

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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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.

RELIABLE POWER FOR TODAY — AND TOMORROW

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER

Reigning in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the general manager of K.C. Electric Association, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are as a cooperative and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at K.C. Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across eastern Colorado. You may not realize it, but K.C. Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and from there, we distribute it to homes, businesses, farms, and ranches throughout our service territory.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, K.C. Electric continues to use technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions, and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In



DAVID CHURCHWELL

the event of a power outage, AMI can help to pinpoint the general location of the outage and can even alert us to damaged meters or meters that have been tampered with. AMI helps K.C. Electric save money with real-time data, which ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. K.C. Electric crews continually inspect our grid to monitor the health and growth of trees and identify potential problems or trouble areas.

K.C. Electric's new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system has been fully implemented and allows us to remotely access and control many of our substation devices, which can make outage restoration safer and quicker. SCADA also allows us to receive real time system data that we can use to make decisions that will make our entire system more efficient.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Colorado and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model, because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

Looking ahead to 2024, I hope you will share your thoughts with us. I recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input.

As we prepare for next year, I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the K.C. Electric family, I hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright.

Stay safe as you go over the river and through the woods this holiday season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual, shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings, or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet, and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with the risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix: severe shock, burns, or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 911 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.
- Roll down your window and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.



- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS it is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground and ripples out from there. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path to ground for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer that houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.





▲ A K.C. Electric Association construction crew replaces a crossarm on a 69,000-volt transmission H-Frame structure utilizing high-voltage hot sticks.

K.C. Electric Crews Perform Work on Infrastructure

K.C. Electric Association linecrews worked in the Stratton area in October to replace a crossarm on a 69,000-volt transmission H-frame structure. Instead of using bucket trucks to complete this task, crews climbed the poles and utilized high-voltage hot sticks to replace the crossarm to help train new apprentices on this method of work.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, 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).

Richard Bergman, Wild Horse — 1146010001

Ron Mehling, Burlington — 1111850000

Ron Wolfrum, Stratton — 915300003

Lorie Bellomy, Burlington — 1101290010

In October, one consumer called to claim his savings: C. Jerome Conlan, Burlington.



A CORD IS NOT A CHEW TOY

Q: What's the most common type of electrical injury for household pets?

A: Electrocution from chewing on an electrical cord

TAKE ACTION:

Pet proof your home by covering or enclosing electrical cords and taking steps to prevent other electrical hazards.

Although any pet can chew on a cord, puppies are the most likely culprit.

Learn more about pet safety at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



IT PAYS TO BE A CO-OP MEMBER!

K.C. Electric retires \$1.2 million in capital credits

Why am I receiving this capital credit retirement payment? The K.C. Electric Association board of directors authorized the retirement of over \$1.2 million in capital credits to our member-owners who purchased electricity from us in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

What are capital credits? One of the benefits of cooperative membership and ownership is the share in the margins of K.C. Electric each year. K.C.'s electric rates are designed to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on loans and long-term debt, and provide an emergency reserve. A cooperative does not earn profits; instead, when revenues exceed the expense of providing electric service it is considered margins and returned to members in the form of capital credits. The margins denote a member's ownership and represents a contribution of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative with the intent the capital will be repaid to members in later years.

What's the difference between allocated and retired capital credits? Members are allocated capital credits and will receive an allocation notice each year the cooperative earns positive margins. This money is set aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance to our electric infrastructure over a period of years. A retirement is the amount a member receives as a refund. It is a portion of your total allocation. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued and your equity in the cooperative is reduced. Retirements can be years after the year in which the margins were earned/allocated. Until retirement, an allocation has no cash value and cannot be applied against your current electric bill.

What happens to my capital credits if I move? K.C. Electric encourages everyone who may be leaving or have already left the cooperative service territory to keep your address records up to date with us so future capital credits can be refunded as they are retired.

What happens to my capital credits if I die or what if I receive a check addressed to a deceased person? Capital credit checks will remain in the name of the original member until a spouse, relative, or other legal representative notifies, and requests K.C. Electric reassign the account to another person or transfer the account to an estate. K.C. Electric requires documentation to complete a request to reassign or transfer capital credits.