



P.O. Box 360, 14935 U.S. Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654
785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323
www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

POWER
to make life better

FROM THE CEO

Strengthening Our Electric Grid

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative partnered with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) to develop a 10-year Smart Grid Technology Plan to enhance Prairie Land's electric distribution system. The detailed plan, completed by NRTC in late 2024, identified key smart grid components and implementation strategies to improve critical infrastructure, service reliability, and outage response times.

The plan highlighted two main priorities:

- ▶ **IMPROVING RELIABILITY** — Making sure our system experiences fewer outages and interruptions.
- ▶ **UPGRADING COMMUNICATIONS** — Installing technology that helps us monitor and manage the electric grid more effectively.

BUILDING THE BACKBONE

This project's first phase will focus on installing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to establish the smart grid backbone. This computer-based system will provide centralized, real-time monitoring and control of the distribution network, collecting data from field devices, like transformers and circuit breakers, to detect faults and monitor system health.



Kirk Girard

NEXT STEPS — TARGETING PROBLEM AREAS

The next phase focuses on installing automatic circuit reclosers (ACRs) in areas previously affected by storms

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SAVE THE DATE!



ANNUAL MEETING
14935 US HWY 36, NORTON, KS • 785.877.3323

April 1, 2025
Lunch at Noon • Meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Wrapped in Savings

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like The Department of Energy or Home Depot provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit www.energy.gov/insulation to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, type of heating and cooling system and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled



Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption.

paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.



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3 REASONS TO VOTE IN CO-OP TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Electric co-ops are led by the members they serve, which means you have a say in who governs our co-op. Here are three reasons why you should participate in trustee elections.

- 1 As a member of the co-op, your input matters.
- 2 Trustees represent you on important energy-related issues.
- 3 Trustees' decisions can impact electricity rates and future projects.

Help shape our community's energy future by voting in the 2025 trustee elections.



EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY

GREG COOPER



Prairie Land extends heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to **GREG COOPER**, foreman in Saint Francis, for 25 years of service. Greg started his career with Prairie Land on Feb. 1, 2000. He and his wife, JaNan, have three children, Gavin, Gaten and Garin. In his free time, Greg enjoys spending time with family. Thank you, Greg, for your dedication to our members and community!


2024 County Tax Distribution

Prairie Land Electric paid **\$2,343,368** in property taxes in 2024. This amount is an increase of **\$185,282** from taxes paid last year. The details below show the amount of taxes paid to each county.

Although your cooperative signs the check that pays for the property taxes, we realize that you, our members, ultimately pay the bill. Using a portion of your bill payment each month, co-op property tax is paid by co-op members and in turn, supports the communities in our area.

COUNTY	2024	2023	% CHANGE
Cheyenne	\$120,136	\$114,093	5.3%
Clay	\$5,625	\$5,602	0.4%
Cloud	\$266,786	\$249,346	7.0%
Decatur	\$171,280	\$152,978	12.0%
Graham	\$121,795	\$121,323	0.4%
Jewell	\$92,314	\$82,181	12.3%
Mitchell	\$59,845	\$57,829	3.5%
Norton	\$352,262	\$325,325	8.3%
Osborne	\$60,228	\$57,145	5.4%
Phillips	\$431,549	\$385,207	12.0%
Rawlins	\$123,564	\$103,212	19.7%
Republic	\$109,571	\$102,410	7.0%
Rooks	\$147,134	\$138,737	6.1%
Sheridan	\$26,192	\$25,076	4.5%
Sherman	\$506	\$474	6.8%
Smith	\$173,368	\$150,389	15.3%
Thomas	\$148	\$148	0.1%
Washington	\$81,064	\$86,611	-6.4%
Totals	\$2,343,368	\$2,158,086	8.6%


PROPERTY TAXES FOR PRAIRIE LAND ARE ASSESSED BASED UPON REVENUES RATHER THAN ACTUAL PROPERTY VALUE.




GENERATOR

SAFETY TIPS

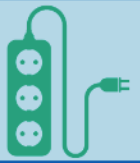
Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.




Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.



Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.



Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.



For more information, visit:
www.prairielandelectric.com/generator-safety

POWER

to make life better

Strengthening Our Electric Grid

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“By investing in these upgrades, we are building a stronger, smarter electric grid that will serve our members reliably for years to come.”

and on 20 circuits across seven high-outage substations. These advanced devices will replace outdated reclosers without electronic controls, reducing manual intervention. ACRs automatically detect and isolate faults, such as short circuits, and temporarily disconnect affected line sections. After a short period, the devices attempt to re-energize the line based on pre-programmed criteria. If a fault persists, the recloser locks open, effectively isolating the faulted section from the main grid and alerting the operations team to investigate and resolve the issue. This automated process minimizes the need for manual intervention and significantly reduces response times.

Upgrading to smart controls-enabled ACR technology will improve system reliability, reduce service interruptions, and mitigate the fire risk from downed power lines, supporting the cooperative's goals for improved safety and efficiency.

FUNDING

To help cover the costs, we will use Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding and apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Managed by the Kansas Corporation Commission, this grant program aims to strengthen the electric grid and enhance its resilience against storms and other disruptions.

By investing in these upgrades, we are building a stronger, smarter electric grid that will serve our members reliably for years to come.



Currently, Prairie Land uses reclosers without electronic controls.



To improve our system reliability, Prairie Land will be installing automatic circuit reclosers with electronic controls.

NRTC SMART GRID TECHNOLOGY PLAN



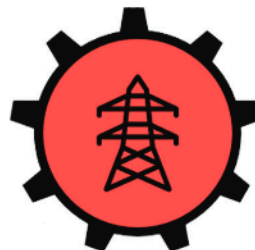
COMMUNICATIONS



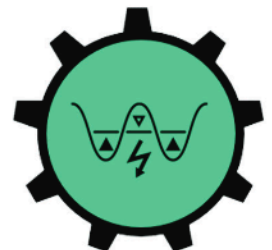
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION



METERING



RELIABILITY



LOAD MANAGEMENT