



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Director

Stan Theis
Director

STAFF
Scott Ayres
General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway
Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin
Line Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Reliability Requires Investment

As your electric provider, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's mission has always been simple: We are committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions for you, our members. Behind every switch, every warm home, and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid — through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades, and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and

wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually, equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must



Scott Ayres

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ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 7

The Annual Membership Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will be held on **TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026**, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita.

- ▶ Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Cooperative update.
- ▶ Door prizes.
- ▶ Youth Tour winners announced.
- ▶ Board of directors and employee service awards and introductions.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTIFICATION

Do you live in one of the following territories? Would you like to run for the Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors? To request a board of directors application, contact Executive Assistant Jo Luehrs at 316-542-3131 or jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IS FEB. 6, 2026.** Voting will take place at the annual membership meeting on April 7, 2026.

TERRITORY 1

NORTH OF 109TH ST. N.

(IRISH CREEK ROAD)

► **CINDY FOSTER** – Incumbent

TERRITORY 2

SOUTH OF 109TH ST. N., NORTH OF US

54, EAST OF 167TH ST. WEST

► **ALAN SMARSH** – Incumbent

TERRITORY 3

EAST OF 167TH ST. W., SOUTH OF US 54

► **REX SMITH** – Incumbent

How to Stay Safe and Keep Your Devices Running

If the power goes out due to an emergency, you don't want to be left in the dark. Portable power stations are compact, rechargeable battery systems that can keep essential devices, like phones, medical equipment, lights and even refrigerators, running during an outage.

They're easy to use, safe to operate indoors, and many can be recharged through a wall outlet, your car or solar panels. Here's what you need to know to choose the right one.

PORTABLE POWER STATION BASICS

Think of a portable power station as a high-capacity rechargeable battery designed for emergencies, travel or off-grid use. Unlike traditional generators, they produce zero emissions, operate silently, need very little maintenance and don't require gasoline. Most models have three main components:

- **BATTERY:** stores the energy
- **INVERTER:** converts stored energy to usable household power
- **PORTS AND OUTLETS:** USB, AC, and DC connections for your devices

FEATURES TO LOOK FOR:

- Pass-through charging: allows you to power devices while the unit is charging
- Battery management system: provides built-in safety features to prevent overcharging, overheating and shorting out circuits

To maintain your system, store it in a cool, dry place and keep it clean to ensure maximum lifespan and performance.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT POWER STATION SYSTEM

The system that's right for you depends on three things:

- What you want to power (lights, phone chargers, refrigerator, medical equipment, etc.).
- How long you need power (a few hours during an outage or days without electricity).
- Where you'll use it (at home, in an RV, camping or during travel).

When comparing battery systems, you'll see two key ratings:

► **CAPACITY:** How long it can power your devices. This indicates the total energy stored in the battery. The higher the watt-hour (Wh) rating, the longer it can run your devices.

► **OUTPUT:** Which devices it can power. This is the maximum amount of power the system can deliver simultaneously. The output must meet or exceed the wattage (W) required by the device you want to run.

Example: A battery with a 500-watt-hour (Wh) capacity and 1000-watt (W) output could run a 1000 W device (like a small space heater or microwave) for about 30 minutes.

If you need to power multiple devices at once — like your refrigerator and lights — make sure their combined wattage stays below the unit's output limit and that the total running time fits within the capacity.

Be mindful that some appliances, especially those with motors such as fridges or power tools, have a higher starting wattage than their running wattage. For safety, add a 20% buffer to your calculations and look for surge output capability.

POWER STATION CATEGORIES

Power stations range from lightweight units to hefty systems that may require wheels or two people to move. Here's a quick breakdown:

- **SMALL CAPACITY:** 100-500 Wh
 - Powers phones, laptops, Wi-Fi routers, small lights
 - Weighs less than 10 pounds.
- **MEDIUM CAPACITY:** 500-1500 Wh
 - Powers mini fridge, small appliances, fans
 - Weighs 30-50 pounds
- **HIGH CAPACITY:** 1500-3000-plus Wh
 - Powers a full-size fridge, microwave, multiple devices
 - Weighs up to 135 pounds

STAY POWERED WHEN IT MATTERS

Portable power stations are a safe and flexible way to keep essential devices running during an outage or emergency, and many are compact enough to take with you anywhere. When choosing a system, think about how much power you need, how long you need it to last, and whether portability or extra features are important to you.

Reliability Requires Investment

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be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades such as our new metering system have been essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as our new Landis+Gyr Meters, servicing our oil circuit recloser (OCR), and yearly line patrol maintenance have allowed us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages, and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience — it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require

thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life — from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating — these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.

SOURCE: NRECA



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR AND COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 6

Don't miss your chance to attend a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Applications to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, are **DUE FEB. 6, 2026**.

During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in our nation's capital, your schedule will be full of tours of Capitol buildings, museums and monuments; you will get to attend a performance at the famous Kennedy Center and have the chance to meet with Congressional representatives and senators on Capitol Hill.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, you will get the chance to experience what the cooperative world is like by creating a candy co-op with your fellow campers. You will also get to participate in leadership workshops, view a high-voltage safety demonstration, and tour a power plant. There will be plenty of

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT JO LUEHRS, 316-542-3131, jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop

fun extracurricular activities too with a volleyball tournament, talent show and whitewater rafting!

To apply, you must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents/guardians must be a Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative residential member. For more information, contact Jo Luehrs, 316-542-3131, jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

Join Us for
Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

The Cotillion
11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita
Doors Open
6:15 p.m.
Dinner
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule

Co-op Updates
Director Elections
Door Prizes
Youth Tour Winners
Announced
Employee Awards and
Introductions

Members in
attendance will
receive a
\$10 bill credit.

**Special
\$100
Cash Drawing**

Please bring the registration card
attached to the back of your annual
meeting notice you receive in the mail.

**Registration card is
needed for:**

**Cash
Drawing
Entry**

**Director
Elections**

Dinner
Catered by
Bite Me BBQ

Director Candidates

TERRITORY 1

Cindy Foster, Incumbent

TERRITORY 2

Alan Smarsh, Incumbent

TERRITORY 3

Rex Smith, Incumbent