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

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

We know our members are feeling stretched right now. When the cost of groceries, gas, insurance and other essentials keeps climbing, every bill that arrives in the mailbox matters — including the electric bill. If you're looking closely at your household budget or wondering how to make each dollar go further, you're not alone. Your co-op understands, and we don't take lightly the trust you place in us to provide reliable power at a fair cost.

That's why we think it's important to look at what electricity makes possible each day and the value it continues to provide in our homes, farms and businesses.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about $150 a month — roughly $5 a day. Five dollars is about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about $9, and a single movie ticket can cost around $13.

For about $5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the best values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you have questions about your energy use, Ninnescah Electric is here to help. We can answer questions about your monthly bill, such as tracking when your daily use increases.

Ninnescah Electric is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community — not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power — so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September marks the start of fall's shoulder season, often bringing temperatures mild enough to give your HVAC system a break. Open windows and use ceiling fans when weather allows. It's also a great time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance, as fall often offers better appointment availability. Regular tune-ups can improve efficiency, reduce the risk of breakdowns and keep your home comfortable year-round. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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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.

Don't Wait for the Warning: Severe Weather Safety Starts Now

September is National Preparedness Month

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

WATCH VS. WARNING

When severe weather is approaching, many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A WATCH MEANS conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A WARNING MEANS severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water, and enough supplies to last at least three days.

REPLACING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AFTER A DISASTER

Having important records organized and stored in a secure place such as a safety deposit box, a waterproof and fire-resistant lockbox or saved as digital backups, can make insurance claims, taxes and applications for assistance easier and less overwhelming.



PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

- **MAKE A HOME INVENTORY.** Take a video walkthrough of your home and belongings. Record serial numbers and estimated values when possible to make insurance claims easier.
- **STORE DIGITAL BACKUPS** in the cloud or on an external drive in a safe place.
- **KEEP KEY PAPERS TOGETHER AND ACCESSIBLE.** Store documents in a waterproof, fire-resistant container for safety and where they can be quickly retrieved during an emergency.

DOCUMENT LOSSES TO PROTECT YOUR CLAIM

- **CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE** before cleanup to confirm coverage, documentation requirements and adjuster timelines.
- **TAKE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS** of damage from multiple angles to include your home, property and belongings.
- **SAVE RECEIPTS** for cleanup, repairs, temporary housing and other recovery-related expenses.
- **GATHER PROOF OF PURCHASE,** such as email receipts, online order histories and digital statements, to help verify losses.

START RECOVERING BY REPLACING THESE RECORDS AND CONTACTING THE FOLLOWING:

- **BANK CHECKS, ATM, DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS:** Your bank or card issuer.
- **SOCIAL SECURITY CARD:** Social Security Administration or local Social Security office.
- **BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES:** State or local vital records office where the record was filed.
- **MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE RECORDS:** State or local vital records office where the record was filed.
- **PASSPORT:** U.S. Department of State.
- **INCOME TAX RECORDS:** IRS.
- **MILITARY RECORDS:** National Archives and Records Administration.
- **REAL ESTATE DOCUMENTS:** County recorder, recorder of deeds or clerk's office.
- **MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS AND PROPERTY TITLES:** Lender or loan servicer.
- **LEASE DOCUMENTS:** Landlord or property management company.
- **DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID:** State motor vehicle agency.
- **HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE POLICIES:** Insurance agent or insurance company.
- **WILL OR TRUST DOCUMENTS:** Attorney who prepared them.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

KNOW HOW TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- Slow down and move over in work zones.
- Do not distract crews while they work.
- Direct service questions to your utility.
- Check your utility's social media channels or text alerts for outage updates, if available.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause backfeed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

STAY ALERT DURING CLEANUP:

- If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
- Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines, and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Smart thermostats, security cameras and other connected devices add convenience but can be vulnerable to cyberattacks if not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords, enable multi-factor authentication when available, and keep devices updated with the latest software and firmware. Also, protect your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. These simple steps can help keep your devices and personal information safe.

SOURCE: CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

HAPPY LABOR DAY

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

Farm Safety and Health Week

SEPT. 21-25

As harvest season approaches, take time to think about electrical safety

- **When operating machinery, watch for overhead power lines.**
- **Look up before moving tall equipment and keep it at least 10 feet away from power lines.**
- **Never approach a downed power line. Report it immediately.**
- **We're proud to power the farms that power our communities.**

Stay safe out there!



A LITTLE COST. A LOT OF LIFE.

For about $150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly — from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- ▶720 hours of refrigeration
- ▶20+ loads of clean clothes
- ▶15+ home-cooked meals
- ▶90+ hours of lighting
- ▶30 days of comfort
- ▶Numerous devices charged
- ▶Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- ▶Countless connections to work, school and entertainment



SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Energy Detective Challenge

School is back in session, and it's time to put your observation skills to work! Complete the challenges below and earn points by finding ways your family can save energy.

SCAVENGER HUNT	COMPLETED
A light is left on in an empty room **(2 points)**	☐
A smart or programmable thermostat **(4 points)**	☐
A ceiling fan spinning in a room where no one is spending time **(2 points)**	☐
A charger plugged in with nothing connected to it **(2 points)**	☐
An Energy Star label on an appliance **(3 points)**	☐
A window or door left open or cracked when the heating/cooling system is on **(3 points)**	☐

MISSIONS	COMPLETED
Turn off the lights when you leave a room **(3 points)**	☐
Open blinds or curtains during the day instead of turning on a light **(3 points)**	☐
Unplug a charger that isn't being used **(3 points)**	☐
Remind family members to close the refrigerator door quickly **(3 points)**	☐
Help your family create a "lights out" check before bedtime **(4 points)**	☐

Name:

Address to Send Coloring Book:

GOAL

Score 20 points to become an Energy Detective! After you've earned 20 points, cut out the badge below and display it for all to see!

Submit your completed scavenger hunt to *Kansas Country Living* by mail or email to receive a free electrical safety coloring book and crayon pack (while supplies last)! Send your completed form to:

Kansas Country Living
P.O. Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604
or email a copy to:
photos@kansascountryliving.com

