



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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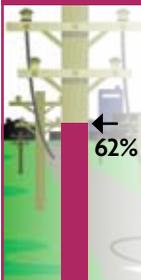
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Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5500
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FEMA Rebuild Update



As of May 13, we have completed 62% of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work.

FROM THE MANAGER

Help Control Your Electric Costs

As the temperature starts rising in the summer months, it's time to remind you how you can help control your cost of electricity by managing your use of electric power during the peak demand periods.

Peak demand refers to the time of day when there is the most demand for electricity. Twin Valley continues to grow, and so there is a natural demand for more electricity. Additionally, during the hottest days of summer, temperatures and humidity create a seasonal demand for even more energy.

Traditionally, peak times include the hours between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. This is because people are coming home from work or school and adjusting the thermostat, turning on TVs, cooking dinner, washing clothes and using computers. For Twin Valley, the record peak demand—10,346 kW—was set on August 12, 2010, at 6 p.m. when the temperature had reached 105 degrees.

Our wholesale energy costs are largely determined by the peak demand. Our wholesale power supplier Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., (KEPCo) must be able to produce enough power to supply the peak, even though that same peak load is not used continually throughout the year. The same goes for Twin Valley, which must be able to supply consumers with the amount of power required, even though it may only be needed a few hours out of the year.

Approximately 10 percent of the total existing generating capacity only gets used about 50 hours a year. Most of the time, that expensive capital equipment sits idle waiting for a crisis—extreme heat or extreme cold. That is why peak power is the most expensive power.

Twin Valley monitors the demand on an hourly basis and can forecast days when a peak is expected. As our electric demand rises toward a peak and temperatures are expected to go above 95 degrees Twin Valley will announce a peak alert. This is when our members can help by reducing their electric consumption.



Ron Holsteen

Keeping the electric demand (or peak) down will reduce the need to purchase expensive capacity, and will help keep our rates lower. Some things that you can do to reduce the peak demand are:

- ▶ Set your air conditioner thermostat up 5 degrees and use fans.
- ▶ Use electricity for items such as laundry, running the dishwasher, ironing and cleaning during non-peak hours. Peak hours are between 5-8 p.m.
- ▶ Avoid using the oven during peak hours. A microwave is much more energy efficient.
- ▶ Take your showers at night after the peak times.
- ▶ Unplug unnecessary electric appliances and equipment.
- ▶ Don't have every TV and light on in your home—learn to turn out lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Turn off indoor and outdoor decorative lights.

As a member, you have the power to help control rising energy costs. Making smart energy choices has never been easier! **It's the right thing to do.** We must work together to manage the rising cost of wholesale power.

Tips for Beating High Summer Electric Bills

Don't let warmer weather turn into "summertime blues" when your monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some energy-saving tips from Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.

► **Adjust the thermostat.** As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, lowering a thermostat in winter can save as much as \$85 per year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

► **Be a "fan-atic."** While they don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

► **Regular maintenance is essential.** Twin Valley recommends that members have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a certified technician. The HVAC professional will check your entire system to make sure it runs efficiently. This will help to extend life of the system and save money.

► **Look for ENERGY STAR equipment.** When it's time to replace your cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model. Doing so could reduce your energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances may be available so check with Twin Valley for more information.

► **Bigger isn't always better.** Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Instead of getting burned this summer by high energy bills, visit Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, for more money-saving ideas.

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Stay Safe & Comfortable this Summer



William Worthy

As the mercury rises, so does the cost of keeping comfortable. Higher temperatures, along with higher humidity, make your house the most popular spot to cool off. This can lead to sticker shock when your Twin Valley electric bill arrives. During the summer months, most electric bills are 1.5 to 2 times higher than other times of the year. This coupled with higher fuel costs should have everybody looking for ways to conserve.

Simple things like weather stripping your doors and windows are inexpensive, simple fixes that can lead to savings. Having your air conditioning unit serviced and checked by a professional is another simple idea that can potentially lead to savings. Ceiling fans can help circulate the air as well, but make sure they are turning the proper direction. In the summer they should be turning in a counter-clockwise rotation. Also, if you have lights on your ceiling fans, and they are not on a dimmer, you might want to consider installing compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. The heat generated by regular incandescent bulbs is forced down into the room as the fan turns. CFLs generate very little heat and can last up to five times longer. The cost of CFLs has come down significantly and is a viable option for all of your lighting needs.

