

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.

### Board of Trustees

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### Staff

**Kirk Girard**

Chief Executive Officer

### Power Line Issues

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

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## FROM THE CEO

# Board Approves Rate Changes for 2022-2024



**Kirk Girard**

In recent years, most of the operational revenue requirements were collected within the energy charge for each kilowatt hour

consumed. Over time, as the electric industry evolved and the cost of the infrastructure and overhead increased, it became necessary to recognize that certain costs of service are relatively fixed, while actual electricity usage varies from month to month, as well as from one member to another. Utility providers across the nation have seen a shift in rate structure from the variable

energy charge to the fixed service access charge. To ensure equitable distribution of costs amongst members, rates have been realigned between the fixed rate for service and the variable rate of electricity usage.

Rate design entails a balancing act between meeting our revenue needs, while minimizing the financial impact to our members. As a not-for-profit organization, we are required to collect enough revenue to meet expenses and maintain sufficient margins to reinvest in our electric distribution system. In September 2021, Prairie Land announced that a planned rate study had been initiated, using Power Systems Engineering as an independent rate

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## Apply for Trips by Jan. 10, 2022

We are awarding trips to four students. This year, the youth tour to Washington, D.C., has been changed to the KEY Leadership Conference in Topeka. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado remains unchanged. Each event is an outstanding opportunity for high school juniors to meet other young leaders. Call Kenzie for details at 800-577-3323.

**Right: 2019 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners (from left) Audrey Meyer, Jacob Lindenman and Ellie Bellerive.**



## 2021 County Tax Distribution

Prairie Land Electric paid more than **\$2.2 MILLION** in property taxes in 2021. This amount is a decrease of **\$461,080.82** from taxes paid last year.\* The details below show the amount of taxes paid to each county.

Although your cooperative signs the check that pays for the property taxes, we realize that you, our members, actually pay the bill. We want to report where some of your money goes when you make a payment each month. A fair portion of that check goes to pay property taxes and that in turn helps the communities in our area.

### 2021 PROPERTY TAXES

County	2021	2020	% Change
Cheyenne	\$132,042.48	\$163,520.74	-19.25%
Clay	\$6,052.42	\$7,698.66	-21.38%
Cloud	\$266,876.08	\$326,864.28	-18.35%
Decatur	\$148,443.87	\$174,330.01	-14.85%
Graham	\$121,606.78	\$153,537.88	-20.80%
Jewell	\$84,612.31	\$103,145.81	-17.97%
Mitchell	\$62,246.54	\$75,206.91	-17.23%
Norton	\$327,577.44	\$401,580.30	-18.43%
Osborne	\$61,581.46	\$71,595.68	-13.99%
Phillips	\$383,194.60	\$432,404.45	-11.38%
Rawlins	\$102,433.27	\$124,387.57	-17.65%
Republic	\$102,368.12	\$125,381.12	-18.35%
Rooks	\$144,257.05	\$178,291.10	-19.09%
Sheridan	\$23,525.77	\$28,056.57	-16.15%
Sherman	\$495.92	\$590.50	-16.02%
Smith	\$146,183.45	\$180,454.49	-18.99%
Thomas	\$153.66	\$177.66	-13.51%
Washington	\$92,298.15	\$119,806.46	-22.96%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,205,949.37</b>	<b>\$2,667,030.19</b>	<b>-17.29%</b>

\*PROPERTY TAXES FOR PRAIRIE LAND ARE ASSESSED BASED UPON REVENUES RATHER THAN ACTUAL PROPERTY VALUE. THE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN KWH SOLD IN 2020 AND 2021 LOWERED OUR TAX OBLIGATION.

## Knox Reaches 15 Years of Service



**Matt Knox**  
15 Years

**MATT KNOX** started his employment Jan. 22, 2007, as temporary help during the aftermath of the 2006 ice storm. Six months later, he was hired as an apprentice lineman in the Stockton area. In 2009, Matt advanced to journeyman lineman. In 2011, he transferred to an opening in Concordia.

“I really like what I do, and Prairie Land is a great company to work for,” said Knox.

He and his wife, Kelsey, have four children: Reece, 16; Baylor, 14; Easton, 11; and Mattelyn, 7. In his spare time, he likes to fish, hunt and keep busy chasing his kids around.

Prairie Land extends congratulations and appreciation to Matt for 15 years!

## Are Portable Space Heaters a Good Idea?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home’s efficiency and energy needs.

If you’re using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you’re on a tight budget, caulking and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1

to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you’re cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you’re occupying and,



if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is the right size for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

# ICE ON POWER LINES A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



Normal Power Lines

Lines Weighed Down by Ice

Bottom Line Melts First and Touches Top Line

Ice is a force to be reckoned with when moving electricity across power lines and into your home or business.

## ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30 times heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

## ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH THICK POWER LINES

- ▶ 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- ▶ 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- ▶ 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

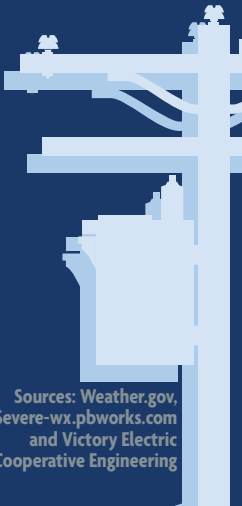
## WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

## OTHER ICE FACTS

- ▶ Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 inch
- ▶ 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- ▶ Pressure can be caused by a broken tree limb
- ▶ Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Sources: Weather.gov, Severe-wx.pbworks.com and Victory Electric Cooperative Engineering



# Generator Safety

When the electricity goes out, generators can help you get through until power is restored. It is vital that you educate yourself on generator safety before use.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. A portable generator is usually gas powered and is movable.

Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary during moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 10 feet from your home. Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 10 feet from your home.

If you are not careful with the installation of a portable or standby generator, you can put the lives of others in danger away from your home because of backfeed — a situation where a generator is feeding electricity back through your electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent backfeed, standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system; use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

If you have questions regarding generator safety, call our office at 800-577-3323.

For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# STAY WARM AND TOASTY while Turning Down the Thermostat

Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? Adjust your thermostat 7-10 degrees lower to save up to 10% annually.

Here are some ways to help you stay warm when it's cold outside.



Wear layers and heavy socks.

Get your body moving and stay active.

Use blankets while sitting still.

Caulk windows and door frames that leak.



Replace or update old or inefficient door seals.



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly.

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night.



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside.)



Keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use.

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer.



Use a portable space heater safely and for short amounts of time.

Extended use can cause your energy bill to spike since heaters use a lot of power.

# Board Approves Rate Changes Continued from page 12A ▶

consultant. The rate study calculated how much revenue is required to operate successfully, then identified how much each rate class is responsible for to meet the revenue requirement. Finally, those amounts are compared to the revenues that are currently being collected from each rate class to determine where deficiencies have emerged. This provides the information needed for the board of trustees to redesign the rates to ensure adequate and fair revenue collection.

On Nov. 23, 2021, the board of trustees held a member rate meeting at the Norton office to review and vote on proposed rate changes. While the cost-of-service study indicated a need for a 3.9% increase in overall rate revenue, the amount of the rate change will vary by rate class, with some rate classes requiring more than the average, while others may need little or no increase. The majority of the proposed rate increase is taking place within the service access charge to better align with the cost of service which ensures recovery of fixed costs that are incurred before a

single kilowatt-hour of electricity is used. Additionally, other components of the rates, kilowatt-hour and kilowatt demand charges were updated to align with the new rate structure. After a thorough discussion, the board approved the proposed rate changes, which provides an overall revenue increase of \$4.6

million to be implemented over a period of three years.

We would like to assure our members that we will continue to work hard to power your life reliably and affordably. Even after the necessary increase, Prairie Land's residential rates continue to be among the lowest when compared to rates of other electric cooperatives in Kansas. To view the complete approved rate tariffs, visit [prairielandelectric.com/rate-schedule-tariffs](http://prairielandelectric.com/rate-schedule-tariffs).

APPROVED RATE CHANGES FOR 2022-2024					
Current Rates		New Rates			
<b>Residential and Farm</b>		<b>Residential and Farm</b>	<b>CY 2022</b>	<b>CY 2023</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>
Service Access Charge (\$/month)		Service Access Charge (\$/month)			
Single Phase	\$20.00	Single Phase	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
Multi Phase	\$35.00	Multi Phase	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$49.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$0.10472	Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$0.10437	\$0.10260	\$0.10216
<b>General Service Small</b>		<b>General Service Small</b>			
Service Access Charge (\$/month)		Service Access Charge (\$/month)			
Single Phase	\$20.00	Single Phase	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
Multi Phase	\$35.00	Multi Phase	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$49.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$0.10106	Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$0.09758	\$0.09395	\$0.09119
<b>Irrigation</b>		<b>Irrigation</b>			
Horsepower Charge (\$/HP/year)	\$20.00	On-Peak Season Demand Charge (\$/kW Jun-Sept. only)	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Max/Min HP Charge (\$/year)		Service Access Charge (\$/year)	\$540.00	\$540.00	\$540.00
Energy Charge (\$/kWh/HP/year)	\$500/\$1000	Energy Charge (\$/kWh)	\$0.07981	\$0.08380	\$0.08899
On-Peak Season (Jun-Sept.)					
First 125 kWh/HP/YR	\$0.10177				
Next 125 kWh/HP/YR	\$0.09177				
Next 250 kWh/HP/YR	\$0.08677				
Excess kWh	\$0.08177				
Off-Peak Season (Oct.-May)	\$0.08177				

**Average Residential Electric Revenue For Electric Cooperatives in Kansas**

