



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Using the Clock to Save Energy

Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? Think of times of high energy demand like rush hour traffic. These are times when a lot of people in our community are using electricity — whether getting ready for work, which involves showering and making breakfast, or coming home in the evening to cook dinner, wash clothes, bathe the kids or wash dishes. During these times of high energy use, your electric cooperative strives to ensure there is enough electricity available to meet the needs of all consumer-members. This often results in buying energy at higher costs (because of higher overall demand) as well as ensuring that grid infrastructure can deliver enough electricity when use is highest. This is especially true when extreme winter or summer weather pushes energy use even higher.

There are several ways consumers can help lower energy demand by thoughtfully timing energy-intensive activities at home. Peak energy hours are typically in the morning and in the evening after people return from work and school. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off-peak.

Here are few simple ways you can beat the energy peak:

- ▶ **ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT.** Move the temperature up to 78 degrees in summer and down to 68 degrees in winter. Bump it further up or down when you're away from home for extended periods of time.
- ▶ **POSTPONE THE USE OF MAJOR APPLIANCES.** Move laundry loads to later in the evening or weekends. Delay running the dishwasher until well after dinner or use the delay cycle function if your dishwasher has one.

Continued on page 12B ▶

Join Us for YOUR Annual Meeting Mark Your Calendars for April 26 at 6 p.m.

The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Labette County High School cafeteria. **WATCH FOR THE RSVP** in your April issue of *Kansas Country Living*.



Using the Clock to Save Energy Continued from page 12A ▶

- ▶ **YOUR WATER HEATER USES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ENERGY.** You can reduce its energy burden by moving showering and bathing to an off-peak time or lowering the temperature on the tank. Some models include the ability to place the water heater on a timer to turn it off during hours it won't be in use.
- ▶ **DURING SUMMER, CONSIDER GRILLING OUTDOORS** to keep the oven off during peak heat days.
- ▶ **UNPLUG CHARGING CABLES AND SMALL APPLIANCES WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN USE.** For bigger items like TVs, try plugging them into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.
- ▶ **IF YOU HAVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE, CHARGE IT AT NIGHT** when electricity rates are typically lowest.

Lowering your energy use during peak times allows your co-op to save money on peak demand fuel costs, ultimately saving consumer-members money by keeping rates lower.

Timing energy use to avoid “rush hour” is a great way to keep costs down and practice better efficiency habits.



THINK SAFETY

**CALL
BEFORE
YOU
DIG**

CALL 811 TO HAVE
YOUR PUBLIC
UTILITIES MARKED
BEFORE YOU DIG.

If you have private utilities, such as underground fencing or sprinkler systems, you are responsible for calling a private utility locator before digging.

Be Prepared and Stay Safe: Storm Watches vs. Warnings

At any moment, 1,800 thunderstorms occur worldwide, according to the National Weather Service. That is 16 million storms a year! In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60 to 65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries in the U.S. alone.

To protect yourself, your family and your property from seasonal thunderstorms and tornadoes, you need more than a flashlight and a few cans of food (although they are essential parts of your emergency kit). Beyond the items in your preparedness kit, it is a good idea to fully understand how dangerous storms can be and how to interpret weather alerts to minimize risk.

Watch Versus Warning

When bad weather is approaching, people typically turn on the TV, pull up a weather app or look online for information. If you see a severe weather watch or warning, something bad could be heading your way. However, many people do not consider the differences between the two.

A watch means there is a significant chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Watch and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures, like unplugging electronics and checking the contents of your emergency preparedness kit.

A warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar. The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home, which is usually in your basement or the interior part of your home, away from windows.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are some of the most common yet destructive weather events on earth. Most of the damage comes from flooding caused by heavy rains, lightning strikes and high winds. Some storms also deliver hail and can even spawn tornadoes. Bad weather systems,

such as those that cause thunderstorms, can cause broken windows, extreme water damage, fallen trees, serious fires, downed power lines and more.

Do not ignore the potential hazards of thunderstorms. Keep flashlights or battery-operated lights well supplied with batteries or charge them regularly. Keep a supply of nonperishable food and drinking water on hand. Turn off and unplug electronic equipment to protect it from power surges. Move valuables out of the basement or other locations that may flood. However, do not step into a flooded basement or area since the water could be electrified.

