

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ David Vogt
- ▶ Elva Yanez
- ▶ Mike York
- ▶ Robbie Yost
- ▶ Juan Zamudio
- ▶ Nancy Zimmerman

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At CMS Electric, we work closely with Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower — CMS Electric

Continued on page 12C ▶

A BALANCING ACT: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.

FACTORS THAT IMPACT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- ▶ Demand Surges
- ▶ Extreme Temperatures
- ▶ Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- ▶ Supply Chain Challenges
- ▶ Fuel Costs
- ▶ Federal and State Regulations



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators.

REGIONAL GRID OPERATORS



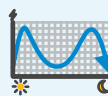
Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs)



Independent System Operators (ISOs)



Electric Utilities



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but a network of industry experts make it happen every day.





6 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarships are six \$1,000 scholarships awarded annually to eligible applicants.

PURPOSE

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements to continue their education.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric Scholarship shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Scholarship merit is based on three categories:

- ▶ Scholastic achievement
- ▶ School extracurricular activities
- ▶ Community activities

HOW TO APPLY

Students wishing to make applications should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS board trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or print a form from the CMS website

www.cmselectric.com. Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., **BY FEB. 10, 2025.**

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 790

MEADE, KS 67864

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS general manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee, if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final.

Runners-up will be selected in the event the recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CONDITIONS

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that person continues to meet all criteria.

EFFICIENCY TIP

Seal in comfort and savings with weatherstripping. Check for air leaks around your windows and doors and install weatherstripping where needed. Prevent drafts to reduce energy loss and lower your heating and cooling bills, improving energy efficiency year-round.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

Continued from page 12A ▶

has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because CMS Electric works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, CMS Electric knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In Kansas,

our RTO is the Southwest Power Pool, the monitor for our 14-state region. In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

CMS Electric remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

6 Tips for Year-Round ENERGY SAVINGS

1 Use your ceiling fan counterclockwise in the summer for a down breeze, and clockwise in the winter for an updraft to force warm air down into your room.

2 Turn off lights and unplug chargers and electronics when not in use.

3 Regularly change or clean your furnace and indoor AC filters as recommended, and keep the area around your outdoor AC unit clear of obstructions.

4 Close or lower window coverings to keep out heat or cold.

5 Insulate your home and weatherproof windows and doors.

6 Use a programmable or smart thermostat. Adjust the temperature a few degrees for overall savings.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options — online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

SOURCE: UTILITIES UNITED AGAINST SCAMS

Can You Dig It?

An underground utility line is **DAMAGED ONCE EVERY 6 MINUTES** because someone didn't call 811.

Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 BUSINESS DAYS** prior to digging.

Even if you previously had underground utilities marked, **UTILITIES CAN SHIFT**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.

811 locators **DO NOT MARK PRIVATELY OWNED LINES**, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, and data communication systems. Call a private locator for these.

Once **ALL OF YOUR UTILITY AND PRIVATELY OWNED LINES** have been located, you can safely start your digging project!

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Underground Digging and Professional Excavation: Safety First With 811

Whether you're digging in your backyard or are a professional excavator, Dig Safe is a critical resource for you. No matter how deep you're digging, it's important to get your utility lines marked before doing so. Ensuring safety is crucial, and the only way you'll know if you're near a utility line is by getting your lines marked by professionals. Beneath every dig site lies a network of utility lines — electric, water, gas and telecommunications. Striking these lines can cause:

- ▶ Costly delays.
- ▶ Expensive repairs.
- ▶ Service disruptions to the community.
- ▶ And most importantly, serious injury or death.

Contacting 811 before digging helps prevent these risks.

CONTACTING 811

When you contact 811, they will notify relevant utility companies to mark underground lines, free of charge, using colored flags or paint. This process usually only takes a few days.

The American Public Works Association's Uniform Color Code for marking utilities is universal and used by all professional underground utility locating companies:

- ▶ **RED** — electric
- ▶ **ORANGE** — communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ **BLUE** — potable water
- ▶ **GREEN** — sewer/drainage
- ▶ **YELLOW** — gas/petroleum
- ▶ **PURPLE** — reclaimed water
- ▶ **WHITE** — premark site of proposed excavation

BEST PRACTICES FOR DIGGING

After receiving utility markings, follow these practices:

- ▶ Respect the marks. Dig carefully around them.
- ▶ Maintain markings. Refresh if they fade or are removed.
- ▶ Verify responses. Ensure all utilities have reported.
- ▶ Hand dig in tolerance zones. Use hand tools within 18–24 inches of marked utilities.

Remember, 811 does not locate private utilities. Hire a private locator for systems including underground sprinklers, invisible fences, pool equipment, data communication systems or gas piping to a garage.

TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Talk with individuals helping you at your home. Professionals should train their team on excavation procedures and the importance of contacting 811. Regular toolbox talks before digging can reinforce safe practices and potentially save lives.

Failing to contact 811 is unsafe and often illegal. Many states have laws requiring excavators to use the 811 system and to premark proposed sites, with potential fines for non-compliance.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Always contact 811 before any excavation, no matter what the project size. Once utilities are located, wear proper protective gear before digging.

Whether you're digging a foundation for a skyscraper or installing a fence post, check before you dig. It's free, easy and helps keep your crew and the community out of harm's way. Prioritizing 811 reflects your commitment to safety and professionalism. Stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe!