



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

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FROM THE CEO

Teaching Youngsters Energy Efficiency

Consumer electronics coupled with myriad smart home appliances have impacted our homes and lifestyles. With our reliance on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

The Why

Before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first address, “what’s in it for me?” It’s hard to convince kids to care about energy efficiency. They need to know how it benefits them, otherwise they will not be motivated to change their habits. In terms children relate to: less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun.

Less tangible, but just as important: using less energy conserves natural resources and helps the environment.

Learning by Doing

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is charged, they will notice.

Make learning about energy efficiency fun for greater impact. For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a treasure hunt, locating items in your home that use electricity. Depending on their age, challenge kids to count and categorize

the items: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power.

For older children, teach them to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see energy use and how their actions impact the bill. Kids of all ages can learn these simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- ▶ Turn off lights, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- ▶ Open blinds and curtains during winter to let sunlight in and close them during summer to keep your home cooler.
- ▶ Teach children to run the dishwasher and washing machine only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones to provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. For parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights! Teaching your children about saving energy instills good habits and is a creative way to spend time with them while creating a more energy efficient home.



Reed Metzger

A Smarter Way to Manage Your

As we're pulled between the 100 different commitments that fill our day, we look for ease and convenience to conserve what little spare time we have left. Directions, takeout meals, banking, insurance and other services have migrated to the palm of our hands. What about your electric bill? Well, there's an app for that. SmartHub is 24/7 access to your Twin Valley Electric membership. It gives you the flexibility to make payments, report outages, manage account information and even check out your past energy usage—from wherever you roam.

Getting Started

1. Download SmartHub

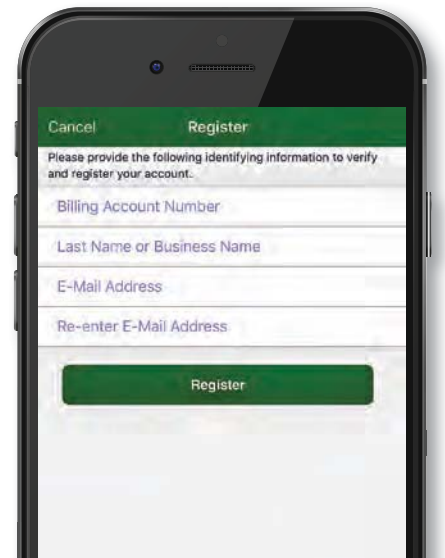
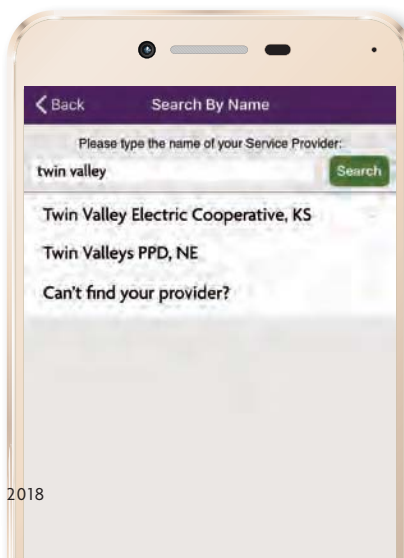
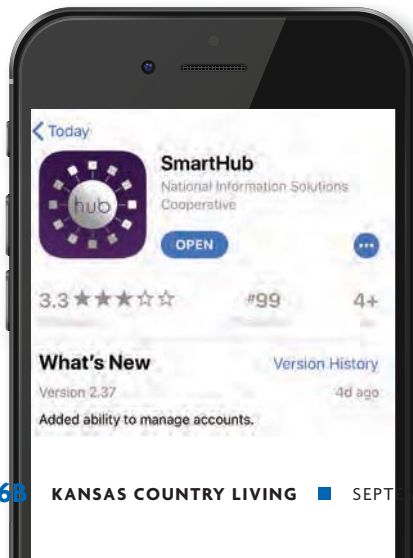
Download the SmartHub application onto your favorite mobile device. To find the application, simply search for "SmartHub" in the App Store (for iOS devices) or Google Play Store for Android devices. The correct app is from our partners at National Information Solutions Cooperative.

2. Find Twin Valley Electric

On the initial start-up of the app, you will be prompted to find your service provider. Simply tap the search bar and look for "Twin Valley Electric" in the provided list of cooperatives. Please be sure to select the correct cooperative, then begin your setup.

3. Register Your Membership

Once you've found Twin Valley Electric in the application, you will be prompted to create a login account for SmartHub. Members with an e-billing login can login using their existing account. Please note, you will need your billing number to complete your SmartHub account registration.

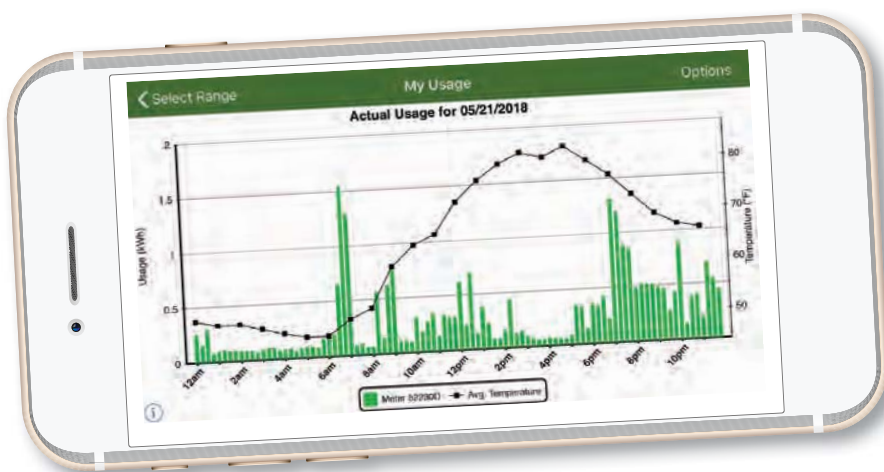


Membership

Meet SmartHub

Your Electricity Usage

1. Tap the “My Usage” icon on the main screen to access your usage information.
2. On SmartHub, view the usage of all of the accounts tied to your membership. Simply tap the account you wish view and select a date from the available options.
3. Your usage will show as a graph, which can be customized through the “Options” tab at the top of your screen. For a more in-depth look at your usage, click the blue “i” icon at the bottom left of the screen. Usage information can be used to pinpoint how you are using energy and adjust your electrical use. Pair this information with efficiency tips from our website for more savings.

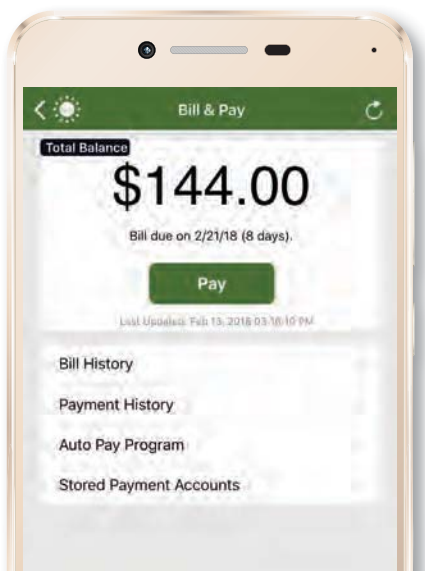


On SmartHub you can save a credit/debit card for future transactions. These payment options can be managed by tapping the “Stored Payment Accounts” link on the bottom of the payment screen.

Pay and Manage Your Bill

1. From the home screen, tap the “Bill and Pay” icon.
2. Simply click the “Pay” icon to begin the payment process.

3. Past billing statements are available by tapping the “Bill History” link. You can view, export and email past bills by pressing the blue “i” icon next to each billing statement.



SmartHub on Computer

Your Account Command Center

Enjoy many of the same benefits and more by logging into SmartHub on your computer. Through the online portal, you will be able to adjust membership information, save payment options and opt into our paperless billing program.

1. Go to twinvalleyelectric.coop in your web browser.
2. Click the “Pay My Bill Online Via SmartHub” link on our home page.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to create or login with an existing Twin Valley e-billing account.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

Camp Teaches Leadership, Teamwork, Inclusiveness: the Pillars of a Cooperative

Fitting in and being part of the group can be challenging for anyone, especially high school students. It is this sense of belonging, of being part of something bigger, that sets electric cooperatives apart from other utilities. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, aims to bring high school students together in a collaborative setting to learn the cooperative principles while cultivating the students' leadership and teamwork skills.

This year's CYLC hosted 37 Kansas high school students and other hand-picked scholars from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming from July 13-19. Twin Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to have sponsored **RILEY SORRELL** for this leadership opportunity.

At CYLC, the youth gained a greater understanding of how their electric cooperative operates by creating a candy cooperative. The students learned leadership and teamwork skills while participating in daily membership meetings, establishing committees, and electing a general manager and board of directors. They also learned about power generation by touring both Trapper Mine, a surface coal mine, and the neighboring Craig Station Power Plant.

To be selected for this trip, Sorrell was chosen by Twin Valley Electric through interviews in front of a panel of judges.

"Students are selected based on their score on a cooperative knowledge test and interviews held at the cooperative where they discuss their leadership potential, academic achievements and



Riley Sorrell enjoys the beauty surrounding Elk River.

community involvement," said Jennifer Manahan, Youth Tour Coordinator.

While at camp, students participated in group activities and educational sessions while learning the importance of inclusivity and collaboration. Even the scheduled leisure activities offered learning opportunities as the students worked together maneuvering their river rafts down the Colorado River, competed in a volleyball tournament and showcased their entertaining skills at the annual talent show. The students also toured downtown Steamboat Springs, enjoyed an evening dance and swimming.

Established in the 1970s, the CYLC is sponsored by Twin Valley Electric and coordinated by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. KEC strives to represent the interests of the electric cooperatives of Kansas through its focus on state legislation, as well as by providing safety services and programs, and educational and leadership opportunities for the state's youth.



Nearly 100 campers from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp from July 13-19.

The people around me inspired me. I thought I was a good guy who had done positive things in my community, but I'm leaving knowing that I can be better.

RILEY SORRELL