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.**

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**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
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## Cold Weather Rule

The Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) Cold Weather Rule restricts residential electric disconnects from Nov. 1 through March 31 when temperature forecasts are below 35 degrees, as long as the consumer contacts the utility and makes alternate arrangements to pay their balance.

Electric cooperatives are not required to follow the KCC policy, and are responsible for establishing their own seasonal rules. Twin Valley Electric's Cold Weather Rule is nearly identical to KCC's rule.

Under the rules of both organizations, individuals who are unable to pay their bill and would like protection under the Cold Weather Rule must call Twin Valley's office at 866-784-5500 to make a payment arrangement. To remain protected by the Cold Weather Rule, the individual must follow through with the arrangement agreed upon by both parties.

**The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.**

If you want more information about our Cold Weather Rule, or if you have questions about billing and payment options, please call our office at 866-784-5500.

## WILLIE WIREDHAND ORNAMENT DRAWING

The 2024 Willie Wiredhand commemorative holiday ornaments have arrived! TVEC will hold a drawing for **FIVE ORNAMENTS.** To be eligible for the drawing, you can enter online at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop, or complete and return the entry form below to the Twin Valley Electric office either in person or mail to: Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330, **BY DEC. 6, 2024. ALL WINNERS WILL BE CONTACTED BY TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC.**

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

# Is a Ductless Mini-Split System Right for Your Home?

How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home? One where the temperature is customized to your liking and may be different than the temperature in the shared living areas or other rooms in the house. This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split system is a type of HVAC equipment used for heating and cooling, allowing you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, mini-split systems have two main components — an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit(s). A narrow conduit links the indoor unit(s) to the outdoor compressor.

While central heating and cooling systems feature an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

## IS A MINI-SPLIT SYSTEM RIGHT FOR YOU?

Mini-split systems are a popular option in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be furthest away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement. In these instances, it may not be feasible to install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems. In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to install requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor rooms or zones connected to one outdoor unit. The zones can be customized because each includes a thermostat that enables you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

## COOL SOLUTIONS

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units.

One of the greatest benefits of mini-splits is that they typically have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) rating than traditional central heating and cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

However, according to the Department of Energy, "mini-splits cost about $1,500 to $2,000 per ton of cooling capacity. That's about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity."

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup to run a mini-split system. Aesthetics are another factor to consider, as some homeowners don't like the appearance of the indoor units, which are more visible than central air conditioning vents.

If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home.

## Mini-Splits at a Glance

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

### MINI-SPLIT SYSTEM BENEFITS:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

### MINI-SPLIT SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS:

- Potentially higher upfront cost

# Attention High School Juniors

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will send one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. To find out more, contact Marsha Moses at 866-784-5500.

**TO QUALIFY**

Applicants must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries.

**TO APPLY**

Complete, sign and return the application below by mail or deliver to Twin Valley Electric, P.O. Box 368, 1511 14000 Road, Altamont, KS 67330 by **JAN. 31, 2025,** or apply online at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Applicants will study information about electric co-ops provided by Twin Valley and take a quiz. There will also be a short interview.


Name of Applicant: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Birth Date: _____ School: _____

Parent(S)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Parent(S)/Guardian(s) Phone: _____ Twin Valley Account Number: _____

**I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.**

Applicant Signature: _____

**I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ABOVE APPLICANT TO COMPETE IN THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION.**

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

*The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other act of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities) the trip will be canceled.*

# Stay Safe and Warm: Your Winter Home Readiness Guide

Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency and warmth. Here are top tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

## INSPECT YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked to ensure efficient heat distribution.

## MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

## PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

## PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

## INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

## STOCK EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing 1 gallon of water per person per day.

Include these essentials in your emergency kit:

- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries
- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

## WHAT TO DO IF THE POWER GOES OUT

Winter weather is unpredictable, with high winds, whiteouts and ice storms. These conditions can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, contact your electrical utility as soon as you can so they know you have lost power.

## OTHER ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO STAY SAFE ARE:

- Avoid travel. Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Place a draft block at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Use a tarp and portable canopy when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- Move fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Save energy while away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation setting, or you can simply lower the temperature manually. Small actions stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles. **SOURCE: NRECA**