If a power outage occurs, never use a portable generator in your home, enclosed structure or garage. Keep it at least 20 feet away from the house and direct the exhaust away from any occupied space.

Tornadoes

The central part of the United States is sometimes referred to as Tornado Alley because it is the most common geographic location for these disastrous storms. The Great Plains have the perfect environment and climate for severe storm creation. While tornadoes can happen in any month, they are much likelier in the spring and summer than in other seasons. April, May and June have more than twice as many reported tornadoes as any other time of the year.

Be aware of weather conditions during thunderstorms that could breed tornadoes. Know the best place to shelter both indoors and out, and always protect your head, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Understanding severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings can help keep you and your family safe. Do not underestimate the potential power of these weather systems. Take steps to protect yourselves and your property before a storm hits.



Sow Seeds of SAFETY This Planting Season

Whether you've been through 30 planting seasons or three, be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. You and anyone working or doing business on your farm should know and follow electrical safety precautions to avoid potential hazards.

When near power lines, poles or other utility equipment:

- ▶ Maintain a 10-foot clearance in all directions; OSHA recommends 20 feet.
- ▶ Realize that electricity can arc ("jump") when equipment is too close.
- ▶ Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting.
- ▶ Designate preplanned routes to avoid potential hazards.
- ▶ Always use a spotter and deploy the flags.
- ▶ Before exiting the cab, look up to ensure proper clearance of all equipment.
- ▶ Lower extension to the lowest setting before moving loads.
- ▶ Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- ▶ Contact your local electric utility if you think a pole or a line may have been damaged.

IF YOUR EQUIPMENT DOES

come in contact with a power line or other utility equipment, do not exit the cab. Instead call 911 and wait until utility workers say it is safe to exit.

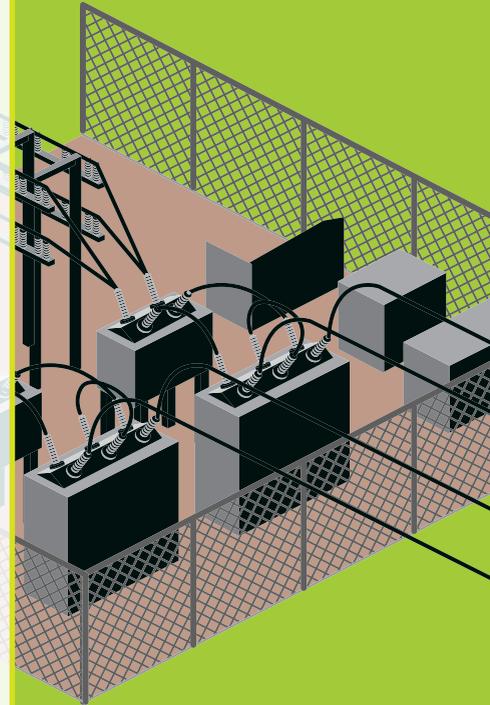
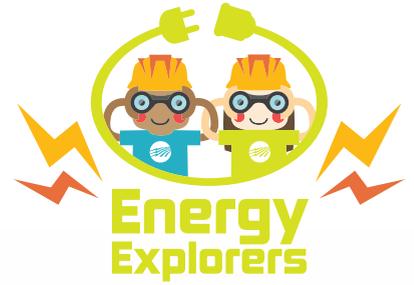
IF YOU ARE IN IMMINENT

DANGER (equipment on fire) and need to exit the cab, make a solid, clean jump out of the cab and hop with both feet together as far away as you can.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WORD SEARCH

Did you know we use a variety of equipment to send electricity to your home?

Read the facts below to learn about the equipment we use, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.



- ▶ **TRANSFORMERS** look like large metal cans on top of utility poles or big green boxes on the ground. They reduce the voltage of electricity for safe use in your home.
- ▶ **POWER LINES** hang overhead or are placed underground to carry electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses.
- ▶ Lineworkers use **BUCKET TRUCKS** to reach power lines and poles when making repairs and updates to the electrical system.
- ▶ **ELECTRIC METERS** are placed on the outside of homes to measure the amount of electricity you use.
- ▶ **SUBSTATIONS** are facilities that contain equipment to help control the flow of electricity.