

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.

Understanding Your Electric Bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bills and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Ninnescah Electric, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb

into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Ninnescah Electric purchases power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo). The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

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H A P P Y LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Understanding Your Electric Bill Continued from page 12A ►

Closer to home, Ninnescah Electric maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly customer charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks, and avoiding the use of

Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill, and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Ninnescah Electric's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Thank you for allowing Ninnescah Electric to serve you.

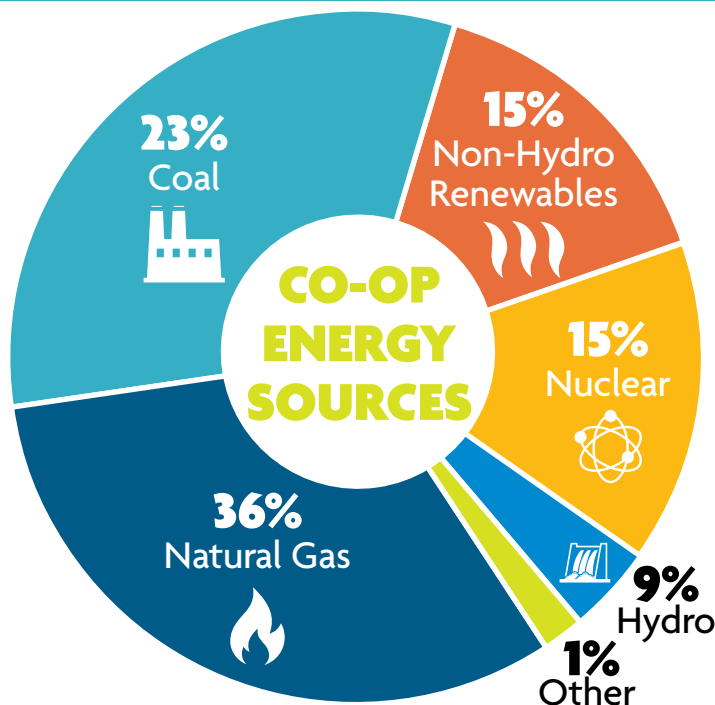
EXTREME HEAT CAN BE DANGEROUS.



Keep these safety tips in mind.

- Stay hydrated, drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
- Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.
- Check on neighbors, family members and friends who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
- Never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



Nationally, electric cooperatives use a variety of fuels to power consumer-members' homes and businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (2024 DATA)

Understanding NERC, the Watchdog for a Reliable Electric Grid

BY CATHY CASH, NRECA

The country's electric grid, with its hundreds of thousands of miles of high-voltage powerlines, is often described as a bowl of spaghetti. Yet 99.9% of the time when you flick a switch, the lights come on.

So, who is the bulk power system's chief detangler?

That would be the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the official watchdog of the North American bulk power system. The international non-profit known as NERC sets mandatory reliability standards for all users, owners and operators of the electric transmission grid.

To maintain reliability, NERC oversees and evaluates grid conditions with support from six regional reliability organizations that serve as its on-the-ground partners in identifying potential problem areas. Each summer and winter, NERC releases seasonal grid assessments that evaluate whether the electricity supply is sufficient to meet expected demand and highlight regions at risk of shortfalls.

These periodic reports analyze conditions that can increase demand, such as heat waves and severe cold, as well as factors that can constrain generation, including fuel or equipment shortages. They also include recommendations to address current risks and help prevent future problems. When unforeseen threats emerge, NERC issues special assessments as needed.

Every year the organization also provides a long-term grid assessment looking ahead 10 years at what innovations or circumstances may impact the reliability of our interconnected electric energy transmission network.

Providing the electric power industry with timely insight into grid reliability, potential power shortfalls and strategies to address them is essential to keeping the lights on.

But wait, there's more.

NERC holds workshops and technical conferences, and trains industry personnel on how to maintain a secure grid and audits owners and operators of the bulk power system to ensure they meet all reliability standards.

NERC also operates the 24/7 Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) that provides the power industry with the latest information on cyber threats, trends and possible solutions with alerts and advisories. E-ISAC develops and executes GridEx, the largest cyber and physical grid security exercise in North America.

Overall, NERC has come a long way from its humble beginning as an industry-led, voluntary grid watchdog. The big Northeast blackout of 1965 that impacted 30 million people led electric utilities to establish the entity to better coordinate grid dynamics.

Today, NERC is the nation's Electric Reliability Organization that oversees the operation and planning of the grid throughout North America. Empowered by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, NERC develops mandatory, enforceable reliability standards backed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Utilities like Kansas' electric cooperatives, for the most part, are not regulated by NERC. State agencies oversee the distribution power lines that deliver electricity to your home and surrounding communities. But NERC's authority over the bulk power system is critical to maintaining reliability in every part of the country, including the most rural areas.

Electric cooperatives that participate in NERC activities advocate for regulations that enable co-ops to plan, maintain and operate a reliable grid.

So how does NERC impact you as a member of an electric cooperative?

NERC helps ensure the electric grid remains reliable, secure and resilient for the millions of people who depend on it every day. By developing and enforcing reliability standards, monitoring the bulk power system and identifying emerging risks, NERC plays a critical role in supporting the safe delivery of electricity across North America.

For electric co-op communities, the work that NERC conducts means greater confidence that homes, schools, farms and businesses will have reliable power around the clock.

CATHY CASH writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



CHRIS JOHNSON

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SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Dive into this word scramble challenge! Read the pool safety tips below to uncover the scrambled words. Remember these tips to stay safe while having fun in the sun.

Double check your work in the answer key.

- 1** Never swim without an **LUTDA** nearby, even if you know how to swim.
- 2** Walk around the pool. **GUNRNIN** on wet surfaces can cause slips and falls.
- 3** Wear **CESSRNUEN** and drink plenty of water to stay safe in the summer heat.
- 4** Keep **CILARCTEEL** devices, cords and speakers far away from the water.
- 5** If you see lightning or hear **DREHTNU**, get out of the pool immediately and go indoors.



Answer Key 1. adult 2. running
3. sunscreen 4. electrical 5. thunder

