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

**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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

POWER
to make life better

FROM THE CEO

5 Ways to Fight the Cold and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Prairie Land Electric is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five ways to increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1 MIND THE THERMOSTAT. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2 BUTTON UP YOUR HOME. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3 USE WINDOW COVERINGS WISELY. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker



Kirk Girard

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Happy Holidays

From our co-op family to yours,
wishing you a joyous holiday season
and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Our office will be closed on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for the holidays.

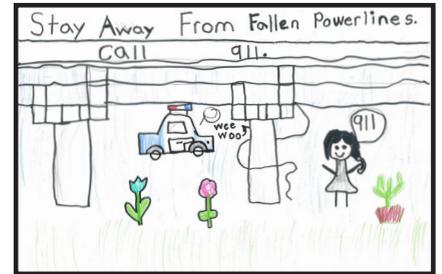
Cooperative Month Poster Contest Winners

To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, Prairie Land held a poster contest for third graders across its 18-county service territory. Students used their creativity to draw posters of electrical safety at home or school.

The top three poster winners were awarded a brand new bike and helmet. As an incentive for schools and teachers to allow their students to enter, participating classroom teachers received a donation from Prairie Land to use for classroom supplies. Classes with winning posters received an additional check.

Prairie Land received 405 posters from 31 participating classrooms. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety. Congratulations to the winners!

- **1ST PLACE** – **KOEN MILLER**, Eisenhower Elementary, Norton; Mrs. Pam David, teacher, \$200 donation.
- **2ND PLACE** – **FELICITY HODGSON**, East Elementary, Belleville; Mrs. Ritterling, teacher, \$150 donation.
- **3RD PLACE** – **MAKINLEY RIENER**, Stockton Elementary; Ms. Werner, teacher, \$100 donation.



Koen Miller and his winning poster with his teacher, parents and Foreman Brian McKenna. The first place classroom received a check for \$200.



Felicity Hodgson and her winning poster, with her teacher, mom, sister and Area Supervisor Vonley Frey. The second place classroom received a \$150 donation.



Makinley Riener and her winning poster with her teacher, parents and Journeyman Lineworker Austin Wieden. The third place classroom received a check for \$100.

5 Ways to Fight the Cold and Save Energy *Continued from page 12A*

material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4 CONSIDER YOUR APPROACH TO APPLIANCE USE. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5 THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up — beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks

and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 785-877-3323. Prairie Land's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.prairielandelectric.com for additional energy-saving tips.

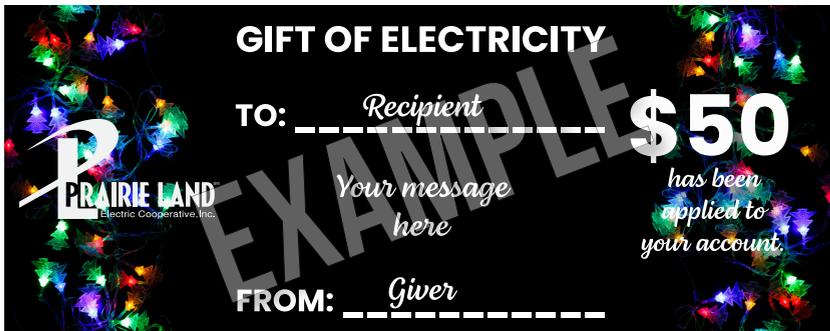
Youth Trip Applications Accepted Through Jan. 9



Applications are now being accepted for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 15-22, 2023 and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 14-20, 2023. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip.

Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code above. You can also find the form in your monthly bill, request one from your high school counselor or contact Kenzie Griffiths at 800-577-3323 or kgriffiths@ple.coop.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M. JAN. 9, 2023.



Helping someone with their utility payment is an especially practical and thoughtful gesture and convenient gift for any occasion. When you send this form, along with a check or money order in the amount of your choosing, your gift will be added to the recipient's Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. account and they will receive a Gift of Electricity receipt. (Please allow up to one week for your gift payment to be applied.)

Recipient Information

(Please name a recipient – we are unable to choose a random recipient for you.)

