P.O. Box 360, 14935 U.S. Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654
785-877-3323 or 800-577-3323
www.prairielandelectric.com

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

POWER *to make life better*

FROM THE CEO

Balancing Rising Costs With Our Commitment to Members

Over the past several months, we have shared information about Prairie Land's rate study, rising costs, and the decisions needed to keep your cooperative financially sound. With new rates now approved by the board of trustees, I want to offer a few final thoughts.

I recognize that an increase in your electric bill is not welcome news, especially when so many other household, farm and business expenses have also increased. Our board took that concern seriously throughout this process.

At its Oct. 27 meeting, the board approved an overall 6.1% increase in rate revenue for 2027. The independent study had identified a need for 7.3%.



Kirk Girard

Rather than adopt that full increase, the board lowered planned financial margins to a level still sufficient to meet our lender's requirements and chose to phase in the remaining revenue need over three years. The resulting plan is:

- **2027:** 6.1% — effective Jan. 1, 2027 (first reflected on February bills)
- **2028:** Approximately 1.5% additional
- **2029:** Approximately 1.5% additional

The table below shows the average 2027 bill impact by rate class. These percentages describe changes for

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Approved Rate Change - Average Impact by Rate Class

Rate Classification	Average % Change	Average Bill/Month Current	Proposed	Increase
Residential & Farm - Non-Commercial	10.7	$134.30	$148.72	$14.42
General Service Small	12.8	$113.54	$128.08	$14.54
General Service Small - Demand	1.9	$521.85	$531.71	$9.86
General Service Medium	1.0	$1,239.11	$1,251.93	$12.82
General Service Large	1.0	$7,425.47	$7,502.49	$77.03
Irrigation	10.7	$452.10	$500.67	$48.57
Industrial Service	1.0	$241,244.53	$243,656.98	$2,412.45
Idle Service	12.4	$51.60	$58.03	$6.42
Interruptible Industrial	4.2	$35,013.95	$36,500.98	$1,487.03
Athletic Field Lighting	8.4	$96.69	$104.85	$8.16
Temporary Service	4.2	$80.22	$83.56	$3.34
Sub-Transmission & Transmission Level Service	0	$19,140.44	$19,140.44	$0

Safety Poster Contest WINNERS

To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, Prairie Land held a poster contest for third graders across its 18-county service territory. Students used their creativity to draw posters of electrical safety at home or school.

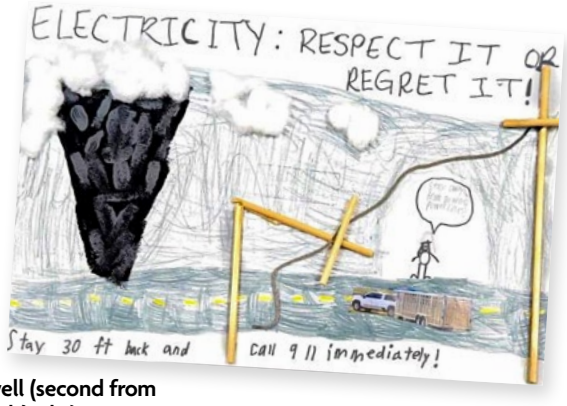
The top three winners were awarded a new bike and helmet. As an incentive for schools and teachers to allow their students to enter, all participating classroom teachers received a donation from Prairie Land to use for classroom supplies. Classes with winning posters received an additional donation. Prairie Land received 454 posters from 33 participating classrooms in 19 elementary schools. Thank you for supporting your electric cooperative and promoting electrical safety.





First place winner Hannah Lee Rolland (second from right) pictured with Area Supervisor Brett McChesney (right) and Journeyman Lineworker Eric Hartwell (second from left) and her teacher Mrs. David (left).





Second place winner Madison Thompson (second from left) pictured with Area Supervisor Brett McChesney (left) and Journeyman Lineworker Eric Hartwell (second from right) and her teacher Mrs. Gebhard (right).





Third place winner Ridge Arnoldy (middle) pictured with his teacher Ms. Thibault (left) and Journeyman Lineworker Chance Runnion (right).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

- **FIRST PLACE — HANNAH LEE ROLLAND,** Eisenhower Elementary, Norton; Mrs. David, teacher, $300 donation.
- **SECOND PLACE — MADISON THOMPSON,** Northern Valley Grade School, Almena; Mrs. Gebhard, teacher, $250 donation.
- **THIRD PLACE — RIDGE ARNOLDY,** Osborne Grade School, Osborne; Ms. Thibault, teacher, $200 donation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our office will be closed at noon on Thursday, Dec. 24, and all day Friday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Jan. 1, to celebrate the holidays.



Balancing Rising Costs With Our Commitment to Members

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each class, not a uniform increase to every member's bill; individual impacts depend on how electricity is used. Beginning in 2028, Residential and General Service Small rates will also introduce a demand charge alongside a reduced energy charge.

Prairie Land's last base rate increase was in January 2024. Over roughly the same period, our overall material costs have risen about 16%, while the cost of wholesale electricity we purchase to serve our members has increased more than 20%. Wholesale power represents nearly 60% of our total costs, making these increases especially significant. We have worked to manage these pressures and limit what must be recovered through rates, while continuing to maintain the system members rely on.

For the average residential member, the 2027 change amounts to approximately $14.42 per month, or 48 cents per day. I recognize that any increase matters when managing a household budget. At an average cost of approximately $5 per day for a residential household, electricity powers nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Our responsibility is to provide that essential service as safely, reliably and cost-effectively as we can.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Prairie Land answers to its members, not outside shareholders. We will keep questioning expenses, seeking efficiencies, and making careful investments in our electric system. Thank you for the trust you place in us. We know it must be earned through the decisions we make and the service we provide every day.

APPROVED RATES AND TARIFF UPDATES

The new rates will take effect Jan. 1, 2027, and will first be reflected on February bills for the January electricity use.

The board also approved staff-recommended tariff language clarifications. To view all approved rates and tariff changes, scan the QR code or visit www.prairielandelectric.com/2026-rate-study.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Brighten your holiday season with energy-efficient lighting options. If you're decorating with holiday lights, choose Energy Star®-certified LED light strings. LEDs are the most energy-efficient and durable lighting options available. For an even simpler savings strategy, put your holiday lights on a timer so they are not using energy when everyone is asleep.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

GIVE THE GIFT OF ELECTRICITY



Helping someone with their utility payment is an especially practical and thoughtful gesture and a convenient gift for any occasion. When you send this form, along with a check or money order in the amount of your choosing, your gift will be added to the recipient's Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. account and they will receive a Gift of Electricity receipt. (Please allow up to one week for your gift payment to be applied.) For more information, call us at 800-577-3323.

- Make check or money order payable to Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Mail this form and payment to:
  Prairie Land Electric Cooperative
  P.O. Box 360, Norton, KS 67654
- Available year-round. Visit www.prairielandelectric.com/gift-electricity for more designs.

RECIPIENT INFORMATION (PLEASE NAME A RECIPIENT — WE ARE UNABLE TO CHOOSE A RANDOM RECIPIENT FOR YOU.)

Member Name: _____

PLEC Account No. (if known): _____

Address: _____

Apt./Unit #: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

PERSONALIZE YOUR GIFT RECEIPT

Gift Amount: $_____

To: _____

From: _____

Optional Message: _____

_____

_____

Co-op Month Giveaway Winners

We brought back our popular member appreciation giveaway for cooperative month in October. We had four different featured prizes and gave away additional bill credits each week. Members entered to win using the entry form in the October issue of this magazine, on the bill insert, or by completing an online form.

HERE ARE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS:

OCT. 9

- SHOP VAC – **MIRA BELL,** Hill City
- $100 BILL CREDIT – **BECKY LIX,** Phillipsburg
- $50 BILL CREDIT – **LONNIE MCEVOY,** Oberlin

OCT. 16

- PRESTO ELECTRIC GRIDDLE – **JENNIFER THRASH,** Concordia
- $100 BILL CREDIT – **LOREN MORGAN,** Woodston
- $50 BILL CREDIT – **SHARON VOGEL,** Phillipsburg

OCT. 23

- NINJA PERSONAL BLENDER – **AMBER BURESH,** Phillipsburg
- $100 BILL CREDIT – **EDA BOCKSNICK,** Concordia
- $50 BILL CREDIT – **JIM MARSHALL,** Tipton

OCT. 30

- NINJA FOODI POSSIBLE COOKER – **MONTY RICHMEIER,** Bogue
- $100 BILL CREDIT – **ROGER BAKER,** Phillipsburg
- $50 BILL CREDIT – **BRANDI LEWIS,** Concordia



Week one winner Mira Bell



Week two winner Jennifer Thrash



Week three winner Amber Buresh



Week four winner Monty Richmeier

APPLY FOR OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Apply today for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 17-23, 2027, and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 9-15, 2027. Prairie Land will sponsor two winners for each trip. Get more information and apply online by scanning the QR code. You can also find the form in your monthly bill, request one from your high school counselor, or contact us at **800-577-3323 OR SHAGER@PLE.COOP. APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 4:30 P.M. ON JAN. 4, 2027.**

SCAN TO APPLY BY 4:30 P.M. ON JAN. 4, 2027



