



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672
800-456-6720

www.westerncoop.com
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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC **NEWS**

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC, INC.

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Nolan Numrich
CEO/General Manager

CONTACT US

635 S. 13th Street
P.O. Box 278
WaKeeney, KS 67672
785-743-5561
FAX: 785-743-2717
www.westerncoop.com

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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE TOP

Final Phases of Our Rate Study and Design



Nolan Numrich

At Western Cooperative Electric, our commitment to you has always been rooted in transparency, reliability and fairness. Our slogan, “Powered by Transparency,”

reflects the open and honest approach we’ve taken throughout our comprehensive rate study and design process. As we conclude this journey, I’m excited to share insights into the final two phases — Phase 04: Board Discussion and Vote, and Phase 05: Rate Implementation — and what they mean for you, our valued members.

04

Board discusses and votes on changing rates in an open meeting



Transparency is at the heart of how we operate, and Phase 04 exemplifies this principle. At 10 a.m. on Nov. 20, 2025, our board of directors will hold a public meeting at the Western Cooperative headquarters to discuss and vote on the proposed rate changes. This open meeting is a cornerstone of our process, ensuring that you, our members, have a front-row seat for the decision-making that shapes our cooperative’s future.

During this meeting, the board will review the findings from the earlier phases of the rate study, including the

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NOTICE OF TARIFF CHANGE

To the Members of Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc.

The Board of Trustees of Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. will meet on Thursday, Nov 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the cooperative’s WaKeeney headquarters, located at 635 S. 13th Street, to discuss and vote upon a proposal to implement a change in rates and modify the schedule of service fees.

In addition to the scheduled rate meeting, Western will also be approving new tariffs for Parallel Generation, Net Metering and Parallel Generation Qualifying Facility.

This meeting is open to all members who wish to attend. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change. Any member with questions may contact the Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. office during business hours at 785-743-5561.

Final Phases of Our Rate Study and Design Continued from page 12A ►

cost-of-service analysis, financial forecasts, and member feedback collected through surveys and town halls. Our goal has been to design a rate structure that balances affordability for members with the financial stability needed to maintain reliable service, invest in infrastructure, and meet rising operational costs. The open meeting format allows members to observe the discussion, ask questions, and understand the rationale behind the proposed rates. The board's vote will determine whether the proposed changes move forward, and we encourage those who would like to attend engage in this critical moment.

05

Rates are implemented



If the board approves the proposed rate changes, Phase 05: Rate implementation, will begin on Jan. 1, 2026. We understand that any rate adjust-

ment can impact our members, which is why we've designed a thoughtful, three-year plan to introduce these changes gradually. This phased approach minimizes the immediate financial burden on households and businesses while ensuring the cooperative remains financially sound to serve you reliably for years to come.

The proposed new rate structure is the result of careful analysis and your input. It aims to distribute costs fairly across member classes, promote energy efficiency, and support the cooperative's long-term sustainability. To keep you informed, we can provide detailed billing statements and resources that explain how the new rates affect you based on your past usage. Our team will also offer energy-saving tips and programs to help you manage your usage and demand to keep costs down. For more information about how these rates will impact

you individually, please email rates@westerncooperative.com.

POWERED BY TRANSPARENCY

Throughout this process, your trust has been our priority. From the initial data collection to the final implementation, we've strived to keep you informed and involved. The rate study and design process is not just about numbers — it's about ensuring that Western Cooperative Electric continues to power your homes, businesses and communities with reliability and fairness. We invite you to join us at the Nov. 20 meeting to see "Powered by Transparency" in action.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Western Cooperative Electric. Together, we're building a stronger, more sustainable future.

HERE TO SERVE,
NOLAN NUMRICH
CEO/GM



RATE STUDY & DESIGN

Powered By Transparency

00

Board Monitors the Financial Health of the co-op


01

Board engages rate consultant to prepare a rate study


02

Board approves a new rate design


03

Co-op opens comment period and holds public meetings


04

Board discusses and votes on changing rates in an open meeting


05

Rates are implemented



www.westerncoop.com/rate-study-design

Western Cooperative Electric Awards \$30,000 in Sharing Success Grants to Local Projects

Western Cooperative Electric, in partnership with CoBank, is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Sharing Success Grants. This annual program supports local projects that strengthen communities, preserve history, and improve the quality of life for people across Western's service territory.

This year, interest in the program was stronger than ever. Western Cooperative received 24 applications from schools, libraries, nonprofits and community organizations — each with a vision for how to better serve their town. The board of trustees carefully reviewed each proposal before selecting four projects that truly reflect the cooperative spirit. These projects will receive a combined \$30,000 in grant funding.

CITY OF GOVE LIBRARY



CITY OF WAKEENEY



ELLSWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



THE 2025 RECIPIENTS ARE:

► DOWNTOWN PLAINVILLE — PLAINVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: "THE YARD" PROJECT — \$15,000

- A major revitalization effort is underway in downtown Plainville, where the Plainville Community Foundation is working to transform a central space into "The Yard" — a gathering place for families, friends and visitors. The project will provide a safe and welcoming spot for community events, outdoor activities, and social connections. With the support of the Sharing Success Grant, The Yard will become a cornerstone of community life in Plainville for years to come.

► CITY OF WAKEENEY: KELLY FACADE & BATHROOM PROJECT — \$5,500

- The City of WaKeeney is investing in improvements that will enhance both the look and function of its downtown district. Grant funds will help restore the historic Kelly Building's façade and add much-needed public bathroom facilities. This project combines preservation with practicality, creating a more inviting space for residents and visitors.

► ELLSWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: NEW ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD — \$2,000

- Preserving history also means finding modern ways to share it. With the assistance of a Sharing Success Grant, the Ellsworth County Historical Society will install a new electronic billboard to keep the community informed about exhibits, events and educational opportunities. The addition will ensure that local history remains visible, accessible and celebrated.

► CITY OF GOVE LIBRARY: NEW HEATING AND AIR SYSTEM — \$7,500

- At the heart of many small towns, libraries serve as

gathering places for learning and connection. The City of Gove Library will use its grant to install a new heating and air system, ensuring the building is comfortable and welcoming year-round. The project will create a better environment for all community members who visit the library.

"These projects represent the heart of the Sharing Success program — strengthening communities, preserving history, and improving quality of life for residents across the region," said Christina Hayes, member services manager for Western Cooperative Electric. "The board was honored to receive so many strong applications and inspired by the dedication of local organizations working to make a difference."

The Sharing Success program is a partnership between Western Cooperative Electric and CoBank, one of the nation's largest providers of credit to rural infrastructure cooperatives. Each year, Western contributes funds that CoBank matches, doubling the impact for local projects. Since its inception, the program has supported a wide range of initiatives, from infrastructure improvements to cultural and educational enhancements.

Looking ahead, Western Cooperative Electric encourages eligible organizations to begin thinking about projects for the next funding cycle. Applications for the 2026 Sharing Success Grants will open on Jan. 1, 2026.

For more information about the program or to learn how your organization can apply, visit www.westerncoop.com. Questions may also be directed to Christina Hayes, member services manager, at 785-743-5561 or chayes@westerncoop.com.

Western Cooperative Electric is honored to continue investing in the communities it serves — because when local projects succeed, everyone benefits.

WESTERN WELCOMES GHUMM TO THE TEAM!



Devon Ghumm

We're thrilled to welcome **DEVON GHUMM** to our Western Cooperative Electric family as a lineman apprentice. A lifelong Wakeeney resident, Ghumm

brings a deep connection to the community we proudly serve. His local roots and dedication to helping others make him a perfect fit for our cooperative's mission of empowering and supporting the people and businesses in our area.

Outside of work, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and kids, as well as pursuing his love of hunting and fishing. His strong work ethic, community focus, and team-oriented mindset are already making an impact, and we're excited to see the contributions he'll bring to Western Cooperative Electric.

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING DEVON A WARM WELCOME!

Western Cooperative Students Gain New Skills & Memories From Leadership Camp

Two Otis-Bison High School students returned this summer from a week of learning, adventure and leadership at the 48th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Sponsored by

Western Cooperative Electric, **DELILAH AND PAYTON REEVER**, daughters of Kristi Reever, joined 75 other student leaders from across Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming for the summer program.

The camp gives students hands-on experience in leadership and cooperative business operations. Participants formed and managed a mock candy co-operative, elected a board of directors, and held daily membership meetings — mirroring the real-world responsibilities of member-owned organizations. Students also took part in workshops on conflict resolution, leadership and co-op careers.

Beyond the classroom, the week was packed with experiences. Students rafted the Colorado River, explored downtown Steamboat Springs, rode the gondola up Mount Werner, and enjoyed volleyball tournaments, talent shows, and dances.

For Payton, the camp was life-changing. “You cannot be brave without being afraid first,” she said. “I walked into this camp with this motto, and because of this I have changed as a person. You learn to try new things and it's inspiring.”

She added with a smile, “I wish I had



Western Cooperative Electric IT Manager Craig Cramer (left) and his wife, Karon, (right), served as chaperones for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Two students, Delilah (second from left) and Payton Reever (second from right) were selected to represent the co-op at camp.

known to pack bug spray — and even more bug spray!”

Delilah shared that the connections and encouragement from others were most meaningful. “Giving 100% and sharing kindness, generosity and love, and seeing it come back to me has been the most rewarding feeling ever,” Delilah said. “All of the speakers really broadened my perspective and inspired me to be more than who I was already.”

The trip was also special because Western's own IT Manager Craig Cramer, and his wife, Karon, served as chaperones.

“My favorite part was getting to know all these amazing kids,” Craig said. “It gives me wonderful hope for the future.”

CEO/GM Nolan Numrich said Western is proud to continue its investment in youth programs. “These experiences not only deepen students' understanding of cooperatives, but also build skills they'll carry into future careers and community leadership,” Numrich said.

Western Cooperative has sponsored students for CYLC for many years, affirming its mission of empowering local youth and preparing the next generation of leaders.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*
**from our co-op
family to yours**

*Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 27,
and Friday, Nov. 28,
to celebrate the holiday.*