

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Michelle Brokes, President
Wilson — District 1

Paul Wilson, Vice-President
Burr Oak — District 2

Justin Trost, Secretary
Concordia — District 3

Corey Dlabal, Treasurer
Wilson — District 1

Eric Andersen, Trustee
Jamestown — District 3

Mike Brzon, Trustee
Courtland — District 3

David Dubbert, Trustee
Beloit — District 2

John George, Trustee
Lebanon — District 2

Sarah Goss, Trustee
Kanopolis — District 1

Tom Marr, Trustee
Formoso — District 2

Staff

Douglas Jackson, General Manager

Contact Us

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Beloit, KS 67420
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

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tips and cooperative news.



Board Elections in Final Stages

The election process is not only a privilege, but also a civic duty and a responsibility that we, as citizens of the United States of America, should take seriously.

As a consumer-member of Rolling Hills Electric, you also have this privilege and responsibility. Being a cooperative has its benefits, especially for its consumer-members, who have a voice in choosing who serves on the board. Trustees are elected representatives and act in the best interest of the cooperative's consumer-members.

A trustee candidate submits a nominating petition that contains at least 20 signatures of current members of the cooperative who reside within the candidate's district. The petition had to be filed at the Rolling Hills office in Beloit on or before Nov. 30, 2022. The nominating petitions were submitted to the secretary who determined that the candidates met the qualifications to be nominated and the petitions were valid.

2023 Board of Trustees Nominees

District 1, Position 1

COREY DLABAL
Wilson

District 2, Position 1

DAVID DUBBERT
Beloit

District 3, Position 1

C. ERIC ANDERSEN
Jamestown

District 2, Position 4

TOM MARR
Formoso

The ballots are currently being finalized and will be mailed on March 20, 2023. Upon receipt of the ballot, please mark your choice or write in a candidate, sign the back of the ballot envelope (certificate of membership), and return your ballot immediately.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN BELOIT BY APRIL 21, 2023.

The names listed above will appear on your ballot. A complete biography along with a picture of each candidate will be included with the ballot. If you have any questions or need a replacement ballot, please call our office at 800-530-5572 or 785-534-1601.

Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

The Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023**. Look for more details in next month's *Kansas Country Living* issue!



RHEC in the Community



Top: Santa stopped to visit Rolling Hills staff and wish our members a Merry Christmas!

Right: Santa came by the shop to try out a different kind of sleigh — a linemen's "sleigh"!



Rolling Hills line crews working on a pole replacement.

WORKING ON THE Line



Rolling Hills linemen assist with a house move.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Application Period Ends March 31

Rolling Hills Electric receives requests for assistance with member electricity bills throughout the year. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program

that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

The 2023 LIEAP application period is from **JAN. 3, 2023, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023, AT 5 P.M.** To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchases of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level.

The benefit levels vary according to the following factors:

- ▶ Household income

2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines			
Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,699	7	\$5,239
2	\$2,289	8	\$5,829
3	\$2,879	9	\$6,419
4	\$3,469	10	\$7,009
5	\$4,059	11	\$7,599
6	\$4,649	12	\$8,189
+1	\$590 for each additional person		

- ▶ Number of persons living at the address
- ▶ Type of dwelling
- ▶ Type of heating fuel

For more information and/or to apply online, visit www.dcf.ks.gov, select the **SERVICES** tab at the top, then scroll down and click on **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)**. Applications must be received at the DCF office **PRIOR TO 5 P.M., MARCH 31, 2023**. Late arrivals will not be considered for assistance. The state will contact Rolling Hills Electric to verify payments are being made on the account and the account is active in the applicant's name. LIEAP payments will come directly to Rolling Hills Electric and be applied directly to the account.

For more information or assistance in completing the application, please contact the LIEAP office by calling 800-432-0043.

In Memoriam

DOYLE "HOOLEY" ALCORN of Mankato worked for the Jewell-Mitchell Rural Electric Co-op (now Rolling Hills) for more than 40 years. He passed away on Jan. 5, 2023, at the age of 97.



Doyle "Hooley" Alcorn

RONALD MCCOSH of Beverly was a board member of Smoky Hills Electric and Rolling Hills Electric from 1996-2004 as well as a Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) board member from 1998-2004. He passed away on Jan. 2, 2023, at the age of 77.



Ronald McCosh

We thank these men for their dedication and service to our cooperative.

Electric Co-ops Go the Extra Mile for You

Kansas electric co-ops serve an average of **3 consumer-members** per mile of power line. Other electric utilities serve **32 consumers** per mile.

Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members, who we're proud to serve.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

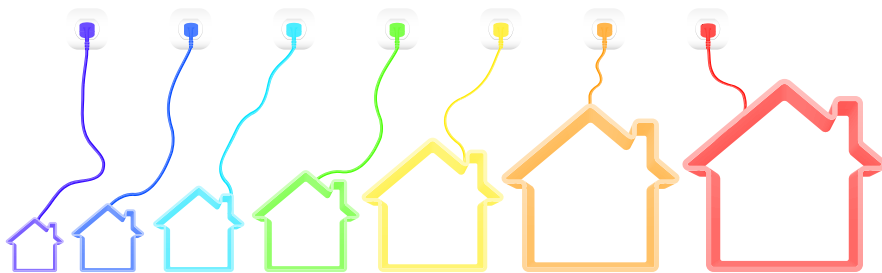
Beat the Peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Rolling Hills Electric must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Rolling Hills Electric must provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Rolling Hills Electric typically pay more for electricity — either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power — during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. **WHEN A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT THE SAME THING, IT'S MORE EXPENSIVE. WHEN THEY DON'T, IT'S CHEAPER** — like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.



The easiest way to reduce your demand is to not run everything at once. Have your appliances take turns.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few degrees, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!



MIND THE THERMOSTAT. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

GET COZY. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

DON'T BLOCK THE HEAT. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

BLOCK AIR LEAKS. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.