Energy Outreach initiative this month on the following pages.

**Until next time, take care.**



Bruce Mueller

# Wheatland Unveils New & Improved Website

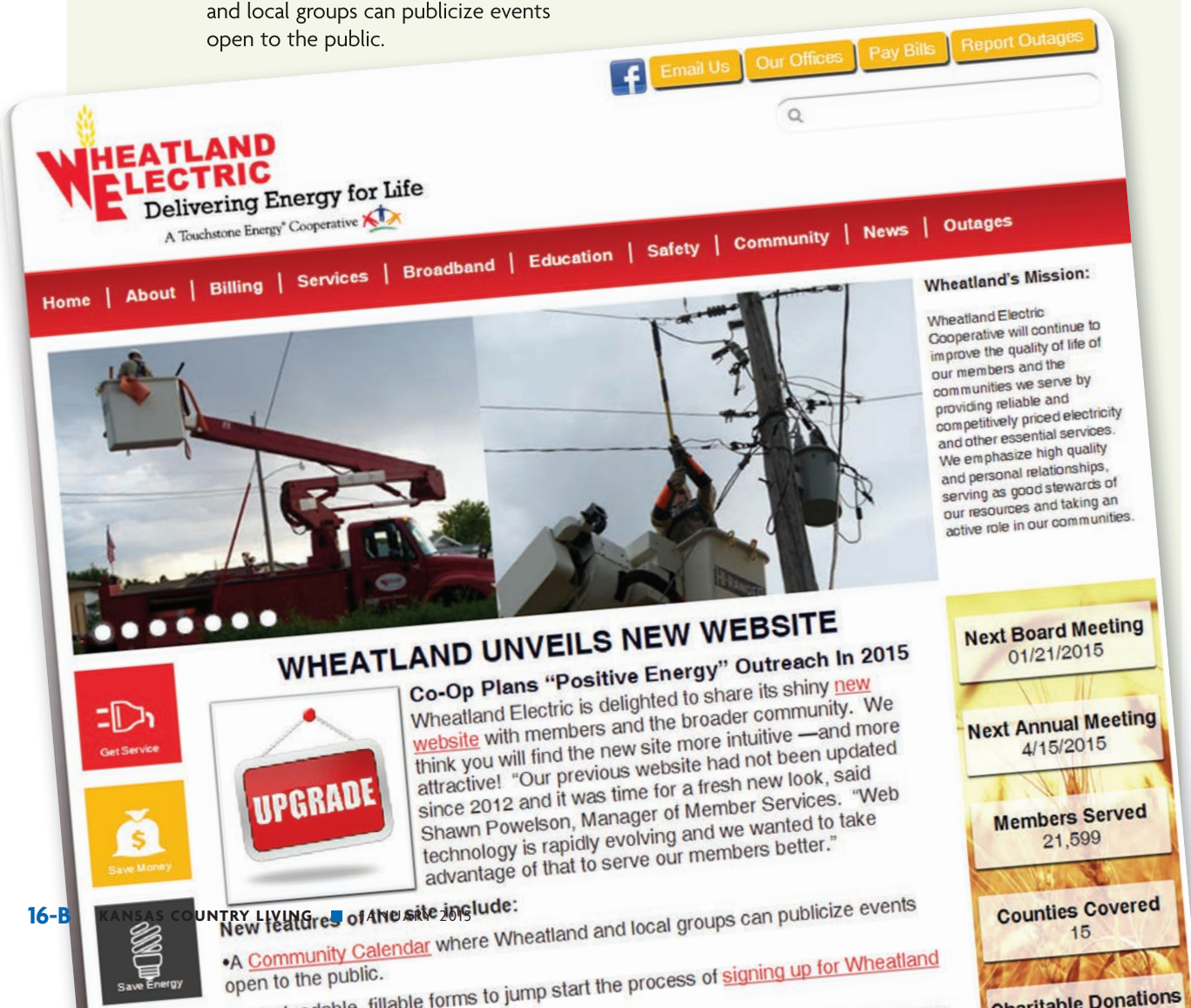
Wheatland Electric is delighted to share its shiny new website with members and the broader community.

The new website will help you, our members, find lots of useful information about Wheatland and find it fast! We think you will find the new site more intuitive—and more attractive! Be sure and check it out at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net).

“Our previous website had not been updated since 2012 and it was time for a fresh new look,” said Shawn Powelson, Manager of Member Services. “Web technology is rapidly evolving and we wanted to take advantage of that to serve our members better.”

**New features of the site include:**

- ▶ A Community Calendar where Wheatland and local groups can publicize events open to the public.
- ▶ Downloadable, fillable forms to jump start the process of signing up for Wheatland service.
- ▶ Home page buttons that take you straight to information about how Wheatland can save you money and save you energy.
- ▶ A separate Billing tab with all the details you need to know to manage your account wisely.
- ▶ A Community tab that shares all of the ways Wheatland helps out in its service territory.
- ▶ Names and contact information for our Executive Team so you can contact us directly if you need us.
- ▶ Quick, easy instructions and links for reporting power outages so we can get you reconnected ASAP.





# Co-op Plans *Positive Energy Outreach* in 2015

## Wheatland Begins “Delivering Energy for Life” Campaign

The new Wheatland website will serve as a forum for another new Wheatland initiative: our year-long “Positive Energy Outreach.”

To help define this renewed focus on positive contributions in the community, the Wheatland Executive Team and Wheatland Board of Trustees developed a new slogan “**Delivering Energy for Life.**”

We felt this caption was appropriate since Wheatland is a distribution cooperative that delivers energy into people’s homes and businesses to help them as they go about their lives.

Each month in 2015, we will highlight good news about Wheatland, our members, and our community. Some of those positive programs include:



Wheatland’s Sharing Success program gives \$10,000 to local charities each year. Holy Family Schools was one of many recipients in 2013.

- ▶ **HVAC Rebates** from \$200-\$500 are available for members installing new, energy-efficient equipment in their homes.



- ▶ **The Co-op Connections Card** offers members more than 24,000 discounts at local and national retailers.



- ▶ **Rural Economic Development (REDLG)** low interest loans are available to groups with plans to improve our area and create jobs.

- ▶ **Bryan Conference Center**, our state-of-the-art meeting space, is available to community groups for free.



Our state-of-the-art Bryan Conference Center is available for community groups for free. Email us at [info@weci.net](mailto:info@weci.net) for more information.

- ▶ **Our Sharing Success** program awards a total of \$10,000 a year to local non-profits to fund important local projects.

- ▶ **Wheatland Broadband** brings high speed internet to thousands of rural Kansas residents that larger internet service providers left behind.



- ▶ **The Cram-the-Van** food drive collected 6,615 pounds of food for the hungry in 2014 with the help of our members.



Member benefits and community outreach like the above have been priorities of Wheatland General Manager Bruce Mueller ever since he joined the Cooperative in 2012.

“I take the seven cooperative principles seriously,” Mueller said. “And perhaps the most important principle of all is the seventh, ‘Concern for Community.’ I’m proud both of Wheatland’s long history in Western Kansas and of all the new things our team’s been doing to reach out.”

Look for the upbeat, good news stories we’ll deliver—along with your electricity—throughout 2015.

# Cram the Van Collects 6,615 Pounds of Donations

We recently completed our "Cram the Van" food drive, collecting 6,615 pounds of food for hungry people in Western Kansas. That's nearly three and a half tons of food, enough by some calculations to keep a single food bank stocked for nearly six months. The effort also brought in \$850 in cash donations. Every donation collected in a particular community stayed in that community to benefit its local food bank.



Mission Mart in Conway Springs received a \$500 donation and 450 pounds of food from the "Cram the Van" food drive.

"Cram the Van" lasted two months and featured 11 stops in ten different communities throughout Wheatland's territory. Wheatland also collected donations at its seven offices and two other drop off points in Conway Springs and Caldwell.

The drive featured a big red van, covered in bright "Cram the Van" decals, which Wheatland brought to various community events. Wheatland challenged you, our members, to help "Cram the Van" with non-perishable food items for the local food bank and

you responded in force!

