P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538 • 800-828-5538
www.ninnescah.com

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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Vice President

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Teresa Miller
General Manager

Robert Lamatsch
Manager of Operations

Sarah Ezell
Manager of HR/Accounting

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 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

The 2025 Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on March 18, 2025. Your trustee ballot will be mailed with your annual meeting information. Please mail it back or drop it by our office. We hope you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative!

ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES:

- Enjoy food and fellowship.
- Learn the results of 2025 trustee elections.
- Listen to the highlights of 2024 and what is in store for 2025.
- Win a door prize.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

At the regularly scheduled board meeting held on Nov. 26, 2024, the Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees selected a nominating committee. Those appointed were:

- **STEVE MOORE** — Stafford
- **MORGAN TRINKLE**— Preston
- **PATTY JOHNSON** — Lake City
- **KEN W. LEWTON** — Coats
- **JON M. MCCLURE** — Stafford
- **JAY DERLEY** — Lewis
- **MARVIN JANTZ** — Haviland
- **DEAN FITZSIMMONS** — Cunningham
- **BRANDON RIFFEY** — Sawyer

The nominating committee will meet at Ninnescah's office on **FRIDAY, JAN. 31, 2025, AT 1:30 P.M.** to select members of the cooperative to run for office. These nominees will be voted on by mail-in ballot prior to the annual meeting.

If anyone wishes to place a member's name into nomination please contact any nominating committee member before the nominating committee meeting in January. The committee shall prepare and post at the office of the cooperative at least 25 days prior to the annual meeting a list of nominations for trustee. Any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 20 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

Ninnescah Offers SCHOLARSHIPS

Ninnescah Electric's Board of Trustees is awarding four $1,000 scholarships in 2025 for high school seniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah. Ninnescah will also be awarding one $1,000 scholarship for a high school senior attending the Electrical Power Technology program at Pratt Community College. 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 JAN. 27, 2025.

Applicant Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____

Year in School _____

☐ I am applying for the Electric Power Technology (EPT) Scholarship

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 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship competition.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

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 Ninnescah Rural 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, nuclear, wind and hydropower — Ninnescah Rural Electric 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 Ninnescah Rural 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, Ninnescah 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.

Ninnescah Rural 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.

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.

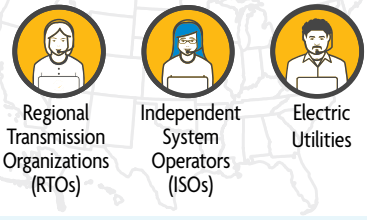
FACTORS THAT IMPACT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

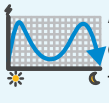
- *Demand Surges*
- *Extreme Temperatures*
- *Infrastructure Costs and Availability*
- *Supply Chain Challenges*
- *Fuel Costs*
- *Federal and State Regulations*

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.

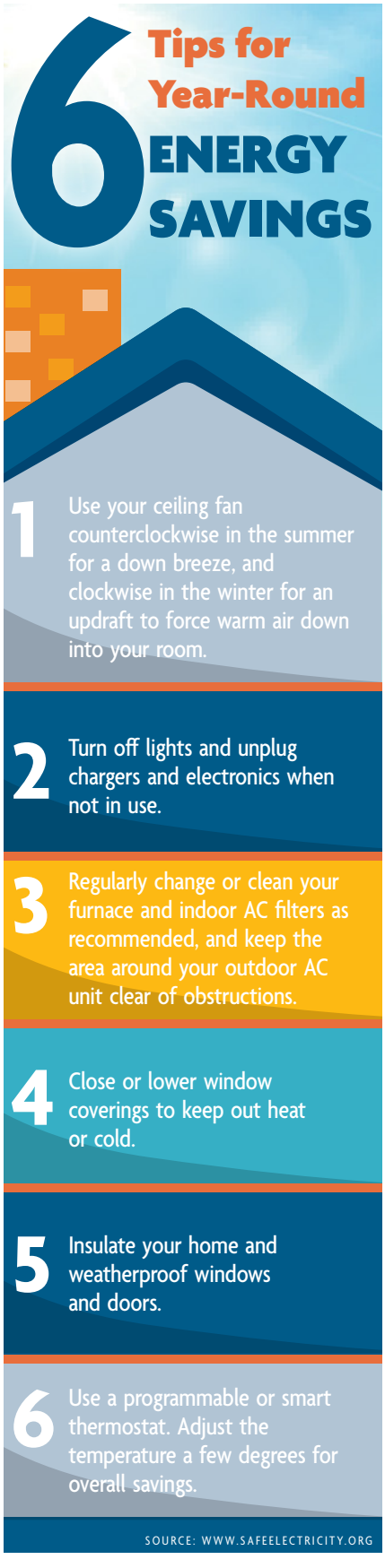
REGIONAL GRID OPERATORS





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.



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 the project size. Once utilities are located, wear proper protective gear while digging.

Whether you're digging a foundation 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. Stay informed, stay prepared and stay safe!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Garrett Beat – *Cunningham*
Ariel Coyle – *Walnut Grove, MN*
Cromer Ranch Inc – *Belvidere*
Michael Hasting – *Attica*
Linford Lauver – *Shippensburg, PA*
T-Mobile USA Inc – *Fairfax, VA*