



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420
www.rollinghills.coop

ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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For outage updates, energy efficiency tips and cooperative news.



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 (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that figure is spent on heating, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

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

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), consider the following:

- ▶ Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a

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home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to www.energy.gov.

- ▶ If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to www.energy.gov.
- ▶ Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

SOURCE: ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION AND DEPT. OF ENERGY



RHEC in the Community

Commitment to the communities we serve is a core value of Rolling Hills Electric. Here are some events we've been a part of this summer.



The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks statewide commission meeting was held at the Beloit office conference room. The commissioners toured the area while here and it was a great tourism and economic development exposure opportunity.



Lineman Adam Badger and his family were part of the Mankato 150th parade celebration.



Lineman J.R. Hynek teaches kiddos how the digger truck works at the Beloit Elementary Preschool Park Day.



SHARON SAHLFELD



SHARON SAHLFELD

Lineman Tyler Bailey and his family participated in the Beloit Memorial Day Parade and brought Willie Wiredhand (Kenny Castor) to ride along.

NCK Tech College Disaster Training

Rolling Hills Electric participated in a disaster training held and organized by the North Central Kansas Technical College Nursing Program, Beloit campus, in April.



Linemen Adam Badger, Casey Smith and J.R. Hynek remove the downed power line to declare the scene is safe.

This event was held in cooperation with emergency personnel from various organizations within Mitchell County and several surrounding areas. Rolling Hills linemen **ADAM BADGER, CASEY SMITH** and **J.R. HYNEK** helped with this event.

This training simulated the devastation and injuries that may occur from a tornado. Part of the disaster scene was staged by Rolling Hills Electric where a fallen power line and broken pole had sparked fire to a gas meter. The event was **NOT** real, however, it aimed to make the response by all emergency personnel as realistic as possible. Once emergency personnel had arrived on the scene, they then had to wait for our crew to arrive to de-energize the downed power line in order to declare the scene safe. This illustrates the importance of reporting a downed power line **IMMEDIATELY** when

calling 911 so the utility crew can be dispatched right away.

It is pertinent in an emergency situation that all first responders remain an asset to the scene and not become a victim or liability themselves. By utility crews and emergency responders remaining calm and working together, victims can be tended to safely. **THANK YOU** to the NCK Tech College for inviting us to be a part of this drill and training. It takes cooperation from each and every department to get help to those in need as quickly and as safely as possible.

Check out our Facebook page to see a video illustrating all parts of the drill.

Rolling Hills Electric thanks all of our first responders and staff who answer the call in time of peril, the ones heading toward the danger when everyone else is heading out. Your service is admirable today and always.

Smith and Moore Advance in Lineman Apprenticeship

HUDSON SMITH has successfully completed the merchant job training and safety program requirements, which is the academic curriculum portion of becoming a journeyman lineman. He also has successfully completed his second year as an apprentice lineman.



Hudson Smith



Riley Moore

RILEY MOORE has successfully completed his third-year apprenticeship and has entered into his fourth and final year as an apprentice lineman.

Congratulations to Hudson and Riley on their hard work and dedication to Rolling Hills Electric! They are well on their way to journeyman lineman status.



Load Control

If you are not signed up for text alerts on peak days, please call our office at 785-534-1601. If any irrigators experience issues, please call the office and speak with the operations department.

Keep **IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT** and **water streams** 15 feet away from overhead power lines.

Meet Our Interns



Kai Allen

KAI ALLEN

Osborne District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:** Silver Lake, Kansas
- ▶ **COLLEGE:** Pratt Community College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, golfing



Thomas Biery

THOMAS BIERY

Belleville District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:** Clyde, Kansas
- ▶ **COLLEGE:** Manhattan Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, bass fishing, golfing



Ethan Haller

ETHAN HALLER

Beloit District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:** Beloit, Kansas
- ▶ **COLLEGE:** Manhattan Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Fishing, outdoors, golfing



Evan Keating

EVAN KEATING

Ellsworth District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:** Minneapolis, Kansas
- ▶ **COLLEGE:** Manhattan Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, golfing



Beat the Peak Continued from page 12A ▶

- ▶ Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and plants that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- ▶ Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help prevent hot air from building up. 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 www.energystar.gov.
- ▶ Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- ▶ Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- ▶ Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- ▶ Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work. Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create 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. To monitor your energy usage throughout the month, pay your bill or report an outage, sign up for SmartHub by visiting our website at www.rollinghills.coop. Click the SmartHub Login, select the New User link and follow the prompts to setup an account. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572.

Kansas Homeowner Assistance Fund (KHAF) Program

Are you or someone you know a homeowner impacted by the pandemic and in need of assistance with expenses? The Kansas Homeowner Assistance Fund (KHAF) program is a new program now open for applications — don't wait, apply today as funds are limited.

The program's goal is to aid homeowners in avoiding foreclosure by assisting with home ownership-related expenses. Applicants must be at least 30 days past due on their mortgage or property taxes/charges to qualify for assistance types.

What does the assistance cover?

- ▶ Mortgage payments.
- ▶ Property taxes and charges.
- ▶ Utilities/internet/broadband fees.
- ▶ And more.

Do you qualify?

- ▶ You own your home in Kansas.
- ▶ The property (a single-family home, one-to-four-unit dwelling, or mobile home) is your primary residence.
- ▶ You can provide valid proof of identification.
- ▶ You are at risk of losing your home without assistance.
- ▶ Your recent income did not exceed 150% of your area's median income.
- ▶ Your household is experiencing documented financial hardship during the COVID pandemic.

For application assistance call 855-307-KHAF (5423) or complete the KHAF Contact Us Form on their website. Apply online at <https://kshousingcorp.org/kansas-homeowner-assistance-fund>.