



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732  
[www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)

**SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# currentnews

## Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

### Board of Directors

**Clint DeVore**

President

**Cindy Foster**

Vice President

**Margie Conyac**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Joe Baalman**

Director

**Donald Metzen**

Director

**Eugene Scheer**

Director

**Alan J. Smarsh**

Director

**Rex Smith**

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

### It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

#### Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would

have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1937, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm.

Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. We call on everyone to improve the quality of life and eco-



Scott Ayres

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**Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.**

October is  
**National Co-op Month!**

# TOP 9 ENERGY VAMPIRES

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than expected.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well. Plug “energy vampires” into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.



## It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

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conomic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

### Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as member-owners and community solar

programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

### Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. This sums up the Seventh Co-op Principle, Concern for Community, which our cooperative routinely celebrates.

Need to Report  
an Outage?

316-542-3131

## Have an Outage?



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative works with Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC) for all our after-hours outage reporting. CRC has been instructed to verify individual outages by returning the phone call from a CRC toll-free number. This will permit CRC to prioritize outages to ensure power is restored in a safe and timely manner. CRC will also verify main fuse/breakers have been checked, ask the member if their meter has a display, and relay fees if the outage is on the member's side.

# Phone Scam Alert

**ATTENTION!** Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has received reports of scam phone calls the last few weeks. If you believe you have been contacted by a scammer, do not give them any information, and report the call to 316-542-3131.

Please remember that Sedgwick County Electric Co-op will NEVER:

- ▶ Call you after hours. Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ▶ Call you demanding payment.
- ▶ Demand you pay with a pre-paid credit card.

Please be aware and keep yourself safe.

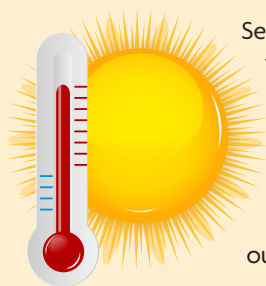


## Line Crew Returns to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours

Each year during the summer, the Line Department for Sedgwick County Electric Co-op works from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. to complete the day's work before the major heat of the day arrives.

Summer hours began May 1 and ended Sept. 30. The Line Department returned to normal hours on Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to report an outage, please contact us at 316-542-3131 or toll-free

## Thank You for Participating in Peak Control



Sedgwick County Electric Co-op would like to thank those members who participated in peak alerts.

Members who reduced their electric usage from 3-6 p.m. on days when temperatures were 95 degrees or higher during June, July, August and September helped keep the peak demand cost down.

Working together and using energy wisely help keep our costs down and electric rates stable.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy-efficient model.

**SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**



## Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 7

Daylight saving time is a perfect time to check fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and to change batteries. Make sure smoke detectors work properly by using the alarm test option. Use a vacuum to make sure there are no cobwebs, spiders or other little insects taking up residence, which could hinder the effects of the smoke alarm.

Detectors play a larger role in survival than one might think.

A recent study showed that inoperable smoke

alarms caused two-thirds of fire-related deaths due to damage, defects and missing batteries.

Write the date on the new battery to ensure there will be no questions about when it was last replaced.

Daylight saving time is also a great opportunity to review home safety with family members including escape routes and checking all electrical outlets. Practice a home safety review and test procedures on evacuating safely in an emergency situation. Look through the house for any hazards, such as overloaded or improperly placed extension cords. It is recommended to make sure areas around the furnace, water heater and stove are clear of debris that can cause fire.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7.





## Discuss Electrical Safety with Kids

Oftentimes, when the topic of electronics and children comes up, the conversation gravitates toward the pros and cons of screen time or trading tips on the best educational apps. However, an often-overlooked topic is how to talk to your children about the potential safety hazards associated with electronics, sources of electricity and their environment. As soon as children can walk, parents and caregivers should discuss with them how to be safe around electricity, both inside and outside.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative recommends sharing these outdoor safety tips with children of all ages:

- ▶ Do not touch or go near a sagging or downed power line. Instead, tell an adult to call the electric utility to report it.
  - ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
  - ▶ Fly kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones in large, open areas, such as parks or fields, far away from power lines. If any item or object gets caught in a power line, never try to retrieve it. Tell an adult to call the electric utility for help.
  - ▶ Never fly kites or other toys when a thunderstorm may be approaching.
  - ▶ Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment could kill you.
  - ▶ Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside the fenced area surrounding a substation. Tell an adult to call the electric utility instead.
  - ▶ Always stay away from outdoor electrical equipment marked "keep out," "high voltage" or "danger."
  - ▶ Do not play, sit or climb on a pad mount transformer, a.k.a. green box.
- NOTE TO ADULTS:** While green boxes are typically safe to be around, it is better to leave this equipment alone just in case a box has become

unlocked or vandalized, or the contents or box have become damaged in some way — by a roadside accident or unwelcomed varmints or ants. Please call us to report an unlocked cabinet or any signs of damage.

Additionally, share the following indoor safety tips with children:

- ▶ Do not play with electrical cords or plugs.
- ▶ Younger children should ask an adult before plugging in or unplugging something. In addition, never pull or tug on cords. Instead, gently pull the plug out of the wall by grasping the plug, not the cord.
- ▶ Do not touch or use cords that appear damaged.
- ▶ Keep cords away from heat and water.
- ▶ Never stick fingers, tongues, toys or other body parts or objects into electrical outlets or light sockets.
- ▶ Never sleep with phones, tablets, or other electronics in the bed or under a pillow. The electronic device can overheat or experience a short in the charging cable, causing bedding to catch on fire, burns to the skin or electric shock.
- ▶ Never play with electronic toys or gadgets in the bathtub or other water.
- ▶ Never touch appliances, switches, outlets, sockets, cords, or plugs with wet hands or while standing in water.
- ▶ Help prevent electrical injuries and fires by talking about electrical safety with your family.

## Help Us Update Our Records

**Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative wants to make sure we have current phone numbers and email addresses for our member-owners.**

**Members Who Use SmartHub Website or App:**


Click on My Profile, phone number information is located under Update My Billing Address & Contact Information.

**Members Who Receive Monthly Paper Statements:**

Please review and update email and phone numbers located on the bottom portion of your payment stub. Update and return with payment.

**Members Who Pay Using Our Toll-Free Number:**

Please call 316-542-3131 to provide updated information to our customer service representatives.

Return this  for your records.  
Return Bottom Portion With Your Payment  
Check box ☐ (indicate change of address or phone # on back)

Email:  
Home Phone:  
Mobile Phone:

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number	
Current Bill Due Date	04/01/2019
Amount Due	59.05
Amount Due with Penalty	60.23

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. 1  
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