



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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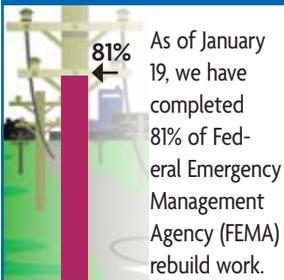
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368

Altamont, KS 67330

620-784-5500

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FEMA Rebuild Update



FROM THE MANAGER

The Cooperative Difference

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative. Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Kansas electricity consumers pay power bills to companies that answer to stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, we focus on service to our members. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, co-ops try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops return money in excess of operating costs (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

Unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your co-op's trustees—fellow members, by the way—focus on keeping lights on safely, reliably and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. That is what's so great about co-ops.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-

owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.

The seven principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control and members' economic participation, among others—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

The leadership at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible; you can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening.

In these days of economic turmoil, folks who receive electricity from co-ops are lucky. As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Trustees and employees at your co-op have the same pride of place as you do, because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.



Ron Holsteen

Get Co-op Updates on Facebook, Text or E-mail



Did you know you can receive Twin Valley alerts at your fingertips? Send us your e-mail address

or cell phone number to receive e-mail or text. Join us on Facebook for updates from Twin Valley.

To join us on Facebook, simply search for Twin Valley Electric Cooperative and click on the "like" button. You can also visit our website 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.

Sign Up Today to Receive E-mail & Text Alerts!

Complete and return this form to Twin Valley Electric, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Twin Valley Account Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

I hereby grant permission for Twin Valley Electric Cooperative to send me alerts via e-mail and text. The information will not be used for any other purpose. I acknowledge that any applicable text message rates will apply and will not be reimbursed by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.

Signature _____

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

A Minor Gain for Thieves Creates Major Costs for Cooperatives



William Worthy

In an effort to control costs, I would like to inform our members about the current epidemic that electric cooperatives and other utilities are facing. This problem

rears its ugly head every once in a while when the price of metals goes up along with the desperation of our criminal element. I'm talking about copper theft.

Twin Valley was hit where we are doing our FEMA work and the thieves targeted new poles that were prepared to be installed. We have taken great measure in using material that should help deter theft, but as we all know, the criminal element is resourceful and will find a way to defeat the mechanisms we have in place.

Instead of fighting the special staples we use to hold the copper ground wire in place, the thieves cut the wire on either side of the staples that are approximately 18-inches apart. On one pole, they acquired less than \$2 worth of copper, but it will cost your cooperative nearly \$75 to repair the damage and replace the copper. If you take this over multiple poles, the thieves' gain is minor and the cost to Twin Valley can be major.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, copper thefts run in excess of \$1 billion and, as we

all know, those costs are shared by every consumer. We are fortunate the thefts so far to Twin Valley are minor and no one has gotten hurt or killed as a result. As with anything such as this, the thefts will probably get worse before it gets better.

Several photographs floating around the World Wide Web show thieves that were not really as smart as they thought they were. They cut the wrong wire and went from healthy young men to crispy critters in the blink of an eye. I don't want to sound uncompassionate, but I have no room in my vocabulary for thieves. Once you take something that does not belong to you, you fall pretty far down the food chain. Many thieves don't know the totality of what they are doing and death to themselves, a public citizen or a cooperative lineman is a potential anytime thefts like this occur.

Twin Valley reports every copper theft or any other item that is stolen from your cooperative. We have a great relationship with the sheriff's office and will continue to report and prosecute any theft. If you witness or have information concerning these thefts, please contact the sheriff's office or call Twin Valley. If you have suspicions that someone you know may be involved in these thefts, please remind them, it is better to be judged by 12 than carried by six.

Until next month, thoughts about this article or ideas for future articles can be sent to me at wworthy@wavewls.com.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Attention High School Juniors

Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign and return the application below to Twin Valley, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.



Students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C. This year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 14-21, 2012.

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office by March 9. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on March 30.

For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer toll-free at 866-784-5500.



Kansas delegates will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 14-20, 2012.

Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 9

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Twin Valley Account # _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2012 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____



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AND MY WARDROBE.**

**Saving money on my electric bill seemed like a good
enough reason to update my closet. Find out what
you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.**



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