"We knew from visiting with several of the local food banks that the holiday season could be an especially difficult time for them," said Shawn Powelson, Manager of Member Services for Wheatland. "They see an increase in demand for their services and can struggle to keep enough food on-hand. We wanted to help them stock up and be ready to meet that need as the Holidays approached."

At most "Cram the Van" events, Wheatland served a meal and, in exchange, its members "paid" in

the form of canned goods and cash donations. "Cram the Van" events varied from cooking hamburgers at home football games to grilling hot dogs in front of community grocery stores to a community Halloween party complete with a food slide and pulled pork sandwiches. Using the food slide, kids were able to drop their donations down the slide and directly into the van.

Wheatland General Manager Bruce Mueller hopes to turn the drive into an annual event. "Con-

*Continued on page 16-F* ▶



Bruce Mueller (second from the left), Wheatland Manager, was on hand to deliver 1,710 pounds of food in Scott City.

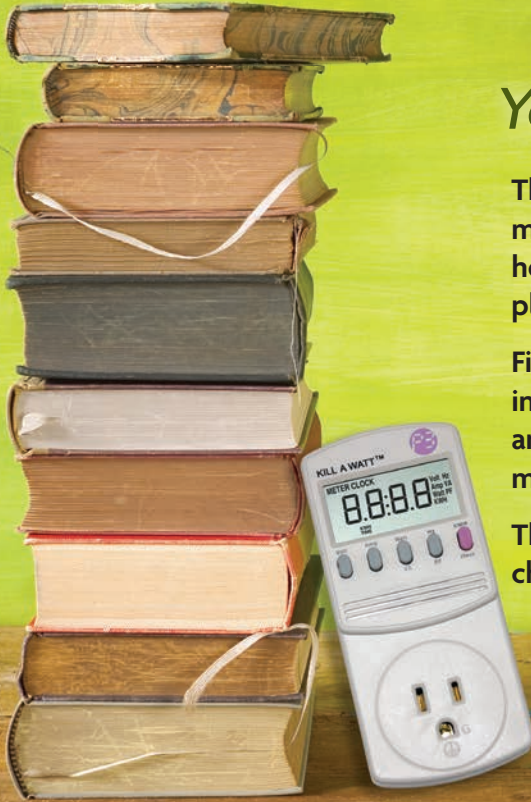


Doug Heberlee and daughter, Klaire, drop their donations down the food slide at the "Cram the Van" finale on Halloween.



# Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

*Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Your Local Library Today!*



The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work.

Find out how much money you would save in your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter in your home energy management.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at your local library.

*You must have a valid library card to borrow a Kill-A-Watt through this program.*

## Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

*Save Energy, Save Money*



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For example,

you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form, visit [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) and click on the "Energy Education" tab and then on "Rebates." You can also contact any local office.

### Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

\*Add \$30 for each ½ ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)



**Cram the Van** *Continued from page 16-D*

cern for Community is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and food banks are a vital part of the communities that we serve. Our goal for ‘Cram the Van’ was to not only collect food but to bring awareness to this great need,” Mueller said. “I’m proud of the efforts of our members, employees and trustees in supporting the local food banks across our service territory. Wheatland will continue to look for opportunities to support our members and communities through programs like ‘Cram the Van!’”

Thank you all of our members who helped us “Cram the Van!”

1. Steve Wilson, Wheatland, drops off 940 pounds of donations to Karen Walker at the Harper County Food Bank.
2. Wheatland’s Tribune office delivers 735 pounds and \$250 to Greeley County Food Bank in Tribune.
3. Randy Coleman and Shawn Powelson from Wheatland give 540 pounds of food to Kirsten Seal at the Hamilton County Food Bank in Syracuse.
4. Wheatland Electric staff Wheatland staff deliver 740 pounds to United Methodist Mexican American Ministries in Garden City.
5. Wheatland Trustee Woody Barnes and District Superintendent Steve Wilson drop off 500 pounds and \$75 to the Caldwell Food Bank.
6. Wheatland staff presented the Barton County Food Bank with 300 pounds of food.

