



the **COOPERATOR**

FEBRUARY 2024 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



The member-powered difference

Kay Electric consumer-owners help shape the co-op's future

Most consumers likely don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But Kay Electric is not an ordinary utility company. We're a cooperative, and our business model is meant to serve the members right here in north-central Oklahoma. That's why we look forward to events when we have the chance to interact with members.


This month, members in Districts 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to attend district meetings. These gatherings, which we hold for each district every three years, are a great opportunity to meet your board trustee and share what's on your mind.

On April 12, we hope all KEC members will plan to join us for our annual meet-

ing. Like the past two years, this year's meeting will take place via drive-thru registration at our headquarters in Blackwell. We will livestream a virtual business meeting on Facebook after the drive thru closes. We will also announce our prize winners during this meeting! See Page 2 for annual meeting details.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact, it's essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. Gaining guidance and perspective from our members and board helps set priorities for the co-op and guide future decisions.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable

power. But as a co-op, we're also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for upcoming district and annual meetings. We look forward to seeing you! 

2024 District Meetings

Meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

District 4 - Monday, Feb. 12

300 W. Doolin, Blackwell

District 5 - Tuesday, Feb. 13

223 W. Guthrie St., Medford

District 6 - Thursday, Feb. 15

200 W. Main St., Billings



OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079
300 W. Doolin Ave. | PO Box 607
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Max Hohmann, President | Dist. 4
Verl Brorsen, Vice President | Dist. 9
Ron Shoffner, Secretary/Treasurer | Dist. 3
Jake Olsen | Dist. 1
Chad Otto | Dist. 2
Mike Lebeda | Dist. 5
Brady Hostetler | Dist. 6
Bart Cardwell | Dist. 7
Dr. Tim Blanton | Dist. 8
Jason Boesch | General Manager/CEO

EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

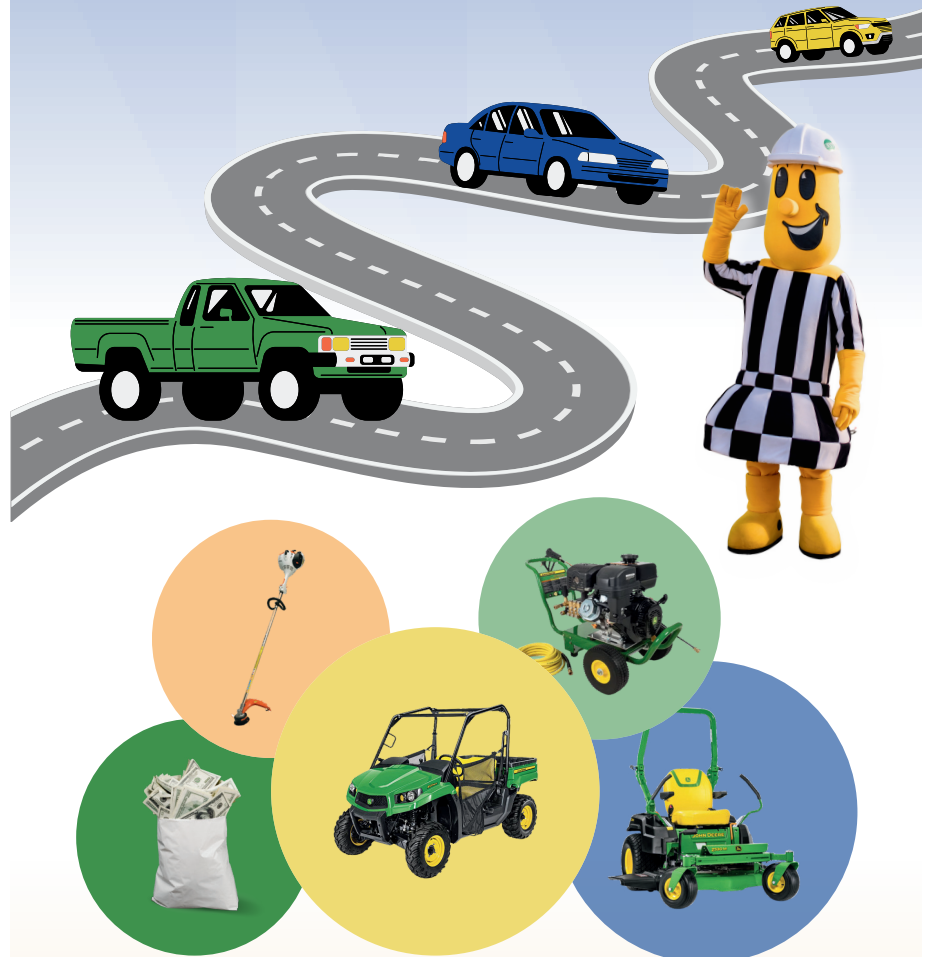
- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

KEC DRIVE-THRU

2024

Annual Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 12



Drive thru for your chance to win:

John Deere gator, John Deere pressure washer, John Deere zero-turn mower, Stihl weed eater, gift cards & cash.

How extreme winter weather impacts reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Kay Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch; however the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and Kay Electric will inform you about the situation.

Kay Electric Cooperative and WFEC take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

✓ Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

Pro tip: Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

✓ Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.

Pro tip: Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

✓ Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

Pro tip: Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.

✓ When possible, use cold water to re-

duce water heating costs.

Pro tip: Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral build-up and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

✓ Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

Pro tip: Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected. ❄️

BEST BETS FOR
Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE




Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS



Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.

USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER




Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

LOWER THE THERMOSTAT



Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

GOOD COOKIN'

Cupid Chow

Ingredients

- ½ cup creamy peanut butter
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 9 cups Chex cereal
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup M&Ms
- Sprinkles of your choice

Instructions

Combine peanut butter, butter and chocolate chips in a microwaveable bowl. Microwave for 1 minute, then stir until melted and creamy. Add vanilla and stir. In a large bowl with a cover, pour chocolate mixture over cereal. Cover and shake until cereal is evenly coated. Sprinkle powdered sugar over cereal. Cover and shake until evenly coated. Add M&Ms and sprinkles of your choice.



Microwave Tips: For more even heating, place food items toward the outside of the microwave turntable, rather than at the center. Cover with a lid, use a lower power setting and stir part way through heating time. 865900



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days. Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

FOLLOW US!



for community highlights, contests, outage restoration updates and more

Pay your bill, report outages, view your usage, all via SmartHub. Access SmartHub through www.kayelectric.coop or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

