



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clint DeVore
President

Cindy Foster
Vice President

Rex Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Baalman
Director

Joe Gassmann
Director

Eugene Scheer
Director

Stephanie Seiler
Director

Alan J. Smarsh
Director

Stan Theis
Director

STAFF
Scott Ayres
General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway
Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin
Line Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS
P.O. Box 220
1355 S. 383rd St. West
Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131
Fax: 316-542-3943

FROM THE MANAGER

Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

September is National Preparedness Month

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

WATCH VS. WARNING

When severe weather is approaching,

many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A warning means severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in



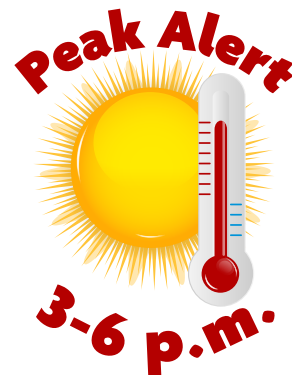
Scott Ayres

Continued on page 12C ►

**H A P P Y
LABOR DAY**

In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Listen for Peak Alerts and Save



This month, we are asking members to participate in Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Peak Control program. This voluntary program helps you save on your summer energy bills and can also help the co-op hold down wholesale power costs in the other eight months, during our off-peak period.

A major portion of our annual wholesale power bill is based on power consumed during the 3-6 p.m. demand time frame during the summer months. The price of electricity is at a premium during that three-hour window due to the "high demand" for energy production during those hot, summer hours.

WHAT IS PEAK CONTROL?

Peak control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

You can participate by monitoring your use of electric appliances and equipment that require larger amounts of electricity during peak hours. Any steps you can take to lower your energy use from 3-6 p.m., Monday-Friday will help control costs.

WHEN SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

Participate when "peak alerts" are issued, typically from 3-6 p.m. weekdays from June 1 through Sept. 30. Like us on Facebook and follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) to receive peak alerts.

The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by the co-op during those two months drives the demand billing for the following "off peak" eight months. Be aware of days when temperatures are forecast to be above 95 degrees. These are the types of days when peak demand can occur.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PEAK CONTROL?

Reducing electric usage between 3 and 6 p.m. will help reduce our peak load. Each kilowatt shaved or shifted during peak load is a cost savings for all cooperative members.

160 PARTICIPATE IN CO-OP SPONSORED PEDAL PULL

2026 PEDAL PULL WINNERS

4 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Woods Scheer
2nd Place	Hayes Wood
3rd Place	Lucas Youngers

5 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Elijah Youngers
2nd Place	Jack Pauly
3rd Place	Ruby Weber

6 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Greta Schneider
2nd Place	Lennox Hillman
3rd Place	Ellison May

7 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Claire Youngers
2nd Place	Dominic Brunke
3rd Place	Beau Baker

8 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Michael Call
2nd Place	Ryken Dover
3rd Place	Knox Ryder

9 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Tessa Pinkley
2nd Place	Harper Rust
3rd Place	Dawson Engels

10 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Luke Lehner
2nd Place	Oaklynn Lutz
3rd Place	Ty Hansen

11/12 YEAR OLD

1st Place	Ava Clouse
2nd Place	Jace Hansen
3rd Place	Cecilia Ferguson

This year 160 children participated in the pedal tractor pull at the Sedgwick County Fair with the top three winners in each age group qualifying to compete at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson on Sept. 13, 2026.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative would like to thank everyone who watched or participated. We would also like to thank Eaton Roofing & Exteriors, Border States Electric, DeVore Cattle LLC and Frank and Cindy Kill Farms for their prize donations.

Special thank you to the employees and board of directors who volunteered their time to help with this year's pedal pull.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 PEDAL TRACTOR PULL WINNERS!



Sedgwick County Electric staff help during the Pedal Pull event.

Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

Continued from page 12A

the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- ▶ Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- ▶ Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- ▶ Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- ▶ Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- ▶ Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- ▶ Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- ▶ Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

KNOW HOW TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE:

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder

to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- ▶ Slow down and move over in work zones.
- ▶ Do not distract crews while they work.
- ▶ Direct service questions to your utility's office.
- ▶ Check your utility's social media channels for outage updates, if available.
- ▶ Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause backfeed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

STAY ALERT DURING CLEANUP:

- ▶ If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- ▶ Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
- ▶ Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- ▶ Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

GENERATOR Safety

Avoid deadly backfeed and keep lineworkers safe. Learn how to safely connect your portable generator before you need it at www.safeelectricity.org.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELLECTRICITY.ORG

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



 **Be ready before the storm.**



 **Stay connected during an outage.**



 **Learn how to use your backup generator safely.**



 **Create a plan for your loved ones.**

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

A LITTLE COST. A LOT OF LIFE.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly — from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- ▶ **720** hours of refrigeration
- ▶ **20+** loads of clean clothes
- ▶ **15+** home-cooked meals
- ▶ **90+** hours of lighting
- ▶ **30** days of comfort
- ▶ Numerous devices charged
- ▶ Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- ▶ Countless connections to work, school and entertainment



SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

We know our members are feeling stretched right now. When the cost of groceries, gas, insurance and other essentials keeps climbing, every bill that arrives in the mailbox matters — including the electric bill. If you're looking closely at your household budget or wondering how to make each dollar go further, you're not alone. Your co-op understands, and we don't take lightly the trust you place in us to provide reliable power at a fair cost.

That's why we think it's important to look at what electricity makes possible each day and the value it continues to provide in our homes, farms and businesses.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month — roughly \$5 a day. Five dollars is about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through

the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the best values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice about co-op rebates or answering questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community — not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power — so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September marks the start of fall's shoulder season, often bringing temperatures mild enough to give your HVAC system a break. Open windows and use ceiling fans when weather allows. It's also a great time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance, as fall often offers better appointment availability. Regular tune-ups can improve efficiency, reduce the risk of breakdowns and keep your home comfortable year-round.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

