



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Bryan Coover
President

Larry Hubbell
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Huckle
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Diane McCartney
Trustee

Jared Nash
Trustee

Jason Zwahlen
Trustee

Staff

Angie Erickson
CEO

Office Hours

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

Contact Us

1511 14,000 Rd.
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

Don't Fall Victim to Utility Scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, which occurs when a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, Twin Valley will apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know

to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility. Twin Valley will only send text messages if you've signed up to receive text alerts.

Watch for indications of scamming. Is the person contacting you:

- ▶ Asking you to pay with the use of prepaid debit cards.
- ▶ Asking for your private information, rather than confirming your information with you.
- ▶ Asking you to act fast. Creating a sense of urgency is a common tactic of scammers.

Also, follow these tips when speaking with anyone you aren't sure about:

- ▶ Never give bank account information or credit/debit card information.

Continued on page 16C ▶



HAPPY
★
4TH OF JULY
★★★
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed
on Monday, July 5,
for the holiday.



Twin Valley Flips the Switch on Solar Farm

Twin Valley recently held a gathering to “Flip the Switch” on a newly constructed, 1-megawatt solar installation south of Mound Valley. Testing of the unit was completed in May, making the unit fully-operational at the beginning of June — the start of Twin Valley’s peak demand season.

The solar installation is a partnership between TVEC and Today’s Power, Inc., North Little Rock, Arkansas. Today’s Power owns the array, while TVEC has contracted to purchase all the power generated by the array over the 25 year term of the agreement. The unit is designed to maximize production during the peak demand hours of the day, when TVEC’s power cost is the highest. In addition to the savings in demand costs, TVEC will benefit from an attractive fixed

cost of power. The savings realized will help stabilize electric rates for TVEC’s member-owners.

“This arrangement is a good fit for Twin Valley. We gain the means to manage our demand costs without a large up-front investment. Also, TPI will operate and maintain the system, minimizing the risk of unexpected expenses associated with system maintenance,” said Angie Erickson, TVEC CEO.

TVEC is one of 12 Kansas electric cooperatives that partnered in the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program. Through this partnership, the cooperatives were able to receive lower rates than would not have been possible individually. In all, the Kansas cooperatives will install more than 20 megawatts of solar power across their systems.



Twin Valley Electric Cooperative’s board of trustees and employees were on hand to “flip the switch” on June 10.



Above: Twin Valley Electric Board President Bryan Coover (left) and CEO Angie Erickson “flip the switch” on the 1-megawatt solar array.

Left: Michael Henderson, president of Today’s Power, Inc. discusses the array and the benefits of solar energy in today’s energy market. TPI is partnering with 12 Kansas cooperatives in the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program to help bring solar power to our rural areas.

Working on the LINE

TVEC lineman **ERIC CORNELL** performs a pole top rescue exercise during a safety training day. This exercise simulates the rescue of an unconscious or severely injured lineworker by lowering a 200-pound life-size mannequin to the ground safely.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

SOURCE: NRECA




Don't Fall Victim to Utility Scams Continued from page 16A ►

- Never give your social security number or date of birth.
- Don't even give your address. Many scammers only have the phone number and are looking to get any other data to link to it in order to steal your identity.


If someone from Twin Valley needs to speak to you about your account, that employee will readily identify themselves with their full name and they will be able to confirm your information with you so you can be confident they are who they say they are. If you still aren't sure, hang up and call us directly at 866-784-5500 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to Twin Valley so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with anything from shutting off your power to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.



- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

Renewable Energy Helps Power Our World

Renewable energy is continuous energy supplied by natural resources

This type of energy is “naturally replenishing but flow limited,” according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Although renewable energy is inexhaustible, the amount of power produced in a specific time period is restricted.

How Does Renewable Energy Fit into the Larger Energy Picture?

According to the University of Michigan (U-M) Center for Sustainable Systems, about 80% of the nation's energy comes from fossil fuels, 8.4% from nuclear power and 11.4% from renewable sources. Wind and solar are the fastest-growing renewable sources; however, they provide just 3.8% of the total energy used in the U.S., according to the U-M center.

In 2019, renewable energy sources accounted for about 17% of energy generation, according to the EIA. The administration projects the share of renewables used for

U.S. electricity generation will increase from 21% in 2020 to 42% in 2050.

Types of Renewable Energy Include:


WIND POWER, which uses wind energy to make electricity, occurs because the sun cannot heat the surface of the earth evenly. Today, wind energy is mainly used to generate electricity. In 2019, wind turbines were the source of approximately 7.3% of the total U.S. utility-scale electricity generation.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY is energy garnered from the heat of the Earth. This type of energy can be used in different ways depending on the resource and technology chosen, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It can heat and cool homes and buildings through heat pumps, generate electricity via geothermal power plants and heat structures directly.

SOLAR POWER, or energy from the sun, is the most abundant energy resource on earth according to the DOE, with 173,000 terawatts of solar energy striking the earth continuously. That is more than 10,000 times the world's total energy use. Solar panels that take in the sun's energy are made of silicon photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into electricity instead of heat (photovoltaic=photo as in light, and voltaic=electricity).

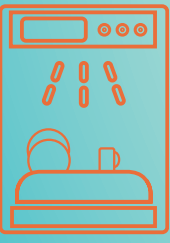
HYDROELECTRIC POWER relies on the water cycle for power. According to the EIA, hydropower was one of the first sources used for electricity generation and it is the largest single renewable energy source for U.S. electricity generation. Besides dams, other forms of hydropower include waves and tides.

BIOMASS is organic material that comes from plants and animals. Examples of biomass include wood, agricultural crops; food, yard and wood waste in garbage; animal manure; and human sewage. According to the EIA, biomass fuels provided 5% of total primary energy use in the U.S. in 2019.




WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USAGE


Did you know that the highest hour of electric usage in the summer months is the basis for billing for the next eight months? Controlling your energy usage between 3-7 p.m. helps reduce electricity demand and keeps costs down.



Avoid running the dishwasher during peak energy use hours.



Avoid doing laundry during peak energy use hours.



Raise your thermostat a few degrees to help conserve energy.