



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.



Electric Vehicle FAQs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway. Here are some frequently asked questions about EVs.

Q WHY IS PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COMMUNICATING ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

A: Last year our board of trustees approved a vision statement for the cooperative, "To be the trusted energy expert." Our vision, or goal, is to be a trusted source of information for our members as they make decisions regarding their energy usage. Through a member survey and strategic planning session with our board, we identified that a significant percentage of our membership has some level of interest in up-and-coming technologies, including electric vehicles.

Q WHY DOES PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC HAVE AN EV?

A: We purchased our first EV just this year for research and development purposes. Our EV and charging stations help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. We have a Ford Lightning to help educate our members and raise awareness of EV technologies.



Kirk Girard

Q WHY IS PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC INVOLVED IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs — without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes

Continued on page 12C ▶



Prairie Land took delivery on this new Ford Lightning in January 2023. The vehicle is intended to be used for research, company use and to pull the safety demonstration trailer.

KEEP KIDS SAFE AROUND **TREES** AND **POWER LINES**

When kids head outdoors to play, they may be climbing trees.

Be sure to scope out the area first to ensure the treetops do not have power lines running through or near them.

Children may reach up to grab a line or accidentally come too close to it when they are playing or sitting high up in a tree.

Teach kids to fly kites, drones and remote control planes or toys in open areas free from power lines.

Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, contact could happen once weight is added to the branch.

If a toy or other object lands in a substation, please call your electric utility to retrieve the item. Never approach the fence or try to enter the area.



Take time to teach children and teens how to respect and identify potential electrical hazards.

Welcome New Employees



Sarah Gallentine

SARAH GALLENLINE was hired as a member service representative at the Norton office starting Jan. 9, 2023.

Sarah grew up in Arapahoe, Nebraska, and attended the University of Nebraska at

Kearney majoring in family studies and marketing management.

She and her husband, Jesse, live in Norton and have three daughters: Addison, 11; Ainsley, 7; and Daytyn, 18 months.

Sarah enjoys attending the kids' sports and driving derby cars with her husband.



Kendra Daniels

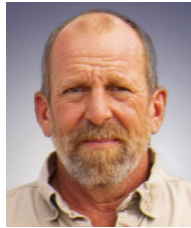
KENDRA DANIELS was hired as an accounting clerk at the Norton office starting Jan. 9, 2023.

Kendra brings a wealth of experience from the credit union, the prison system and the school system.

She and her husband, Robert, live in Norton, where they both grew up. They have a son, Koben, 6; and a daughter, Adeyla, 3.

In her spare time, Kendra enjoys archery, hunting, fishing and camping.

Congratulations PLEC Employees!



Darin Bortz
25 years

DARIN BORTZ is a meter technician out of Smith Center. He started his employment March 2, 1998, as a meter reader for 20 towns, and advanced in 2017 with the installation of automated metering.

"Prairie Land is a great company to work for," Bortz said. "Becoming a Prairie Land employee with the 2007 Aquila, Inc. acquisition has been a big plus."

Bortz and his wife, Lori, have two grown children. In his spare time, he enjoys working on vintage motorcycles.



Deb Lydic
10 years

DEB LYDIC began her employment with Prairie Land March 25, 2013, as a member service representative in Norton. After considering retirement at the end of 2022, she instead moved into a part-time position.

Deb and her husband, Greg Ankenman, have an adult daughter who lives in Lawrence. They enjoy visiting her and serving the community through the Eagles Lodge. Deb is also a wonderful cook. She will be using her time off to embark on new adventures throughout America.

Daylight Saving Time

On Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m., turn your clocks forward one hour to 3 a.m.



Electric Vehicle FAQs Continued from page 12A

and businesses. As your local energy provider, Prairie Land Electric is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.

Q CAN I CHARGE MY EV USING AN EXISTING OUTLET OR DO I NEED A SPECIAL OUTLET?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit that can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. Your charging times and miles added may vary depending on the size of your battery and the weather conditions. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q DOES THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE AFFECT THE RANGE OF AN EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q WILL AN EV MEET MY DAILY DRIVING NEEDS?

A: Most of today's electric vehicles have a driving range per charge between 50 and 330 miles. If your daily commute is under that range, there is likely an affordable EV model that will fit your needs.

Q WILL AN EV MEET MY NEEDS ON LONG ROAD TRIPS?

A: Long road trips can present challenges for today's electric vehicles. Public charging infrastructure and battery technology is continually improving, but planning is still required for long trips. There are many EV models available with a range-per-charge of 150-250 miles. There are some high-end EVs that can get over 330 miles on a single charge.

Q SHOULD I LET MY CO-OP KNOW IF I PURCHASE AN EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more Prairie Land Electric members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 800-577-3323 or contact us at ple@ple.coop.

WHEN FLOODWATERS RISE

7 Tips to Evacuate Safely

Once you leave your home:

1. Never drive around barricades.
2. Listen to weather alerts for information and instructions.
3. Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.
4. Know that standing water could be energized.
5. Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
6. Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving waters.
7. Get on the roof if water is rising inside your car.

Source: Ready.gov

Do not return home until it is safe to do so.

Flooding Dangers

145 U.S. flood-related fatalities in 2021



Driving: **76**



At home: **40**



Boating: **1**



Working: **1**



Walking/hiking: **8**



Falling in: **2**



Other: **10**



Unreported: **7**

Source: National Weather Service

PRairie Land
Electric Cooperative Inc.

Please join us for the
ANNUAL MEETING
April 4, 2023
Lunch at Noon
Meeting at 12:45 p.m.
14935 US HWY 36, NORTON, KS

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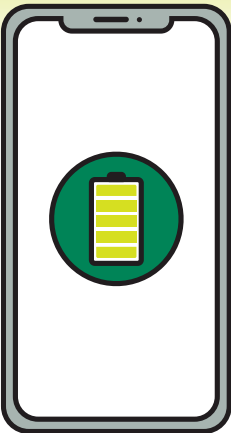
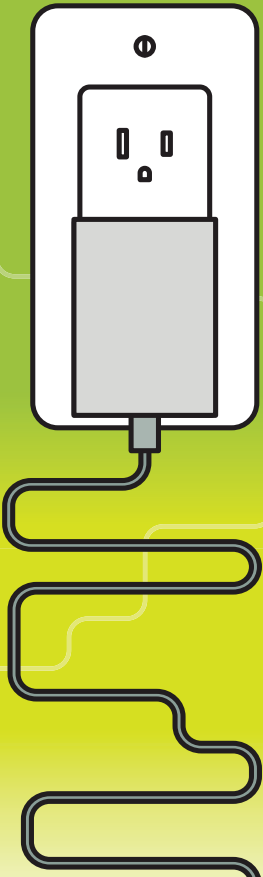
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



B	J	C	M	G	S	N	A	M	O	R	S	W	U	L
R	A	F	O	D	V	T	L	L	P	D	I	O	S	W
E	B	T	E	M	V	C	E	U	X	S	Y	W	D	G
C	B	P	T	D	P	O	W	E	R	S	T	R	I	P
H	Y	G	M	E	T	U	A	U	Y	H	Z	P	U	Z
A	R	P	Q	E	R	U	T	L	R	N	Z	N	U	Y
R	F	I	H	L	V	I	C	E	Q	V	P	C	E	S
G	T	D	F	F	W	K	E	M	R	L	B	N	H	O
E	B	H	W	C	F	Q	W	S	U	K	Y	N	Z	M
A	Q	I	L	I	F	K	N	G	L	O	I	K	B	A
B	S	R	E	G	R	A	H	C	E	N	O	H	P	C
L	N	O	Y	O	V	I	M	A	I	V	I	R	X	T
E	V	S	U	A	I	L	K	O	L	U	Y	N	F	C
Y	H	V	K	S	L	F	G	T	R	I	P	B	T	G
P	O	W	E	R	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T



- ▶ Use a **power strip** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- ▶ For devices that require **batteries**, use **rechargeable** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- ▶ **Unplug** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **phone chargers**.
- ▶ Use the sleep or **power management** mode on your **computer** to save on energy costs.