Member Name: _____ PLEC Account # (if known): _____

Address: _____ Apt/Unit #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Personalize Your Gift Receipt:

Gift Amount: \$ _____ To: _____ From: _____

Optional Message : _____

- ▶ Make check or money order payable to Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- ▶ Mail this form and payment to:
Prairie Land Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 360,
Norton, KS 67654
- ▶ Available year-round. Visit PrairieLandElectric.com for more designs.
- ▶ For more information, call us at 800-577-3323.

A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?

When Mother Nature threatens to unleash a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

Your kit should include:

- ▶ Bottles of water 
- ▶ Nonperishable food 
- ▶ Can opener 
- ▶ Portable phone charger 
- ▶ Flashlights 
- ▶ Batteries 
- ▶ First-aid supplies 
- ▶ Hand sanitizer 
- ▶ Prescriptions 
- ▶ Pain reliever 
- ▶ Warm clothing 
- ▶ Blankets 
- ▶ Battery-operated radio 
- ▶ Important documents 
- ▶ Books and games 
- ▶ Cash money 
- ▶ Baby supplies 
- ▶ Pet supplies 

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure items have not expired and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Co-op Month Giveaway

We tried something new this year to show our appreciation to our members during October's Cooperative Month. It was a month-long giveaway! We had four different featured prizes and gave away additional bill credits each week.

Members entered to win using the entry form in the October issue of this magazine, by completing an online form, or while visiting a service center.

We got 471 entries, and each week, we traveled to a different location to enlist the help of the local lineworkers to draw the winners. Videos of the drawings were shared on Facebook. Here are the results:

Oct. 7 | Norton Drawing

- ▶ **POWER WASHER:** PAM HELLER of Phillipsburg
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT:** JANET NEASE of Clyde
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT:** GWEN FORTIN of Oberlin

Oct. 14 | Concordia Drawing

- ▶ **LEAF BLOWER:** KAITLYN HUSTED of Almena
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT:** MICHAEL PETERSON of Concordia
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT:** ANGEL MINER of Agra

Oct. 21 | Phillipsburg Drawing

- ▶ **AIR COMPRESSOR:** JOY JOHNSON of Norton
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT:** MS. ROBERT TODD of Jewell
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT:** PEGGY KING of Phillipsburg

Oct. 28 | St. Francis Drawing

- ▶ **WET/DRY VAC AND \$100 BILL CREDIT:** JON CARPENTER of Greenleaf
- ▶ **\$100 BILL CREDIT:** DONNA LEUSZLER of Almena
- ▶ **\$50 BILL CREDIT:** DIANE PETERSON of Smith Center



Pam Heller, Phillipsburg, won the power washer on Oct. 7.



Kaitlyn Husted, Almena, won the leaf blower on Oct. 14.



Joy Johnson, Norton, won the air compressor on Oct. 21.



Jon Carpenter, Greenleaf, won the wet/dry vac on Oct. 28.



Vonley Frey
20 years

Frey Completes 20 Years of Service

VONLEY FREY began his career as a journeyman lineworker in Concordia on Dec. 30, 2002. In 2012, he advanced to construction foreman, and he was promoted this past August to Concordia Area Supervisor.

In addition to his supervisor duties, Frey also conducts safety demonstrations for schools in the Concordia area. "I enjoy interacting with the students and teaching them about electrical safety," Frey said.

Frey and his wife, Kieli, have three children, Maddox, 16; Maxson, 13; and Kenna, 8. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and coaching his kids in sports.



Colton Lane

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee

COLTON LANE was hired as an apprentice lineworker for the Norton area starting Oct. 10, 2022. He has been working in line construction as a groundsman/apprentice since January 2020 in the Atchison area.

Colton's hometown is Washington, Iowa. He attended Southeast Line-man Training Center after high school.

Colton, his fiance, Lacey Banks, and son, Barrett, have relocated to Norton. In his spare time, he likes to hunt, fish and work on trucks.

Winder Earns Journeyman Certificate

JACE WINDER, lineworker at Prairie Land Electric, recently earned his journeyman certificate. Join us in congratulating this accomplishment!



CEO Kirk Girard presented Jace Winder with his journeyman certification during the October safety meeting.