



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

FROM THE MANAGER

5 Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Ninnescah Electric is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five ways to increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1 MIND THE THERMOSTAT. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between

58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2 BUTTON UP YOUR HOME. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3 USE WINDOW COVERINGS WISELY. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to

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From our co-op family to yours,
wishing you a joyous holiday season
and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Our office will be closed on Dec. 23, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for the holidays.

Ninnescah Returns Capital Credits

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Board of Trustees has approved the return of capital credits to the electric cooperative membership. **THE CAPITAL CREDITS WILL BE REFUNDED TO MEMBERS FOR THE BALANCE OF 1996.** This reflects your ownership in the cooperative during that specific period of time. The capital credits checks are scheduled to mail the latter part of December.

You might not realize it, but when you signed up to receive electric service from Ninnescah Electric, you became a member and owner of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. So, instead of returning excess funds, known as margins, to investors who might not live in the same region as you, we issue capital credits to you. The goal of the Ninnescah Board of Trustees is to return the margins on a regular rotating basis, starting with the oldest capital credits first.

Holiday LIGHTING Safety

- ▶ Use holiday lights that are certified by a safety testing lab such as UL.
- ▶ Before using, check each strand for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.
- ▶ Always unplug lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- ▶ Do not string more strands together than recommended by the manufacturer.

Ninnescah Offers 4 SCHOLARSHIPS

Ninnescah Electric's Board of Trustees is awarding four \$1,000 scholarships in 2023 for high school juniors or seniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah.

To apply, please complete the application below and return to Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, 275 N.E. 20th St., P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124. Applications are due in Ninnescah's office by **MONDAY, JAN. 30, 2023.**

Applicant Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____

Year in School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2023 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship competition.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

Cold Weather Rule Begins

Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills. The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the member's request;
- ▶ The service is abandoned;
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- ▶ The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

To Qualify for the CWR the Member Must Do the Following:

- ▶ Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- ▶ Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- ▶ NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- ▶ Apply for any federal, state or local funds for which the member may qualify.

The Cooperative Will:

- ▶ Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- ▶ The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record. If the member is unable to be contacted, a disconnect notice will be left on the door by a co-op employee; and
- ▶ Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.

Welcome New Members

Robert D &/or Rhonda S Gabriel –
Medicine Lodge

Justin A Bright – Macksville

Farmhouse Terrace LLC – Pratt

Amy L Axline – Medicine Lodge

Nathan &/or Gentry Schmeidler – Pratt

Helen M &/or Mark D Gwinn Jr. – Preston

Brandon Stringfellow – Pratt

Tyler Nisly – Turon

Douglas E Freund – Pratt

Jennifer &/or Gerald Ducey Jr. – Houston, TX

G 4 Ranch Inc – Kingman

Winter Rates Now in Effect

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates went into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Single Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$27.50
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Three Phase Minimum Billings		Cost
Customer Charge		\$37.00
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation – No Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.1156 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly
Irrigation – Direct Co-op Control		Cost
Monthly Customer Charge		\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <small>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</small>		\$37.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		\$0.0706 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment		varies monthly

5 Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

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keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4 CONSIDER YOUR APPROACH TO APPLIANCE USE. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5 THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up —

beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 800-828-5538 or take advantage of our free home energy audits. Ninnescah Electric's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.ninnescah.com for additional energy-saving tips.

New Year's Safety Resolutions

Consider these safety-themed resolutions this year:

1. Do not drive distracted. Watch for work zones.
2. Do not place a cell phone on bedding or under a pillow.
3. If you see a downed power line, stay away and call 911.
4. If you are in a vehicle accident involving a downed line, do not get out.
5. Do not take on electrical work if you are not qualified.
6. Never use a portable generator indoors, in a garage or in an enclosed area.
7. Test GFCI outlets monthly to ensure they are working.
8. Ensure your home's electrical system is up to code.
9. Look up and look out for overhead power lines when working outside.
10. Call 811 prior to your next digging project.



A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?

When Mother Nature threatens to unleash a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

Your kit should include:

- ▶ Bottles of water
- ▶ Nonperishable food
- ▶ Can opener



- ▶ Portable phone charger
- ▶ Flashlights
- ▶ Batteries



- ▶ First-aid supplies
- ▶ Hand sanitizer
- ▶ Prescriptions



- ▶ Pain reliever
- ▶ Warm clothing
- ▶ Blankets



- ▶ Battery-operated radio
- ▶ Important documents
- ▶ Books and games



- ▶ Cash money
- ▶ Baby supplies
- ▶ Pet supplies



Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure items have not expired and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.