

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.

Working Together to Lower Demand

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times — typically in the mornings and early evenings — and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

Ninnescah Electric works closely with Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our

local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach — or occasionally exceed — available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops, or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator, Southwest Power Pool, may call for temporary, controlled outages — often referred to as rolling blackouts — to prevent broader system failures.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, Ninnescah Electric and our G&T partner take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

At the regularly scheduled board meeting held on Nov. 25, 2025, the Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees selected a nominating committee. Those appointed were:

- ▶ **STEVE MOORE** — Stafford
- ▶ **KELLY RATZLAFF** — Lewis
- ▶ **BRANDON RIFFEY** — Sawyer
- ▶ **KEN W. LEWTON** — Coats
- ▶ **MORGAN TRINKLE** — Preston
- ▶ **DAVID JOHNSON** — Lake City
- ▶ **DEAN FITZSIMMONS** — Cunningham
- ▶ **CHRISTOPHER BOYD** — Medicine Lodge
- ▶ **JON M. MCCLURE** — Stafford

The nominating committee will meet at Ninnescah's office on **FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 2026, 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.

Save the Date

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

The 2026 Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on March 17, 2026. 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 the 2026 trustee election.
- ▶ Listen to the highlights of 2025 and what is in store for 2026.
- ▶ Win a door prize.



Working Together to Lower Demand

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and comprehensive disaster response planning. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort — and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

- ▶ **LOWER YOUR THERMOSTAT SLIGHTLY.** Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
- ▶ **DELAY USING LARGE APPLIANCES DURING PEAK HOURS, WHICH ARE 3-6 P.M.** Run dishwashers, washing machines and dryers during off-peak hours — typically midday or late evening.

▶ **ADJUST YOUR WATER HEATER.**

Setting it to 120 degrees and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.

▶ **UNPLUG UNNECESSARY DEVICES.**

Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill — you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on, and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

Save Money With a DIY Home Energy Audit

Want to cut costs and make your home more comfortable? A DIY home energy audit can uncover hidden energy drains, like leaky windows, drafty ducts and inefficient appliances. Identifying trouble spots now can set you up for savings and comfort year-round.

YOUR STEP-BY-STEP EFFICIENCY GUIDE

Before you dive in, grab a few basic tools: flashlight, dust mask, tape measure and something to take notes (your phone works great!). We'll start with simple, no-cost changes you can make right away, then move on to tasks that take a little more effort.

STEP 1: ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

- ▶ Revisit your thermostat settings each season. Lowering the temperature at night or when no one is home is a simple way to cut costs.
- ▶ Use a smart thermostat for even greater savings. It automatically adjusts based on your schedule.

STEP 2: LOWER WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE

- ▶ Lower your water heater temperature to save money and reduce the risk of scalding burns. Some water heaters are factory-set to 140 degrees, but most households only need 120 degrees.

STEP 3: FIND AND FIX ENERGY VAMPIRES

- ▶ Shut off energy vampires — devices that draw electricity even when turned off. This idle load can account for 23% of your home's energy use.
- ▶ Unplug appliances when not in use and fully power down devices like computers or gaming consoles.
- ▶ Use a smart power strip to shut off multiple electronics at once — it's an easy way to stop energy waste at the source.

STEP 4: CHECK YOUR LIGHTING

- ▶ Swap out older bulbs, like incandescent or CFLs, for LEDs. They use less energy and last longer. Lighting can account for about 10% of your electric bill.
- ▶ Add dimmers or timers to cut down on wasted electricity.
- ▶ Don't overlook outdoor fixtures. Choose LEDs with features like daylight shut-off or motion sensors for even more savings.

STEP 5: REVIEW MAJOR APPLIANCES

- ▶ Look for the Energy Star label when buying new. If your refrigerator, washer, dryer or heat pump is more than 10 years old, it may be worth replacing rather than repairing. Newer appliances are more energy-efficient and can often pay for themselves in savings within a few years.
- ▶ Check your heating and cooling systems. Their lifespan can range from 10-30 years depending on the type and maintenance. If yours is older, start planning ahead for an upgrade.
- ▶ Replace air filters to keep your system running efficiently.

STEP 6: SEAL LEAKS

Air leaks can waste 10%-20% of your home's energy each year, but they're often simple to fix. Here's where to look and how to seal them.

- ▶ Check baseboards, floor edges and wall-to-ceiling joints indoors.
- ▶ Focus on where different materials meet outdoors.
- ▶ Pay special attention to windows, doors, light fixtures, plumbing and outlets.
- ▶ Use caulk for gaps around windows, doors and baseboards.
- ▶ Add weatherstripping to doors and operable windows.

STEP 7: INSPECT INSULATION

CHECK ATTIC INSULATION:

- ▶ Grab your dust mask and tape measure to check the depth of the

insulation. It should be at least 12 inches deep, but you may need more depending on the type and your climate. Check www.EnergyStar.gov for recommended R-values.

- ▶ Spread insulation evenly. Loose-fill or blown-in insulation should be fluffy and evenly distributed, while rolled batt insulation should fit snugly with no gaps.

INSPECT EXTERIOR WALLS:

- ▶ Check insulation by turning off the power, removing an outlet cover or switch plate and shining a flashlight into the cavity. Many homes built before the 1960s have little to no insulation, and houses from the 1960s-70s often need more.
- ▶ Call a professional to blow in insulation (from the outside or inside) if wall insulation is missing.



DON'T FORGET THE BASEMENT:

- ▶ Ensure rim joists (the area between the top of the foundation and the underside of the first floor) are well insulated in unfinished basements.
- ▶ Insulate the underside of the floor between the joists in crawl spaces.
- ▶ Add insulation to pipes and ductwork for an extra efficiency boost.

FOR RENTERS: You may not be able to make major upgrades, but you can ask your landlord to seal leaks or start small with temporary fixes.

ENJOY YOUR ENERGY SAVINGS

Congratulations — you've taken important first steps toward lowering your energy bills and boosting comfort. Want to go further? A professional home energy audit can provide a complete plan to reduce waste, maximize savings, and make your home more efficient year-round.



WINTER SAFETY WHEN WORKING OUTDOORS

Cold weather can be dangerous if you're not prepared.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE WHEN WORKING OUTDOORS:

- * Keep an eye on the temperature.
- * Take frequent, short breaks indoors.
- * Dress in loose, warm layers.
- * Wear warm socks and waterproof boots.
- * Protect your head, ears, face and hands with warm gear to prevent frostbite and heat loss.
- * Keep dry and remove wet clothing as quickly as possible.
- * Drink a warm beverage, stay hydrated and eat high-energy foods.
- * Watch for signs of hypothermia.
- * Have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

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 _____

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
