



P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
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www.ninnescah.com



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

Keeping Pets Comfortable Can Save on Energy Bills

We consider our four-legged companions part of the family and can't imagine life without them. We know others feel this way, too. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy — without taking a big "bite" out of our budget.

This month, we'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be "ruff," so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a "purr-fect" temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs — not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold

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Welcome New Members

David &/or Margaretha Bergen – Greensburg
Tamara Harrell – Hutchinson
Tyler &/or Cariss Hearn – Isabel
Christopher Eubank – Coats

Jasmine &/or David Brock – Medicine Lodge
Craig M Rankin – Sharon
Kate N Lock &/or Matthew J Appleton – St. John
T & W Meat Co LLC – Kingman

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

for kids

Share these

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

with children and
teens to help keep
them safe.



- 1** **DO NOT** climb or sit on green boxes or other electrical equipment.



- 2** **STAY AWAY** from electrical equipment marked "keep out," "high voltage" or "danger."



- 3** **NEVER ENTER** the fenced area around a substation to retrieve an item or pet.



- 4** **FLY** kites, remote-control devices and drones **FAR AWAY** from overhead power lines.



Keeping Pets Comfortable Can Save on Energy Bills

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floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a doughnut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and "nest" within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Ninnescah Electric, we want to help you save energy and money. Check out SmartHub or visit kclonline.com/energy-wise for additional energy-saving tips.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month



Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**

Help Us Update Our Records

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

Members Who Receive Monthly Paper Statements
Please update email and phone numbers on the bottom portion of your payment stub and return with payment.

Members Who Use SmartHub Website or App
Click on "My Profile" to update your phone number located under "Update My Billing Address & Contact Information."



Members May Call the Office
Please contact us at 620-672-5538 or 800-828-5538 to provide updated information to our customer service representatives.

Hunting Kansas Safely

Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to 2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org).

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room. Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening conditions. Hunters may walk far distances while hunting and recovering an animal, which can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?

Hunters spend approximately \$25,944,894 on Kansas hunting licenses of all types. And the total numbers of hunting licenses, tags, permits and stamps is over 468,000, according to 2021 data compiled by stacker.com.

- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
 - ▶ Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
 - ▶ Know the hunting area. Check boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
 - ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.
 - ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
 - ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize your surroundings or cause a fire.
 - ▶ Wear blaze orange.
- To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

HAPPY Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the holiday.

**Happy
Veterans
Day**

– NOV. 11, 2022 –

**HONORING ALL
WHO SERVED**

STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT

- Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.
- Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.
- Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.
- Always implement firearm safety techniques.
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.
- Carry a first-aid kit.
- Check the weather in advance and be prepared.
- Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- Check tree stands regularly for stability.
- Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Are You Ready to Serve?

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, we think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Ninnescah Electric's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, ranchers, and business owners. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues to the cooperative.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board representative of the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We're seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What Does it Mean to Serve on the Board?

Serving on Ninnescah Electric's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose

mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Ninnescah Electric board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- ▶ Budgets.
- ▶ Co-op goals and direction.
- ▶ Co-op's community/charitable contributions.
- ▶ Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology.
- ▶ Renewable investments and energy mix.
- ▶ Co-op's role and involvement in economic development.

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Ninnescah Electric is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people who represent the broad spectrum of views within the community.

Opportunity to Serve

Ninnescah Electric's nominating committee will meet in February to select

names for election. If you are interested in serving on the Ninnescah board, please contact someone on the nominating committee (the names will be published in the January issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine) or call the Ninnescah office.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, hope you'll consider running for a board position.

2023 Ninnescah Electric COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the 2023 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting! Take part in the business of your electric cooperative by voting or consider running for the board of trustees.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
MARCH 21!**

VOTE

