

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2023

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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.

GET INVOLVED! JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

One of my favorite events is coming up. On June 1, K.C. Electric Association will host the annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity for me and K.C. employees to talk with you and hear what's on your mind.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting at Stratton High School in Stratton at 6 p.m. on June 1.

During the meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates on our finances and operations, as well as discuss the challenges that lie ahead. But we'll have a lot of fun, too, with live music entertainment, pies and cookies, several prizes and a chance to win \$1,500.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is important to us. In fact, it's essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As you know, the energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools and businesses.

As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors. Your feedback informs our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all K.C. Electric members.

You have a say

You may wonder if your opinion makes a difference. Yes, it does. Guidance and perspective from our members and board helps set priorities for the co-op and impacts future decisions. The annual meeting is also a time for members to vote for the co-op's board of directors.

The K.C. Electric Board of Directors consists of nine members who live and work right here in our local service area — they are in the best position to know where community investments are most needed. We hope you'll consider running for the board in the future, as we're always looking for folks who care about our community and are willing to serve.

Your electric bill is an investment in our community

This local input means those closest to the community know its needs and priorities. This helps direct where co-op dollars are spent. Every year we invest funds to make updates to our local electric system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're investing in your community. All the money we receive for electric service stays in the local community. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for your modern life.

Most consumers likely don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But K.C. Electric is not an ordinary utility company. We're a co-op. And the cooperative business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which it operates.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. But as a co-op, we're motivated by service to our community rather than profits.

We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting at 6 p.m. on June 1.

Notice of Annual Meeting

K.C. Electric Association

June 1, 2023

In accordance with the order of the Board of Directors, notice is hereby given that the regular 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of K.C. Electric Association will be held in Kit Carson at Stratton High School on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Registration begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting will commence at 6:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. The presentation of reports covering the previous fiscal year
2. The election of directors
3. All other business which may properly come before a regular Annual Meeting of the members of K.C. Electric Association



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric 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).

- **John F. Vavra, Burlington — 1116080000**
- **Jonathon Brandon, Stratton — 943020011**
- **Nicki Lueck, Stratton — 933600011**
- **Robert A. Hughston, Flagler — 521200013**

In March, four members called to claim their savings: Amber Eby, Hugo; Christine Archer, Seibert; Pat Price, Arriba; Kirby Powell, Burlington.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Thermostat placement can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. Thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home.

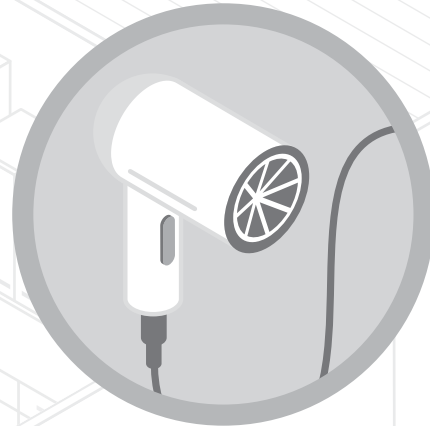


A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

DON'T

place flammable items such as potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



DO

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



DO

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



DON'T

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.



BEAT THE PEAK THIS SUMMER

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48% of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Although most of that 48% is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency and help reduce your energy bills.

- Safe Electricity offers the following tips to help cool your home this summer:
- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home and becomes heat, according to energy.gov.
 - If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10% per year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to energy.gov.
 - Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by an HVAC professional.
 - Consider changes to your landscaping. Shade trees and shrubs can insulate the foundation and can reduce energy costs.
 - Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can prevent hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10% annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
 - Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician to help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
 - Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
 - Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
 - Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed ductwork.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system creating dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.



Don't Let Your Generator Generate Trouble

Having a generator on hand, whether portable or permanent, may sound like a great idea for times when the power goes out — but misusing one can be very dangerous.

When using a portable generator, there are two ways to connect it to a home. The first is with a powered circuit panel that has a power transfer switch, which monitors incoming voltage from the utility line. The circuit panel and transfer switch should always be installed by a qualified electrician. The second option is to plug in a limited number of home appliances directly into a fuel-powered portable generator using heavy-duty extension cords.

Never try to power your home by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This is known as back-feeding, and it could electrocute a neighbor or an electric lineworker restoring power. A permanent generator must have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to avoid back-feeding. Because of the harm an incorrectly powered generator can cause, the transfer switch is required by the National Electrical Code.

The primary hazards of using a portable generator are not pretty. They include carbon monoxide poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. According to the agency, most deaths and injuries associated with portable generators are from CO poisoning when generators are used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces.

Portable versions are less expensive than permanent or standby models and power only select appliances. Permanent generators, those standby versions that are permanently installed to power most of the appliances in your home, are convenient but pricey at an average cost of \$10,000.

Using a generator is serious business and shouldn't be done in haste. Learn more about using electricity safely and efficiently at SafeElectricity.org.