

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Ron Oliver**  
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Trustee

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Trustee

### LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Jose Sandoval
- ▶ Genobevo Romero
- ▶ Mick Sharp
- ▶ Kelby Ross
- ▶ Patricia Toneges
- ▶ Lyle Smith

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

### NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Trustee Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee terms will expire in 2025, and their positions are open for election.



**RON OLIVER**  
District 1, Position B



**MICHAEL JOHNSON**  
District 2, Position B



**CHAD MCMILLIN**  
District 3, Position B

▶ **DISTRICT 1, POSITION B**  
**RON OLIVER**  
*(Not planning to seek reelection)*

▶ **DISTRICT 2, POSITION B**  
**MICHAEL JOHNSON**

▶ **DISTRICT 3, POSITION B**  
**CHAD MCMILLIN**

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the CMS 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 1, 2025.**

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

**PETITIONS  
DUE APRIL 1**  
**NEED MORE INFORMATION?**  
Call 800-794-2353



*Spring forward*  
on March 9

Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

# Be Ready for Storm Season

## Preparedness is the best defense

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

CMS Electric crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or an NOAA weather radio for storm and emergency information, and check CMS Electric's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 620-873-2184 — this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At CMS Electric, we recommend that you make a plan today — because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

### ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

#### BE PREPARED

- ▶ **CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT WITH POWER OUTAGE ESSENTIALS:** batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- ▶ **DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY FAMILY PLAN** with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- ▶ **MONITOR WEATHER FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES** that could impact your emergency plan.

#### STAY SAFE

- ▶ **ENSURE A SAFE SHELTER.** Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
  - ▶ **USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY:** operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- ▶ **SEVERE STORMS CAN BRING DOWN TREE LIMBS AND POWER LINES.** If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



# SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., 79th Annual Meeting of the members! Be looking for more information as the date gets closer.



**MAY 1, 2025**



**7 P.M.**



**MEADE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
MEADE, KANSAS**

## KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date with CMS.

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

We appreciate your help in gathering this information.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is the perfect time to service your home cooling system. Routine maintenance, such as cleaning filters, checking refrigerant levels, and inspecting parts, improves energy efficiency and lowers bills. Early maintenance prevents costly repairs and extends your unit's lifespan. Spring servicing helps you avoid the peak-season rush and ensures your home stays comfortable all summer.

SOURCE: NRECA



## 5 Tips to GO GREEN for St. Patrick's Day



**REPLACE YOUR HVAC FILTER.** These typically need replacing every three months, though factors like pets, climate and system age can affect the timing.



**INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT.** A smart thermostat offers convenience, savings and efficiency by adjusting the temperature based on your schedule — reducing usage when no one is home.



**CUT ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS.** In spring, peak electricity hours are usually in the evening. Reduce usage by visiting a park, a theater or dining out.



**UPGRADE TO ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES.** Look for appliances that are Energy Star-certified, using 10% to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).



**SAVE ENERGY THROUGH REBATE PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR, BATTERY STORAGE OR ELECTRIC VEHICLES.** Check with utilities and government programs for rebates and incentives to help make these technologies more accessible.

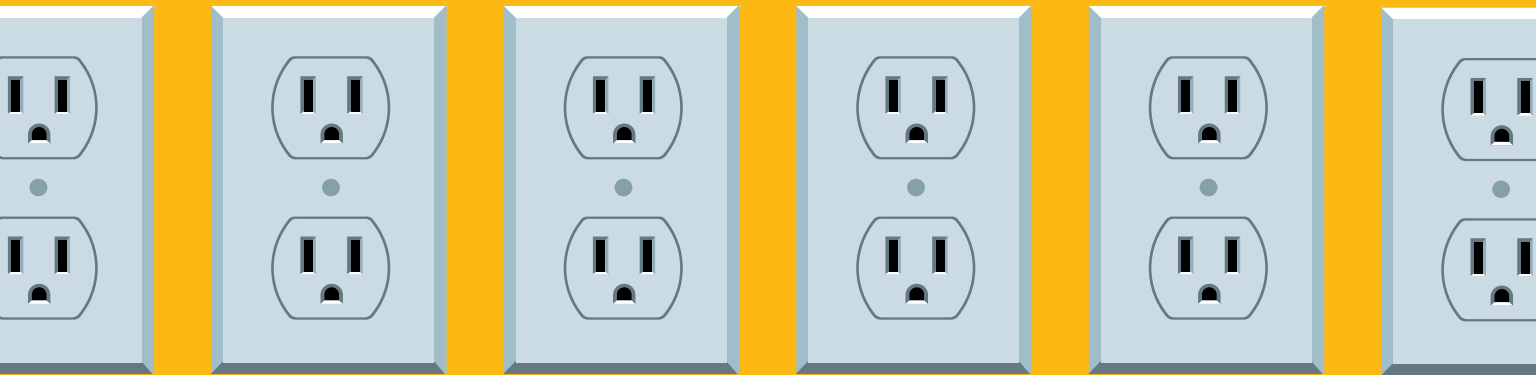
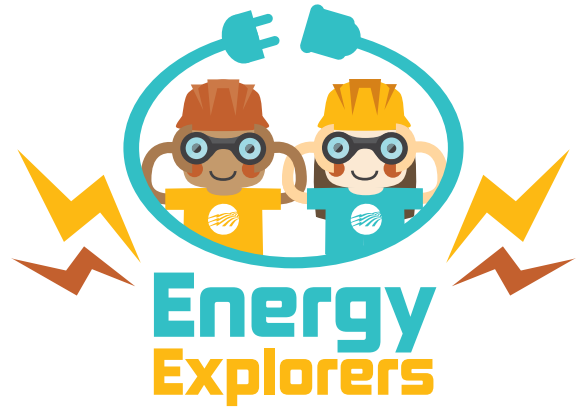
SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

# ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

**Psst!** Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Use a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

- A. power strip                      B. extension cord                      C. remote control

2. For devices that require \_\_\_\_\_, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

- A. power cords                      B. lights                      C. batteries

3. Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. lamps                      B. ceiling fans                      C. phone chargers

4. Use the sleep or power management mode on your \_\_\_\_\_ to save on energy costs.

- A. computer                      B. refrigerator                      C. oven

Answer Key  
1. A    2. C    3. C    4. A