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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

Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather

and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it.

Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that spans the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the West-

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Kirk Girard

APPLY FOR TRIPS BY JAN. 10

We are awarding trips to four students. This year, we are sponsoring two students for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20, 2024, and another two students for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 12-18, 2024, in Colorado. Each event is an outstanding opportunity for high school juniors to meet other young leaders and work on skills that will give them a head start on their futures. Call Kenzie for details at 800-577-3323.

Right: 2023 winners Skylar Kahrs (left) and Arabella Wernecke, both of Clifton, enjoy a tour of our nation's capitol.



2023 COUNTY TAX DISTRIBUTION

Prairie Land Electric paid **\$2,150,355.18** in property taxes in 2023. This amount is a decrease of **\$81,220.39** 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, actually pay the bill. We want to report where some of your money goes when you make a payment each month. A fair portion of that check goes to pay property taxes and that in turn helps the communities in our area.

2023 PROPERTY TAXES

COUNTY	2023	2022	% CHANGE
Cheyenne	\$114,092.60	\$132,132.56	-13.65%
Clay	\$5,601.74	\$5,851.48	-4.27%
Cloud	\$249,342.72	\$257,480.94	-3.16%
Decatur	\$152,977.50	\$150,417.12	1.70%
Graham	\$121,323.28	\$129,744.68	-6.49%
Jewell	\$82,181.31	\$86,074.77	-4.52%
Mitchell	\$57,828.92	\$61,944.57	-6.64%
Norton	\$322,327.90	\$327,823.46	-1.68%
Osborne	\$57,145.26	\$60,481.38	-5.52%
Phillips	\$380,476.27	\$396,707.60	-4.09%
Rawlins	\$103,212.28	\$106,508.57	-3.09%
Republic	\$102,410.42	\$106,276.28	-3.64%
Rooks	\$138,737.15	\$144,066.75	-3.70%
Sheridan	\$25,075.79	\$25,706.28	-2.45%
Sherman	\$473.70	\$502.74	-5.78%
Smith	\$150,389.42	\$149,105.32	0.86%
Thomas	\$148.36	\$156.36	-5.12%
Washington	\$86,610.56	\$90,594.71	-4.40%
Totals	\$2,150,355.18	\$2,231,575.57	-3.64%

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

Tiemeyer Completes 35 Years of Service



Dave Tiemeyer
35 Years

DAVE TIEMEYER began his career with Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative on Jan. 9, 1989, as an apprentice lineman in the Bird City area.

In 1994, he advanced to journeyman lineman. In 1997, when Northwest Kansas Electric merged with Norton-Decatur, he became a Prairie Land employee and was promoted to foreman in Bird City.

In 1998, he moved to Atwood as a foreman. In 2007, he was promoted to area foreman and currently works out of St. Francis as an area supervisor.

"Working for Prairie Land has been a wonderful experience," Dave said. "I couldn't have picked a better job."

Dave has three adult children: Dylan, Colton and Jordyn, and has two granddaughters that he loves to spend time with. In his spare time, he enjoys boating, fishing and being at the lake.

Prairie Land extends their congratulations and appreciation to Dave on his years of service to the cooperative.



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** Trustee's decisions can impact electricity rates and future projects.

Help shape our community's energy future by voting in the 2024 trustee elections.

HOW *Electricity* GETS TO YOU



STEP 1 | Generation

Electricity is generated from various sources.



STEP 2 | Step-Up Transformer

Voltage is increased to push the electricity over long distances.



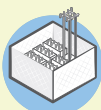
STEP 3 | Transmission Power Lines

Lines carry electricity over long distances.



STEP 4 | Transmission Substation

Voltage is lowered so electricity can travel across the local system.



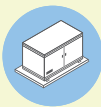
STEP 5 | Distribution Substation

Voltage is lowered further for safe distribution.



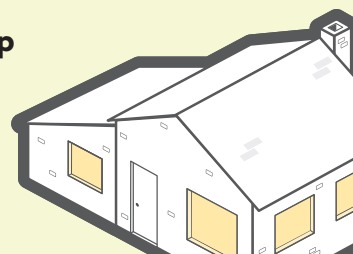
STEP 6 | Distribution Power Lines

Electricity travels across these lines in your community.



STEP 7 | Final Stop

A transformer reduces voltage a final time, and electricity is sent to your home.



Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid *Continued from page 12A*

ern Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity. Kansas utilities belong to the Southwest Power Pool RTO.

THE JOURNEY OF ELECTRICITY BEGINS AT POWER PLANTS

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Prairie Land Electric receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. We work closely with Sunflower Electric to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the

hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through

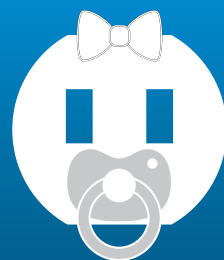
distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you — to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine — and one of our nation's greatest achievements.

SAFETY TIP

Start discussions about electrical equipment safety when children are young. When baby-proofing your home, don't forget about potential electrical hazards.

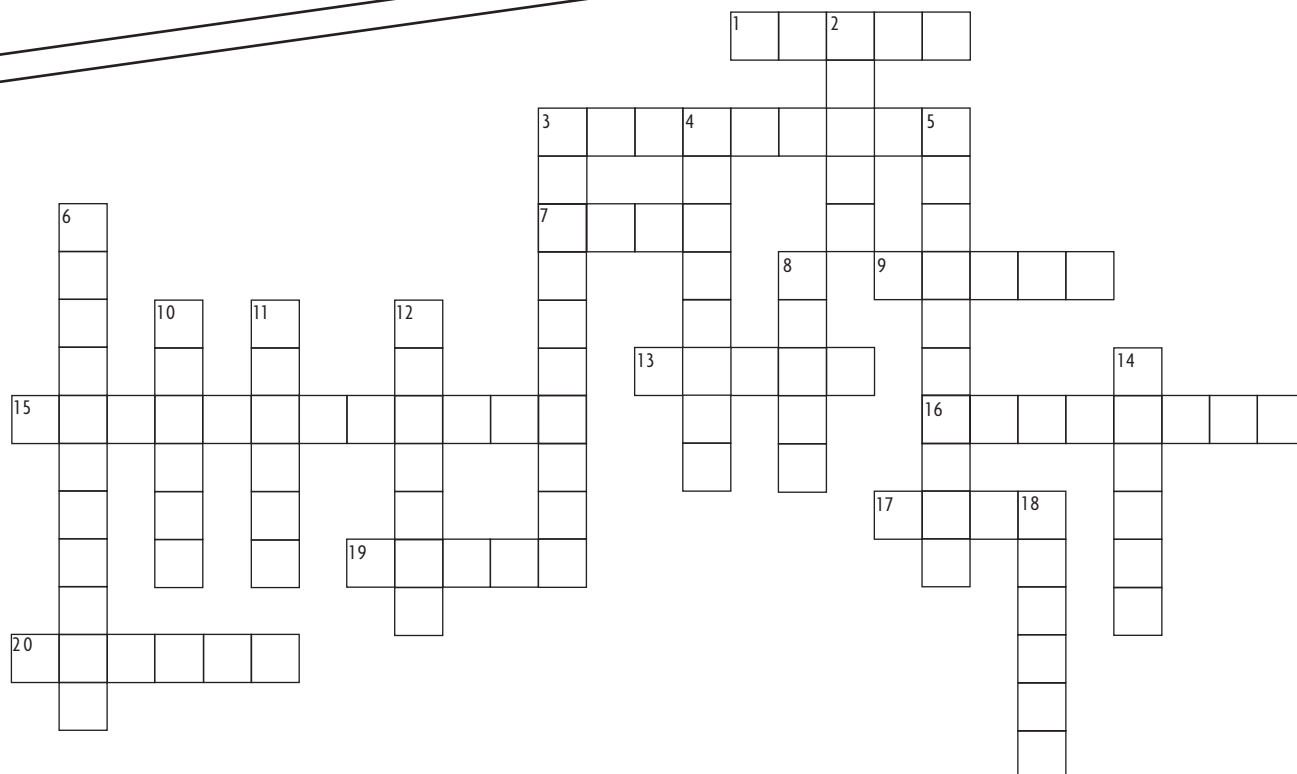


SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

Be Energy Wise!



Read the efficiency tips and find the missing words to solve the crossword puzzle!



Across

- ▶ 1. Purchase a dishwasher that saves _____ and energy.
- ▶ 3. Select efficient home office _____ and electronics.
- ▶ 7. Install ceiling _____ to reduce air conditioning costs.
- ▶ 9. Purchase a clothes _____ with a moisture sensor.
- ▶ 13. _____ between window/door frames and walls.
- ▶ 15. Install a _____ thermostat.
- ▶ 16. Use _____ for light or heat whenever practical.
- ▶ 17. Launder clothes in cold or _____ water.
- ▶ 19. Fix _____ faucets.
- ▶ 20. Turn off electronics and _____ chargers when not in use.

Down

- ▶ 2. Plant _____ to shelter your home from the elements.
- ▶ 3. Upgrade to a high-_____ furnace/air conditioner or heat pump.
- ▶ 4. _____ your attic, exterior walls, basement and crawl spaces.
- ▶ 5. Adjust your _____ when leaving home for an extended time.
- ▶ 6. Completely convert to a compact and other _____ lightbulbs.
- ▶ 8. _____ load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- ▶ 10. Set the water heaters to no _____ than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ 11. Use window blinds or _____ to keep out cold or heat.
- ▶ 12. Purchase an insulating _____ for the hot water heaters.
- ▶ 14. Turn off _____ when you leave the room.
- ▶ 18. Install _____ sensors, dimmers and timers for indoor and outdoor lighting.

DOWN: 2. trees, 3. efficiency, 4. insulate, 5. thermostat, 6. fluorescent, 7. fans, 8. fully, 9. dryer, 10. higher, 11. shades, 12. blanket, 13. caulking, 14. lights, 15. programmable, 16. sunlight, 17. warm, 18. motion, 19. leaky, 20. unplugged

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM