

3 Ways to Get Kids Interested in Saving Energy

Getting kids interested in saving energy can seem tough, but with warmer months upon us, saving energy will be crucial for keeping electricity bills low. Engaging kids now will help them form energy-saving habits for the future, and sometimes it can be fun, too. Try these tips to see if you can get them excited about saving energy.

1 TURN THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE INTO A GAME. Games create a fun, interactive option for learning. One example is to create an “energy treasure hunt” around the home, where the family searches for devices or appliances that use the most electricity. After finding these items, you can discuss with your kids a few ways for those devices to use less energy. You could also have them search for other proactive efficiency measures, like weather stripping, LED bulbs and air filters.

Another game to play with your kids is “I Spy” for any energy-saving technologies in stores while out running errands. Encouraging your kids to find a wide variety of devices around stores can keep them even more engaged. Teach them about the ENERGY STAR® logo, which identifies the most energy-efficient devices and appliances. The more interested you are in finding those technologies, the more interested your kids will be too.

2 CREATE A REWARD SYSTEM. One simple method is a star chart. You can use the chart to keep track of stickers and reward your child for every 10 stickers they earn for doing some activity that saves energy. Stickers could be earned every time your child remembers to

turn off the light in a room after they exit, unplugging devices (like phone chargers) that they’re not using, or showering in less than five minutes. Rewards can be small things that get your child excited, like a piece of candy or a small toy. These actions taken by your kids will add up over time and help save energy around the home.

3 DISCUSS LIFESTYLE CHANGES as a family or as an individual, but also make the changes fun. This could be getting the family together to play a board game instead of watching TV. You could also suggest reading a book together instead of using electronic devices. Encourage them to play outdoors with friends instead of playing



Teaching kids about saving energy and helping our environment when they're young is the best way to ensure the habits have a lasting impact.

video games indoors. Incorporating energy-saving practices into everyday life is the best way to ensure the habit has a lasting impact.

Got teens? If your kids are older and the suggestions noted above won't work, try getting them involved in simple efficiency projects around the home. There are several DIY tasks that teens can help with, like caulking and weatherstripping around windows and doors, or replacing the HVAC filter.

Teaching your kids to save energy can be easier when you make it fun. With a little creativity, each of these suggestions can be modified for your family. Each of us, including our kids, can do our part to save energy.

Prairie Land Partners with SEED to Grow Local Economies

Commitment to community is one of the seven cooperative principles that govern the operation of rural electric cooperatives. The member cooperatives that own Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, including Prairie Land Electric, are showing once again how we live this cooperative principle.

We know that community vitality is central to your success. While each community may define success differently, our common needs are jobs, adequate housing and education and programs that improve life for residents.

Prairie Land is already invested in making your community a success, and now you have access to several new tools that can be used to improve the vitality of your community, improving lives. As a consumer-member of Prairie Land, you are also an owner of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, giving you

SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT *energy to grow*



access to valuable economic and community development programs from the newly-announced Sunflower Electric Economic Development (SEED) program. It's just another part of Prairie Land's commitment to community, creating new vitality and improving lives.

Living and working in a vibrant community is a goal we all share. The SEED program will strengthen our commitment to your community. Just give us a call at 785- 877-3323 or 800-577-3323 to learn more about this exciting new program!

Resources and Programs Offered by SEED Program

INDUSTRY MARKETING – We recognize which industries are predominate in our area. Companies find success here for a variety of reasons, perhaps natural resources or being located in the central part of our country. Whatever the reason, it makes sense to share our story of business success with other companies within these industries. The world won't know this is a great place to do business until we tell them.

The industries identified as opportunities to expand our business base are value-added agriculture, data centers, and heavy equipment manufacturing, along with the associated supply chain, distribution and warehousing. We are developing plans to directly market to companies in these industries and make sure they know what our area of Kansas has to offer for expansion opportunities.

AVAILABLE SITES AND BUILDINGS – When a business is looking for a new location, we want to make sure our local opportunities are promoted and easy to see. LocationOne Information Systems (LOIS) is the largest website for economic development properties in the U.S. We have purchased a license and are actively working to increase the number of local properties that are promoted on LOIS. Let us know if you have available sites or buildings to include.

The Sunflower Certified Site Program provides certification that guarantees extensive research has been completed for a property intended for business development. Certified site programs are valuable to

businesses as they reduce the chance of a site-related surprise during the construction process. A comprehensive list of items are researched and cataloged so a prospective owner knows the available utilities, capabilities, environmental and historical attributes of the property, confirming that the site is ready for development.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT – Your local leaders are in the best position to understand what opportunities fit your community. What they may need is additional information and resources for projects that benefit the residents. Sunflower's team includes trained facilitators to help your community identify what opportunities are right for you and how to capitalize on those opportunities. We have identified an extensive list of resource providers that are ready to offer technical expertise for economic development.

Our economic development website, www.sunflowercodevo.com, is key to sharing our story and what we have to offer to our communities and the world. Information on the website includes:

- ▶ Advantages of expanding in the Sunflower Member service territory
- ▶ Links to available sites and buildings
- ▶ How to connect with Member staff
- ▶ Regional data
- ▶ Programs for advancing local economic development
- ▶ Ways Prairie Land and Sunflower can provide assistance for economic development planning

DO NOT GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, do not get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- ▶ Call 911 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- ▶ Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter “home energy yardstick” in the search box to get started. **Source:** energy.gov



Helpful Hint:

If you are going to try the “home energy yardstick” from the tip of the month, a convenient way to find your electricity usage for the past year is by using SmartHub.

1. Sign in to your account and click on “My Usage” (“Usage” on mobile).
2. From the “Analyze Your Usage” tab, select “Usage Explorer.” Check the time period and change it to what you want to view .



KILOWATT'S TIPS

Watch for Signs of Home Electrical Overload This Summer

Summer is a time to relax and enjoy the sun for many. But for your electric system, summer is stressful. Many run the air conditioner frequently to try to stay comfortable.



Kilowatt

When a lot of people run their air conditioners simultaneously, the electric grid and your home's electric system can become stressed. This leads to blackouts, brownouts and even fires and electric shocks.

Be mindful of how you are using electricity and try to use electricity in off-peak hours. Most electricity is demanded in the middle of the day. If you can hold off running your washer, dryer, oven and dishwasher until later in the day, you can save money and ease electrical stress.

Know the signs of electrical stress and safety hazards:

- ▶ Flickering, blinking and dimming lights.
- ▶ Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses.
- ▶ Crackling, sizzling or buzzing sounds from outlets.
- ▶ Wall plates that are warm and discolored.

No matter the season or age of a home, residents should be vigilant and continually check for electric hazards such as cracked or fraying cords, overloaded outlets and circuits, and improper wattage lightbulbs in appliances, lamps and light fixtures. Also, make sure smoke alarms are placed and functioning properly.

Consider an electrical inspection, especially if you live in an older home. A qualified electrician can alert you to safety hazards and give you suggestions for improvement.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

FAMILY PICNIC COLORING SHEET

An outdoor picnic is a great way to spend time with your family! Cooking outdoors also helps you save energy because you don't have to use appliances that heat up your home.

