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785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323  
www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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**Kirk Girard**  
CEO

## FROM THE CEO

# Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

### POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.



Kirk Girard

At Prairie Land Electric distribution cooperative, we work closely with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (Sunflower), our wholesale power provider, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to

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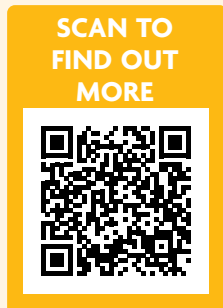
## POWER LINE ISSUES

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



## FINAL REMINDER! ACCEPTING YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS

Apply by Jan. 10. at 5 p.m.



Apply today for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20, 2025, and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 11-17, 2025. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip.

Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code. You can also find the form in your Dec. 2024 bill, request one from your high school counselor, or contact us at 800-577-3323 or sgallentine@ple.coop. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M. JAN. 10, 2025.**



**LOOK FOR THE  
KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING  
READERSHIP SURVEY  
IN YOUR EMAIL!**

*Kansas Country Living* has engaged

**INSIDE  
INFORMATION,**

a research and data analytics company in Smithville, Missouri, to oversee a readership survey beginning this month.

The short, 21-question survey will be conducted through email and will help *Kansas Country Living* — the official communication channel for our electric cooperative — measure reader engagement and perceptions about the publication and our electric cooperative’s local pages.

The magazine is the most cost-effective way to share essential business information with our members, along with articles about legislative and regulatory issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, construction activities, features highlighting the great state in which we live, safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

If you are one of the lucky randomly selected readers to receive the survey, the email will come from

**SURVEY@KANSASCOUNTRYLIVING.COM**

and the email headline will clearly indicate it is a survey from *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

*When you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for ONE OF 15 \$25 GIFT CARDS as our thank you for helping us keep you informed of co-op-related matters as an owner of*

**PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.**



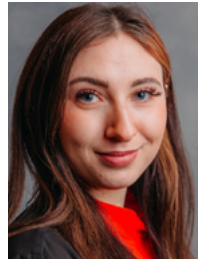
# Employee Spotlights

Congratulations to **MARSHALL HESPE**, construction foreman in St. Francis, for completing 25 years of service.

We are excited to welcome **ALLISON HILLEBRAND** to our member services department. Allison started with Prairie Land on Dec. 2, 2024. She is originally from Hays and will be serving as our communications specialist. Allison has bachelor’s degrees in English and communications from Fort Hays State University. In her free time, Allison enjoys reading and spending time with her dog, Ghost [Buster], and cat, Macaroni.



**Marshall Hesse**



**Allison Hillebrand**



## ARE YOU READY?

**During colder weather ensure you have warm clothing and blankets in your vehicle for emergencies.**

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELCTRICITY.ORG

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, texting you or emailing you. Always call Prairie Land Electric Cooperative at **785-877-3323** or **800-577-3323** or visit our website at **WWW.PRAIRIELANDELECTRIC.COM** if you have a question about payment or billing information. View our utility bill payment options — online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person — at [www.prairielandelectric.com/payment-options](http://www.prairielandelectric.com/payment-options).

SOURCE: UTILITIES UNITED AGAINST SCAMS



## SEVERE STORMS CAN BRING DOWN POWER LINES

- ▶ Never drive over a downed power line. Snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment.
- ▶ If you're in an accident involving a power line, do not exit your vehicle.
- ▶ Remember, power lines need not be sparking or arcing to be energized.



# Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

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generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — coal, natural gas, wind, solar and hydropower — Sunflower has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Prairie Land Electric partners with Sunflower, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, residential members typically use more electricity in the mornings at the start of the day, and in the evenings when cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

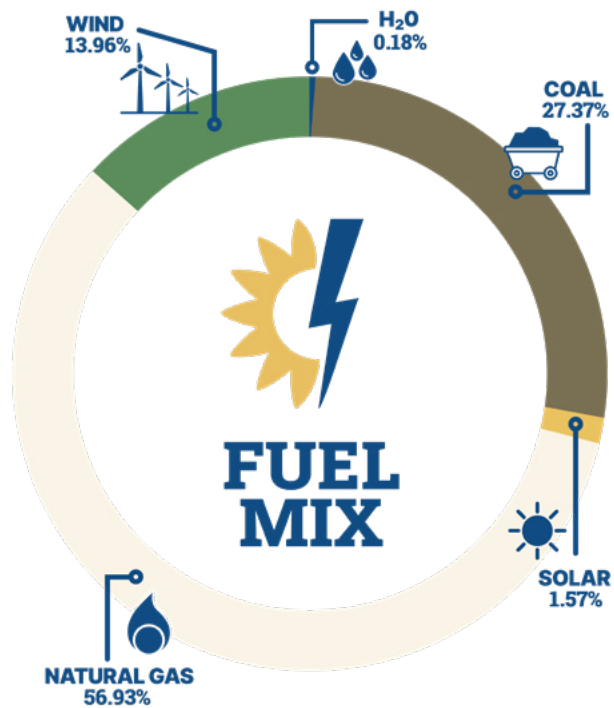
## MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and sent to specific areas is coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In Kansas, our RTO is the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the power grid monitor for our 14-state region. SPP acts as an air traffic controller for the electric grid, taking measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's



important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which could compromise reliable electricity.

