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**WESTERN  
COOPERATIVE  
ELECTRIC**

# WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

## Western's Payment Options



Western's members can make payments through our website or by phone using a credit card or electronic funds transfer.

To pay by phone, call our automated service at 800-330-1025, or call our main office to speak with a Western employee.

Through our website, you can also view your account or enter your meter reading. You will be prompted to set up a login and password the first time you use the on-line services. You will be asked to enter your base account number and meter number.

**Check this feature and other services at [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)**

## Replacing Filters—a Change for the Better

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently—keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money.

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- ▶ Reduced air flow and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- ▶ Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- ▶ Lowered system efficiency

After stating the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some

filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm, and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

Let's work together in improving air quality and saving money on your electric bill. During these hot summer months keeping the air filter clean and raising the air conditioner thermostat setting a couple of degrees, conserves energy for you and peak energy demands for Western Cooperative Electric.



# Electric Co-ops Help Sheridan County Hospital Acquire Loan for New Equipment

Two Kansas electric cooperatives' efforts have resulted in the **SHERIDAN COUNTY HEALTH COMPLEX** receiving a loan for a new addition and equipment for the hospital located in Hoxie. The addition will allow the rural hospital—a county-owned, non-profit hospital serving Sheridan County and beyond—to better serve its patients.

Western Cooperative Electric and Prairie Land Electric Cooperative provided the medical facility a \$575,000 zero-interest loan through a partnership with each cooperative's local revolving loan fund.

The addition has nearly doubled the size of the hospital's laboratory space, which features indoor access to a new and permanent CT scanner, one of the best computer tomography units with high-resolution, 64-slice detailed scans.

Prior to the hospital's improvements, patients who needed CT scans and technicians who operated the equipment were forced to brave steps and the weather as the scanner was housed in a truck parked next to the hospital.

"It is so convenient now and safer for the patients who don't have to climb steps to get into a trailer for their scans," said Nicole Roudybush, Director of Imaging Services at SCHC. "And the higher resolution of the CT scanner allows us to make better decisions for the patient."

The project will make the hospital even more competitive.

"We strive to have the best diagnostic tools available to our



Nicole Roudybush (right), Director of Imaging Services at Sheridan County Health Complex, discusses the benefits of the new CT scanner and its permanent indoor facility with Dennis Deines (far left), Manager of Member Services and Compliance at Western Cooperative Electric, and Barry Madden, Manager of Member Services at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative. Improvements at the rural western Kansas hospital were made possible through revolving loan funds available from each of the electric cooperatives.

patients in northwest Kansas, and we want to keep those services local," said Niceta Farber, who has been hired as SCHC's new CEO, a role she will assume in June.

Western and Prairie Land have been involved in rural economic development for many years through participation in USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program. The cooperatives' involvement in the program has helped secure federal dollars to benefit Kansas communities.

The accumulation of funds from the REDLG Program has allowed Western and Prairie Land to build their revolving loan funds. These funds are kept at the local coopera-

tive once loans are repaid and are available for future rural development projects, such as the one for which SCHC applied and received. Participation in this program is just one example of Western and Prairie Land's concern for community, one of the seven cooperative principles.

Praising the hospital's improvements, Dennis Deines, Manager of Member Services and Compliance at Western, said, "We are proud as a cooperative to support communities, such as Hoxie. To have access to better health care options is a win-win for all of us."

"Our goal is to help communities by supporting and enhancing the business plans in rural Kansas towns," said Barry Madden, Director of Member Services at Prairie Land.

For more information about Western's Revolving Loan Fund Program, contact Dennis Deines at 785-743-5561.

**We are proud as a cooperative to support communities, such as Hoxie. To have access to better health care options is a win-win for all of us.**

**DENNIS DEINES, WESTERN'S MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES**