

NEWS

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.**

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CONTACT US

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Beloit, KS 67420

785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

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For outage updates,
energy efficiency tips and
cooperative news.

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Controlled Burning



Jason Rabe

Controlled or prescribed burning has been a mainstay practice for vegetation management for many years. You could contend that if “mankind”

doesn't practice controlled burning — mother nature could in the form of an uncontrolled burn, which can have devastating consequences. Controlled burns can have many positive effects when done properly and safely.

As your local rural electric cooperative, we understand that controlled burns are often a needed and appropriate practice. However, we have several thoughts and best practices that we would like to communicate to ensure a safe and effective burn:

1 COORDINATION WITH UTILITY COMPANIES:

Before planning the burn, contact Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative at 785-534-1601 to inform us, ensuring we are aware of the burn so we can provide additional guidance or assistance.

2 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS:

Ensure the burn complies with all local, state and federal regulations, including obtaining any necessary permits or notifications.

3 WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Monitor weather conditions closely. Ideal conditions include moderate humidity, stable wind patterns, and temperatures that prevent uncontrolled fire spread. Avoid burn operations during high winds or dry conditions.



As your local rural electric cooperative, we understand that controlled burns are often a needed and appropriate practice.

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MERRY Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a peaceful new year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DEC. 24, DEC. 25, AND JAN. 1.

Need Assistance Paying Your Bill? Apply for LIEAP by 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 2025 LIEAP APPLICATION PERIOD IS FROM NOW THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025, BY 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 according to the guidelines listed in the table. The benefit levels vary according to the following factors:
 - ▶ Household income.
 - ▶ Number of persons living at the address.
 - ▶ Type of dwelling.
 - ▶ Type of heating fuel.
- For more information and to apply, visit WWW.DCF.KS.GOV,

2025 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES			
Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,882.50	5	\$4,572.50
2	\$2,555	6	\$5,245
3	\$3,227.50	7	\$5,917.50
4	\$3,900	8	\$6,590
+1	\$672.50 for each additional person		

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, 2025**. 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 at 888-369-4777.

COLD WEATHER RULE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. wants consumer-members to have the electric service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter. Rolling Hills Electric also recognizes the member's responsibility to make contact to establish payment arrangements. When we work together it ensures both goals are met.

WHAT DOES THE COLD WEATHER RULE MEAN FOR ME?

The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric service for their homes during the winter. You must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

If you cannot pay your entire electric bill, call Rolling Hills Electric to make payment arrangements:

- ▶ Agree to pay 1/12 of the past due amount of your bill, plus your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months.
- ▶ Negotiate a payment plan to pay the past due amount off in fewer billing cycles.
- ▶ It will be necessary to pay your current monthly bill while paying off the past-due amount.

It will be necessary to contact Rolling Hills Electric if you are unable to fulfill the above qualifications.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC?

Rolling Hills Electric will inform you of the Cold Weather Rule payment

plan as well as other available payment options. Remember, under the Cold Weather Rule, you have the option of spreading your payment over a 12-month period.

Rolling Hills Electric will send written notice to consumer-members 10 days before disconnection, plus will call by phone or make personal contact the day before.

CAN I BE DISCONNECTED DURING THE COLD WEATHER RULE?

Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect your primary residence when the temperature is forecast to drop below 35 degrees over the next 48 hours, except in certain circumstances.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

Rolling Hills Electric may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

If the 48-hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast of below 35 degrees, Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect until there is another 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

QUESTIONS?

Please call Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 800-530-5572. The Cold Weather Rule applies only to existing residential consumer-members at their primary residence and is subject to the rules and regulations of the cooperative.

Co-opportunity Day Picnic 2024

Farmway Credit Union, Central Valley Ag and Rolling Hills Electric, all local cooperatives in Beloit, kicked off National Co-op Month on Oct. 4 by hosting the annual Co-opportunity Day Picnic for the public at RHEC in Beloit. Employees from each co-op assisted in setting up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. Members and guests were served burgers, baked beans, chips and cookies. Approximately 250 meals were served. The turnout was a success with harvest and other various activities going on. It was a fun fall day spent with our members and the community!

A large number of food items were collected that were donated to the Mitchell County Food Pantry.



Co-op employees gave back to our community by serving at the Co-opportunity Day Picnic.



See community support in action! We were proud to deliver food to our local pantry, helping neighbors in need.



Co-op members share more than just a meal — bringing comfort, kindness and community to the table.



The Co-opportunity Day Picnic showcases teamwork at its best!



Co-op employees serving up kindness, one meal at a time!



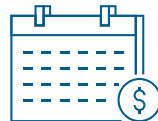
Welcoming with care — RHEC employees were on hand to guide each guest in.



How Capital Credits Work

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.

1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.



2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.

3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.



4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

Controlled Burning

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4 BUFFER ZONES: Establish adequate buffer zones near power poles. This means mowing down or tilling an area at least 3-6 feet around the pole (possibly more depending on fuel height). This prevents damage to the power pole as the cost to replace a single pole ranges from \$2,000- \$4,000.

5 CONTROL MEASURES: Employ mechanical barriers, such as firebreaks, around the area to contain the fire and prevent it from reaching power poles or other important infrastructure. Be sure to have water sources and fire suppression equipment readily available.

6 PERSONNEL TRAINING AND SAFETY: Ensure all personnel involved in the burn are properly trained, have control measures in place, are equipped with safety gear, and have a plan of action if things don't go according to plan.

7 POST-BURN MONITORING: After the burn, monitor the area to ensure that no residual flames threaten power line structures or other important infrastructure and to address any flare-ups promptly.

8 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Have an emergency response plan in place in case of unexpected fire behavior, this includes contact numbers for local emergency services and the utility company.

With rising costs affecting everyone in some way — some common sense precautions can save you as well as all members of our cooperative significant money. Best practices also provide an additional element of safety as it prevents downed power lines, which could increase the chances for injury or death. If you ever have questions, reach out to your local rural fire department or to Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative to get those questions answered.

APPLY BY DEC. 30 FOR

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp



Applications open now for all-expenses-paid trip and scholarship

Summer 2025 may seem far away as fall fades and winter approaches, but finding and selecting a stellar delegate for our youth trip takes time. Rolling Hills Electric is now accepting applications from **HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES OR JUNIORS** who are interested in competing for a “trip of a lifetime.”

In addition to the trip, **THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**, second place will receive a \$750 scholarship, and third place a \$500 scholarship. To be eligible, parents' or guardians' primary residence must be on Rolling Hills Electric's power lines. We encourage all eligible students to apply for the summer youth trip!

Rolling Hills will sponsor a delegate to

attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Rolling Hills Electric pays for transportation, lodging, meals and other incidental costs.

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If trip coordinators believe that travel is unsafe, we will cancel the trips. In this case, we may offer an alternate activity for an award.

TO APPLY, SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY DEC. 30, 2024.

Application details can be found at www.rollinghills.coop/apply-our-youth-programs.

Summer will be here before you know it. **DON'T DELAY; ENTER TODAY!**



ARE YOU READY?

During colder weather ensure you have warm clothing and blankets in your vehicle for emergencies.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELRICITY.ORG



Christmas trees are involved in an average of **150** home fires each year.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, WWW.SAFEELRICITY.ORG