

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-672-5538  
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 620-672-5538. 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.

## Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of Ninnescah Electric — for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the

details of federal regulations may seem distant, they significantly impact our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future. However, we also recognize that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear power remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers,

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## JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

Ninnescah Journeyman **BRODY CRONISTER** and his wife, Bailee, welcomed their son, Nolan. Congratulations to Brody and his family as they start their wonderful new journey!



*feeling chilled?*  
Heat your space safely

- Keep flammable objects at least 3 feet away.
- Place on a flat, level surface.
- Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked.
- Plug it directly into an outlet.
- Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab.
- Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat.
- Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs.
- Do not use around small children or pets.

WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

## Should I Use a Space Heater or Turn up the Heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

### FIX EFFICIENCY FIRST, THEN SUPPLEMENT WITH A SPACE HEATER

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and do-it-yourself friendly, such as:

- ▶ Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- ▶ Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- ▶ Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- ▶ Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed. Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house.

A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

### USE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENTLY:

- ▶ Heat only the room you're currently in.
- ▶ Close doors to keep heat contained.
- ▶ Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- ▶ Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

### STAY SAFE WHILE STAYING WARM:

- ▶ Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- ▶ Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- ▶ Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- ▶ Choose a heater with built-in safety features, including:
  - ▶ Overheat sensor.
  - ▶ Tip-over shutoff switch.
  - ▶ UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.
- ▶ Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- ▶ Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Our offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1, to celebrate the holidays.*

## Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

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we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Ninnescah Electric's members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support for the FEMA Act of 2025, which would expedite the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process

after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for Ninnescah Electric's members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, we are proactively addressing our communities' needs for the future by investing in new technologies and programs that improve service for our members. Through advanced monitoring systems and AI tools that improve daily operations, we are better equipped to identify power delivery issues or challenges before they occur.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Ninnescah Electric's employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow.

### PURCHASING APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS: BEST TIME TO BUY

<b>PRODUCT TYPE</b>	Refrigerators and freezers	Washers, dryers, dishwashers, ovens and ranges	Large home electronics (TVs, home theater)	Smart appliances and other smart devices	Air conditioners, heaters and other seasonal appliances
<b>BEST TIME TO BUY FOR DISCOUNTS</b>	March/April; new models arrive and older models are discounted; holiday sales.	September/October; new models released and older models are discounted; holiday sales; end-of-year clearance.	Fall holiday sales; online sales events; promos, like Super Bowl sales for TVs.	Fall holiday sales; online and other sales events	Off season (purchase AC units in fall or winter, heaters in summer.)
<b>ADDITIONAL PURCHASING TIPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ When possible, bundle major appliances for significant savings.</li> <li>▶ Be on the lookout. When new models arrive, older models drop in price.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Retailers typically clear out inventory at the end of the year, which can mean big discounts.</li> <li>▶ Local retailers typically try to meet end-of-month/quarter sale quotas, which could mean flexible prices or negotiating.</li> </ul>		

## EFFICIENCY TIP

Holiday decorations often end up in the attic, but be cautious. Boxes can crush insulation and reduce its effectiveness. If you must store items in the attic, build a raised platform to keep insulation at the recommended depth and your home energy efficient.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Beware of “winter bill relief” energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling your utility’s phone number located on your energy bill — do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace’s efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation. SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV

# Ninnescah Offers SCHOLARSHIPS

Ninnescah Electric’s Board of Trustees is awarding four \$1,000 scholarships in 2026 for high school 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., PO Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE IN NINNESCAH’S OFFICE BY JAN. 26, 2026.**

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 2026 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship competition.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_