

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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CMS Board of Trustees Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announce the following trustee's terms will expire in 2023 and their positions are open for election.

► **DISTRICT 1, POSITION C**

GARY WARDEN

► **DISTRICT 2, POSITION C**

LINDA TOMLINSON

► **DISTRICT 3, POSITION C**

KEITH RANDALL

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent.

Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. Completed petitions are due to the CMS office **BY APRIL 4, 2023**.

If you need additional information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353.



Gary Warden



Linda Tomlinson



Keith Randall

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- Joseph Atkins
- Earl Ball
- Steve Clark
- Charles Denison
- Roger Boisseau
- Kelly Bender

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



Easy Ways to Control Water Use, Save Money BY KATHERINE LOVING

Conserving water at home can result in several downstream benefits and savings. Being mindful of home water use helps preserve the amount of water in our local reservoirs and reduces costs associated with water and wastewater treatment, including the cost of delivering it to the home (for those using a public water service).

Leaky toilets, showerheads and dripping faucets can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water annually. Home water conservation can simply start by checking your house for any leaks and drips. Another simple way to conserve water is to limit running water when it isn't necessary. For example, turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, and defrost food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of placing frozen food under running water.

Home gardens are another potential area for water conservation. Thoughtful planning can transform your home garden from a water drain to a water-efficient oasis.

Start by planting drought-resistant plants or those with minimal water needs. Group the plants by similar water needs to avoid waste by watering from plant-to-plant. Additionally, a drip irrigation system for plants that require more water can boost efficiency by using less water over a longer period. Alternatively, set lawn sprinklers on a timer to limit water use and place them where the water will only reach plants, not pavement.

Another conservation option is to use a rain barrel to collect water for non-potable purposes. Most states allow rainwater harvesting, but some restrictions may apply. In Kansas, rainwater harvesting is legal for domestic use. Harvested rainwater is an excellent option for watering ornate gardens and washing cars.

Another option for collecting water for the garden is to collect cold water that runs while you're waiting on the water to heat. Every drop of running water you can utilize helps.

Reducing water use at home can also help lower your energy use. The Depart-

ment of Energy estimates that water heating accounts for about 20% of a home's energy bill. Switching to an energy efficient heat pump water heater can save considerable money on electric bills. Heat pump water heaters have higher upfront costs than storage tank models, but tax incentives and potential rebates can offset this cost. Check with your local electric cooperative to see if they offer rebates or a load management program.

If upgrading your water heater isn't an option, there are small changes you can make to increase water heating efficiency. Reduce hot water use by switching to low-flow faucets and showerheads. You can also turn down the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and insulate hot water lines to increase energy savings.

Additional ways to conserve both water and electricity in the home include upgrading clothes washers and dishwashers to newer, more energy efficient models. Running these appliances only when full or selecting a "light wash" setting reduces water and electricity use. Washing dishes by hand uses more water than an energy efficient dishwasher, so avoid this method when possible.

If your home uses well water, it's important to be mindful of water conservation, particularly in drier climates. Well pumps run on electricity and can be a source of higher energy bills. Dry, over pumped wells can cause the pump to run continuously, using excess energy in the process. Malfunctioning well pumps also lead to spikes in energy use. Regular maintenance can help identify problems, such as leaks and faulty intake, which can lead to increased use of both water and electricity.

As you can see, there are a variety of changes — some large, some small — that can help you conserve water at home. Regardless of how you do it, thoughtfully managing water use can protect our water supply and make significant changes on energy bills.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!

MIND THE THERMOSTAT. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

GET COZY. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

DON'T BLOCK THE HEAT. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

BLOCK AIR LEAKS. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Be Prepared:

5 Tips to Make Your Home More Secure

These days, soaking in daily news can make the world feel like a scary place. We use home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks; all help protect our homes. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:

1 ASSESS ENTRY POINTS. Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door can lock and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

2 LOCK SECOND-FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS. "Second-story men" are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). Be sure to lock them before you leave. In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

3 LOCK THE DOOR TO THE GARAGE. Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

4 UPDATE YOUR GARAGE CODE. Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

5 DO NOT FORGET SLIDING DOORS. A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and checking your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.

Electric Co-ops Go the Extra Mile for You

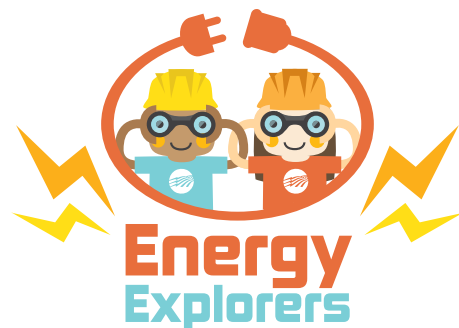
Kansas electric co-ops serve an average of **3 consumer-members** per mile of power line.

Other electric utilities serve **32 consumers** per mile. Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members, who we're proud to serve.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the **BOLDED** text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.



- ▶ Never place extension **RDSOC** under rugs or carpet.

- ▶ Make sure electrical cords are not **YRAFDE** or broken.

- ▶ Smoke **MAALSR** should be tested every month.

- ▶ Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **ITPR** on them.

- ▶ Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **SHETEAR**.

- ▶ Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

Answer Key: 1. cords 2. frayed 3. alarms 4. trip 5. heaters 6. water