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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.

## We're Here to Serve You

“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

Ninnescah Rural Electric was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, Ninnescah helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That’s why we’re adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy adviser means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you’re looking for energy usage information, check out [www.ninnescah.com](http://www.ninnescah.com). There are also energy-saving tips and ideas in our monthly

magazine to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you’re considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisers would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it’s important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must complete their due diligence, and we’re here to help you through that process.

So, the next time you hear Ninnescah Rural Electric use the phrase “we’re here to serve you,” we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We’re here whenever you need us. Connect with us online or in person. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

## Reminder: New Office Hours

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative started new business hours as of June 1. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



## Get Smart About Home Lighting

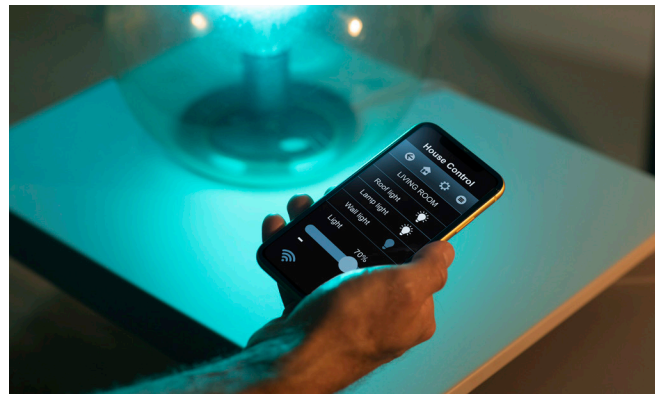
Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart lightbulbs use LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart lightbulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green — whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white lightbulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.



Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart lightbulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart lightbulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart lightbulbs. If you want to control your smart lightbulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart lightbulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart lightbulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart lightbulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!


### YOU SCHEDULE YOUR MEETINGS AND LUNCHES ... SCHEDULE YOUR WASHING MACHINE AND DISHWASHER, TOO!

**PEAK DEMAND** is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to **INCREASED ENERGY DEMANDS** for indoor cooling and heating. In the summer, energy use spikes between mid-to late afternoon and evening. In the winter, energy use is higher in the early morning and late afternoon/evening.

Consider running major appliances during off-peak times to decrease strain on the energy grid and maybe save some money on your bill.

### CHANGING THE TIME OF DAY YOU USE ENERGY CAN:

 Help lower your energy bills.

 Avoid service interruptions or glitches.

**DO YOUR PART TO USE ENERGY WISELY,  
ESPECIALLY WHEN ENERGY DEMANDS ARE HIGH.**

# Working on the Line

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative employees and their families learn about linework from Ninnescah linemen.



## Journeyman Course Completed

**CHARLIE EASDON** has successfully completed one of the most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel through the Merchant Job Training and Safety Program. Ninnescah Electric congratulates him on completing this program and his promotion to journeyman lineman.



## Summer Rates Begin with July Billing

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's summer rates will be reflected on your July bill. The summer rates will remain in effect through your October bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Summer Rates		Cost
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$27.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$37.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation No Control	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$42.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1231 per kWh
Irrigation Direct Co-op Control	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$37.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.0881 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly

\*Billed in five equal installments on April-August bills

## Welcome New Members

- William B &/or Andrea M Ponder – Sawyer
- David &/or T'Lane Spanos – Pratt
- Taaranna M Renner – Medicine Lodge
- Eric E &/or Wanda F Friesen – Cimarron
- Leon J &/or Diane C Zoglman – Cheney
- Steve Mason – Remesen, NY
- Batmans Mowing Service Inc – Pratt
- Mary J Hartman – Turon

## Use Energy Wisely

We hear a lot about peak energy demand, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to the need to heat and cool indoor spaces.

Although it depends on where you live, summertime energy demand increases when outdoor temperatures soar. In Kansas, peak demand is generally on weekdays between 3-7 p.m., when most individuals are returning home, cooking dinner and preparing for evening activities. In the winter, there are two high-use times of day: early morning and late afternoon/evening. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off peak.

Changing the time of day you use energy can help lower your energy bills and avoid interruptions or service

glitches that can occur during peak demand times. To do this, consider running major appliances during off-peak times; smart devices or appliances that have delay starts can help achieve this goal.

Do your part to use energy wisely when temperatures are high. In the summer months, help decrease demand by doing the following:

- ▶ Turn your thermostat temperature up by 2 degrees or more and program your thermostat to a higher temperature when no one is home.
- ▶ If you do not have one, consider purchasing a smart thermostat.
- ▶ Make sure your HVAC system is in good working order. Remember to keep your unit and the area around it clean and clear.
- ▶ Use bathroom and kitchen fans temporarily to remove heat and humidity. Remember: Fans cool

people, not rooms. Turn them off before you leave the room.

- ▶ Use your countertop toaster, air fryer and/or convection oven instead of your oven. Even better, keep the heat outside by cooking food on the grill.
- ▶ Use major appliances in the early morning or late evening. Delay turning on your dishwasher or clothes washer until you're heading to bed.
- ▶ Program smart devices to run appliances at off-peak times.
- ▶ Close window coverings during the hottest part of the day.
- ▶ Use minimal lighting and try using LED lighting instead of traditional incandescent bulbs.
- ▶ Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- ▶ Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers.

Making small changes to conserve energy can help even out energy use, save money on your utility bill and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

**What's the fuss about PEAK ENERGY USAGE?**

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

**IN THE SUMMER:** Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

**IN THE WINTER:** Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.

Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

SOURCE: U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. (Check out Page 20 in the magazine for no bake recipes this month.)

SOURCE: [WWW.ENERGY.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGY.GOV)