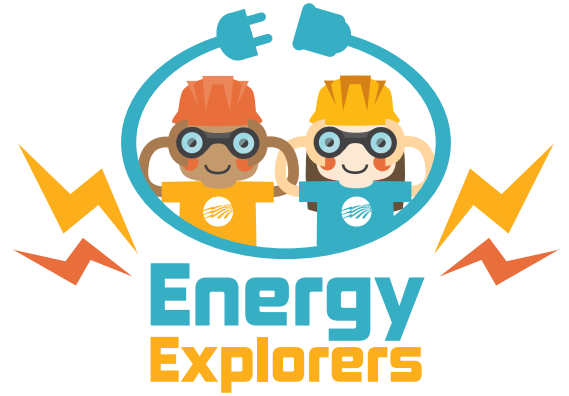
Prairie Land Electric Cooperative remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. Together with Sunflower, we are evaluating our options to proactively address the rising demand and other potential challenges that could impact our local electricity supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

To learn more about Prairie Land's power supply, provided to us by Sunflower, visit [HTTPS://SUNFLOWER.NET/POWER-SUPPLY](https://sunflower.net/power-supply).

# ENERGY SAVINGS SCAVENGER HUNT

Saving energy at home is a great way to help the environment (and save money). With the help of an adult, look for ways you can save energy around your home. Use the tips below to get started, then check off the areas where you've identified ways to save!



## TASK: BRIGHT IDEAS

Ensure your home uses energy-saving LED bulbs. If you find incandescent or CFL bulbs, replace them with LEDs.



## TASK: UNOCCUPIED ROOMS

Turn off lights and ceiling fans in unoccupied rooms to conserve energy.

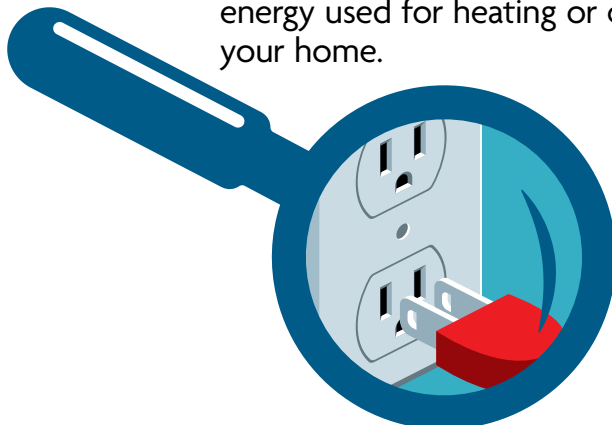
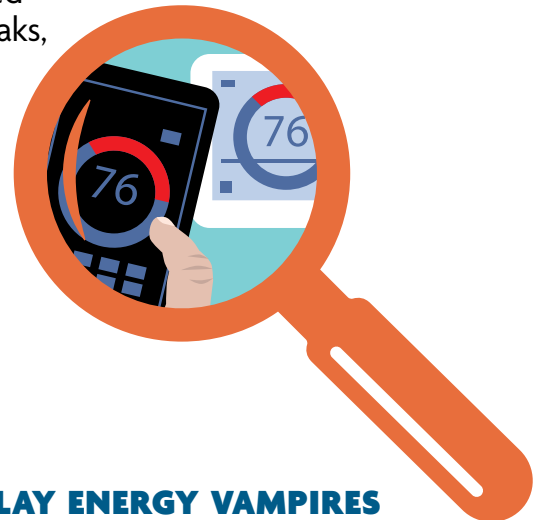


## TASK: SEALED FOR SAVINGS

Check windows to make sure they are closed and locked. Sealed windows help prevent air leaks, which saves energy.

## TASK: SET TO SAVE

Check the thermostat to see if it can be adjusted a few degrees (either lowered in winter or raised in summer) to conserve energy used for heating or cooling your home.



## TASK: SLAY ENERGY VAMPIRES

Energy vampires are devices that consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug these items, like phone chargers and tablets, when you're not using them.