For our members who have window units, a dehumidifier might help with your costs. With a central unit, you have an exchange of air that pulls the moist air out and returns cold, dry air. With a window unit, all the unit does is blow cold air. A dehumidifier will draw out the

moisture and the room will feel more comfortable without you having to turn the unit on lower setting. Also, check the insulation around the unit. If the insulation has dried out or is damaged, the outside air can work as a vacuum, drawing out the colder air.

Some other fixes can be in the form of adequate ceiling insulation to keep the heat in your attic from forcing higher temperatures into your home. Radiant barrier decking that either be installed in sheet form or painting, can also lead to significant savings. Some people have attic vents that help the attic stay cooler or the installation of an attic air exchange fan can make a difference as well.

Other energy saving ideas can be found on our website, www.twinvalleyelectric.coop or you can email your questions to memberservices@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

On a different note, Twin Valley has managed to keep costs down and has not had a rate increase since 2002. However, everyone is aware of rising fuel costs. Our rates have not changed, but the fuel costs to generate the electricity have gone up significantly. These costs are passed on to you with no margins to Twin Valley. Our generation and transmission company is constantly looking and evolving in regards to the production of electricity. Nuclear facilities are a safe, efficient way to generate electricity and make up roughly 30 percent of the electricity our membership consumes. The other 70 percent is made up of hydro, coal, gas and oil. As nuclear generation grows, the savings will be passed on to you.

Twin Valley will continue to do its part in keeping costs down while providing you with reliable, efficient electric service. Have a safe and happy summer!

64th Annual Meeting Highlights



The 64th Annual Meeting of the Twin Valley Electric Cooperative was held on April 21, 2011, at Labette County High School.

There were more than 200 meals served to 90 registered members and guests. The meal, consisting of fried chicken, German potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and bread was catered by Pichler's Chicken Annie's of Pittsburg and served by employees.



Election Results

Trustees elected to serve for three years on the Board of Trustees are:

- ▶ **District 1—WAYNE REVELL**, Parsons
- ▶ **District 2—TOM ELLISON**, Cherryvale
- ▶ **District 3—MIKE ALLISON**, Parsons

Youth Tour

Each year, Twin Valley sponsors area youth to participate in an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the "Government in Action" Youth Tour and a trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The 2010 winners **CALEB JOURNOT** and **JENNIFER NELSON** spoke about their experiences at the meeting. This year's winners were also recognized. They are: **BRITTNEE ALBERTSON**, who will travel to Washington, D.C., and **MICHAEL BANOWETZ** to Steamboat Springs, CO.



Service Awards

Employees **KEN COLE**, 35 years and **JAMES SEXTON**, five years were both recognized for their years of service.

Door Prize Winners

The grand prize of \$200 cash was won by **DAVID BYRD**. A number of miscellaneous prizes were distributed at the end of the meeting.



1. More than 200 meals were served to 90 registered members and guests at the 64th Annual Meeting.
2. Twin Valley employees greet and register members.
3. Guests were treated to a chicken dinner catered by Pichler's Chicken Annie's of Pittsburg.
4. Guests attending enjoyed beverages and cookies.
5. Manager Ron Holsteen addresses the membership.
6. Many door prizes were given away to the members after the meeting.
7. Ron Holsteen (left) and Board Secretary, Ronald McNickle (right), recognize Kenny Cole (center) for 35 years of service.

Electrical Safety Vacation **CHECKLIST**

Summer vacations are hard to pull off these days, so it's important that trip-takers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances; burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home.

The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

- ▶ Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves, electric water heaters and curling irons.
- ▶ Unplug television sets and computers—these items are especially susceptible to lightning and power surges.
- ▶ Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.
- ▶ Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.
- ▶ Give your house key to a neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached and let them know when you will arrive home so they can make thermostat changes and turn on the water heater before you arrive.



Twin Valley Wishes You a Happy Father's Day!

Don't forget to celebrate with your dad this Father's Day on Sunday, June 19.

Get Co-op Updates on Facebook, Text or Email

Did you know you can receive Twin Valley alerts at your fingertips? Send us your e-mail address or a cell phone number to receive e-mail or text. Join us on Facebook for updates from Twin Valley.

The alerts will consist of a short message advising you when Twin Valley is predicting the demand to peak so that you may do your part in reducing the load and controlling our power costs. The alerts will also be posted on Facebook.

To join us on Facebook, simply search for Twin Valley Electric Cooperative and click on the LIKE button. You can also visit our webpage at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Once we receive your cell phone number we will add you to our alert list. Alerts will be issued only on those days where we predict our loads will set a new billing level. All applicable text messaging rates will apply.



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Signature



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives