

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL
GENERAL MANAGER

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, almost at all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch or push of a button, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to your smartphones, computers, television and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.



DAVID CHURCHWELL

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in agricultural sectors — such as grain bins and feedlots — the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically, when demand goes up so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, such as groceries or even your favorite restaurant. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

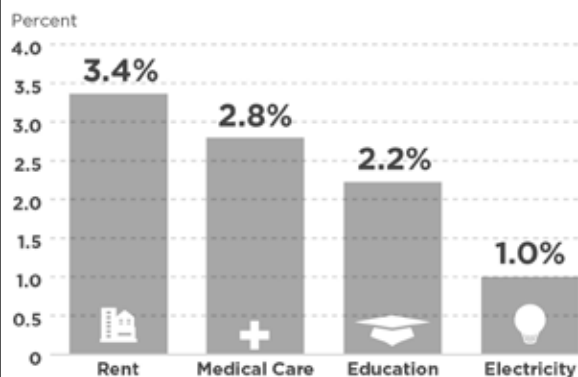
So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, television series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the consumer-members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why K.C. Electric Association continues to work hard to power your life safely, reliably and affordably.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index

Claim Your Savings

Each month, consumer-members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

Larry Nestor,
Cheyenne Wells — 447800002
Galen Travis,
Burlington — 1121690004
William Winger, Flagler — 1107250001
Gary Douglas, Flagler — 541150004

In July, three consumers called to claim their savings: Bill Richardson, Burlington; Justin Flora, Cheyenne Wells; and Clement Mitchell, Arapahoe.

REBATE NEWS AT K.C. ELECTRIC

K.C. Electric Association offers rebates to its consumer-members for various electric upgrades to homes and businesses. K.C. Electric recently awarded rebate checks to two schools in its service territory, both of which completed LED retrofits of their buildings.



Superintendent of Bethune Schools John Haddan (left) accepts a rebate check for \$6,262 for an entire LED retrofit at the school. Presenting the rebate check is George Ehlers, Manager of Member Services at K.C. Electric.



George Ehlers, K.C. Electric Manager of Member Services, presents Kandy Davis, Superintendent of Stratton Schools, with a rebate check in the amount of \$2,170 for completing an LED retrofit in the building.

GENERATOR Safety

Learn more at:

Safe
Electricity.org

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.



K.C. Electric Offers Prepaid Accounts for Residential Consumer-Members

At K.C. Electric, a prepaid account allows residential consumer-members to purchase energy before they use it. When making a prepaid payment, consumer-members put a positive balance on their account and as they use electricity, the balance goes down. Prepaid participants receive alerts when they have less than five days' worth of electricity remaining. Consumer-members can choose to add funds to their prepaid balance anytime throughout the month with a variety of payment methods.

A prepaid account allows consumer-members to customize their payments to their lifestyle and budget. Some participants choose to make smaller, more frequent payments, while others choose to put a large balance on their account. Either way, it allows consumer-members to control how much energy they use and their costs.

If the account balance goes below zero, power is automatically disconnected. However, a consumer-member can have their power turned back on in minutes by making a payment anytime of the day. Payments can be made 24/7 online via a computer or a smartphone. Payments can also be made during normal business hours via phone or in person at either K.C. Electric's Hugo or Stratton office. Consumer-members with a prepaid account are not subject to disconnect fees, reconnect fees, late fees or collection fees. There are also no payment due dates or minimum payments associated with the program. **If you want more information on setting up a prepaid account, please contact the Hugo office at 1-800-700-3123.**

FEES	TRADITIONAL BILLING	PREPAID BILLING
Connect Fee:	\$20	\$20
Deposit:	\$100 minimum	\$0
Billing:	Due by the 20th of each month	Pay as you go No monthly bill
Late Fee:	\$5 plus 1.5% of balance	\$0
Disconnect Non-Pay Fees:	\$95 - Disconnect \$95 - Reconnect	\$0 - Disconnect \$0 - Reconnect
Monthly Maintenance Fee:	\$0	\$5 (daily = 17 cents)

Making Your Home Safe and Efficient

Whether you're working from home, learning from home or just spending more time at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure and efficient. Learn how the internet of things and smart devices can improve your quality of life and make your home safer.

Home energy use

Average home energy (AHE) use by item:

- Air-conditioning: 17% of total AHE use
- Space heating: 15% of total AHE use
- Water heating: 14% of total AHE use
- Lighting: 10% of total AHE use

Prepare your home for safe and efficient energy use

- Use a smart plug or power strip to turn off power when devices are not in use
- LED lightbulbs last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25%-80% less energy
- Heat only the area you're in with energy-efficient space heaters
- Utilize home automation to control heating, cooling and lighting systems while not at home

Home electrical safety devices

- AFCI breakers and outlets protect against arc faults, which could lead to fires
- Grounded outlets protect against electric shocks
- GFCI outlets and breakers are required where water and electricity may come into contact to protect against ground faults
- Surge protective devices protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment



September 2021
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov

Q & A WITH THE BOARD: JERRY ALLEN



JERRY ALLEN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS — CHEYENNE COUNTY

Jerry Allen is K.C. Electric Association's newest board member, representing Cheyenne County. This is the first in a series that will run here in Colorado Country Life and is one way for consumer-members to become familiar with their K.C. Electric board of directors.

Tell us about yourself and your family

I was born in Liberal, Kansas, and we were living in Beaver, Oklahoma, at that time. I was a freshman in high school when we moved to a farm in Arapahoe, Colorado. I then went back to Oklahoma to college, where I also met my wife, Vicki. I completed school and came back to Colorado and began farming with my father and my uncles. During this period, Vicki and I had three children: Coty, Chris and Amber. As of now we rent our farm ground out. My one son lives near us and runs the cattle operation. I could say that we are semiretired, although I still am working some; I have my own income tax business.

Why did you make the decision to run for the K.C. Electric Association Board of Directors?

I had been thinking about it for quite some time, and this seemed like the right time. I also enjoyed the time I had served on other boards, and felt I had something that would be beneficial with that experience.

What strengths will you bring to the K.C. board of directors?

My father served on the K.C. board for many years, and I learned quite a bit from listening to him over the years. I also have accounting experience. I served on boards for various organizations, and along with that I have dealt with employee and insurance and operations issues on those various boards.

What are the major challenges you believe K.C. Electric will face in the future?

The changing renewable energy market, and reliability of those renewables. Ensuring that K.C. Electric stays strong with the member base, also ensuring we get the best rates we can for consumer-members.

What are your thoughts on the status of the electric industry in Colorado?

I honestly do not have enough experience on the board, so it would be a guess of which I do not want to make. I feel K.C. Electric itself is strong currently. Statewide, I am not fully aware of the issues as they are.

What industry changes do you believe will affect the electric industry in the next 10 years?

Technology, green energy, state and federal regulatory mandates concerning renewables and the electric industry and how they will affect rates.

What do you want to accomplish as a director for K.C. Electric Association?

Short term: Well, I do not want to make any changes — I have no specific goals, nor an agenda. Mainly I just wanted to contribute and continue to help to keep K.C. Electric strong in the industry as it is now. Long term: Navigating the electrical renewable energy and its effects on the industry.

What is the greatest concern you have for the electric industry and how it will impact eastern Colorado?

It must be electrical reliability. Due to all the changes happening often, we must first ensure we have reliability factored into everything we do for our consumer-members.

How will the projected electric industry changes impact the agriculture industry in the rural community and landscape?

I have been listening to the news and at times they speak of rolling brownouts. I am not sure if they affect us here yet, but they could in the future due to all the needs and changes in the industry. That will affect us as far as irrigation reliability, needs of our farms and ranches if this occurs, as well as our communities and how they will be impacted. This, to me, goes back to reliability issues with all the industry changes, how we utilize renewables and how that is used in the market.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I am very proud to be a part of the K.C. Electric board and proud of how it has remained strong and solid throughout the times and all the changes.