

WESTERN CO-OP ELECTRIC

An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

NEWS

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WesternCoopElectric to find co-op news, energy tips, photos from co-op events and more!



2020 Youth Contest Winners

Five high school juniors will receive a \$250 college scholarship and the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado, through the Western Cooperative Electric youth contest program.

The winners were selected based on their combined scores in three areas: essay writing, personal interview, and electric cooperative knowledge.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Winners

JONATHAN SPACHEK, Ellsworth High School, son of Kurt and Linda Spachek; and **ETHAN REEVER**, Otis-Bison High School, son of TJ and Kristi Reever, are the top two qualifying entrants in this year's contest, winning the all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Western and Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Spachek and Reever will represent Western in our nation's capital, from June 18-25. These students will have the opportunity to meet their U.S. representatives and senators, tour the White House, and visit monuments, memorials and museums.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

ALICIA PHLIEGER, Hays High School, daughter of Scott and Dawn Phlieger;



Carlee Flax



Alicia Phlieger



Ethan Reever



Samantha Robben



Jonathan Spachek

and **SAMANTHA ROBBEN**, Hoxie High School, daughter of Doug and Kim Robben, are the third- and fourth-place winners who will be attending the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 10-16 sponsored by Western and KEC.

Phlieger and Robben will join 100 other students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to develop leadership skills, create their own co-op, and tour a coal mine and a power plant.

Fifth-place winner **CARLEE FLAX**, Western Plains High School, daughter of Kevin Flax, Ransom, will serve as an alternate to the trips and receive the \$250 Darrell Brown Memorial Scholarship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Notice of Board Meeting

The board of trustees of The Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. will meet to discuss and vote upon a proposal to implement a recreational lighting class rate. The meeting is at **10:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020**, at the cooperative's main office, 635 S. 13th St, WaKeeney, KS 67672.

The proposal is to create a tariff and separate rate class for tax-supported public school and municipal organization accounts. The proposed customer charge is \$40 for single-phase and \$45 for multi-phase accounts with a 13 cents per kWh charge with no demand charges. This rate is applicable to services reaching a demand greater than 20 kW three times during a 12-month period.

This meeting is open to any member who wishes to attend. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review any rate change.

Any member with questions may contact the cooperative office during business hours at 785-743-5561.



These lights are an example of a recreational lighting structure under the newly proposed rate class.

Memories from the Past



To commemorate Western Cooperative Electric's 75th anniversary, we are sharing stories from our archives each month. We hope you enjoy them!

1963

From 1948 to 1952, Western grew from serving 200 members to nearly 2,000. This presentation was given at an annual meeting that was marked 1963 in the file, but yet the chart only shows up to 1952.



Aprox. 2000

When digging through our archives of photos, we found a photo of our Olmitz Line Foreman, Jay Scott, and naturally, we had him recreate the photo from 20 years ago.

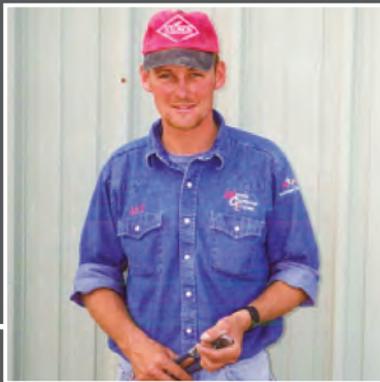
CONNECT

with neighbors and
co-op employees

JOIN US WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Western Cooperative Electric's main office
635 S. 13th St., WaKeeney, KS 67672

Mark your calendar to join us
for the 75th annual meeting.



2013

Wow, this photo is blurry! We uploaded this photo to Western's Facebook page on May 29, 2013, and it's one of the first photos we ever shared! The photo shows the ribbon-cutting for the opening of the new Plainville shop location.



Difference Between Consumption and Demand

Electricity is not easily stored, however, it must be available at the flip of a switch to serve your needs and the simultaneous needs of all Western Cooperative Electric members. For example, when you turn on your TV at the same time your neighbor fires up irrigation equipment, we must make sure we can provide enough energy to meet both of those needs on demand.

It's important to know the difference between consumption and demand so you can understand how Western determines its power requirements. **CONSUMPTION IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENERGY USED, WHILE DEMAND IS THE IMMEDIATE RATE OF THAT CONSUMPTION.**

Why can demand be expensive?

Western, along with six other electric co-ops and one subsidiary, receives power from Sunflower Electric, which in turn schedules these power requirements through the Southwest Power Pool's Integrated Market. At any time, capacity must be available in the electric system to provide the amount of energy needed to serve our members' energy needs instantaneously on demand. This requires SPP and Sunflower to provide enough electric generating capacity to meet peak demand, generate enough electricity to meet annual usage on the grid, and operate the transmission system in a manner that will deliver electricity to each cooperative.

Demand is generally measured by the power you draw in a 15-minute period. Once the maximum demand is established in a billing period, that value of demand will be used in the calculation of the monthly bill. The demand resets at the end of each billing period.

Why is demand important?

The faster Western members are consuming energy, the more we must be able to supply on demand. How much energy the system must be able to supply on demand to meet the instantaneous load is called its capacity. Ever blown a fuse while brewing a carafe of coffee and running a toaster at the same time? This happens because the circuit did not have the capacity to meet the demand. Western works with Sunflower to ensure capacity meets the demand so none of our members are deprived

3 THINGS You Should Know About Demand

1 Demand is measured by the power you need in a 15-minute period. This is different from your total energy consumption.

2 Once the maximum demand is established, that value will be used in the calculation of the monthly bill. The demand resets each month.

3 Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). If something you turn on requires 30,000 Watts of power, that would be 30 kW of demand.

*Demand calculations apply to non-residential accounts that use 20 kW or more.

of their on-demand energy needs, whether it's to brew a fresh cup of coffee or water several acres of cropland.

Are members the only ones paying for demand?

No. To ensure energy is available for all members when needed, Western pays a demand charge to Sunflower for the wholesale power it consumes as a total system. The demand charges that Western pays are also calculated based on the highest demand during the month. Western then uses the same method to bill demand to its demand-rate members.

Both energy usage (consumption) and demand charges are part of every member's bill. Residential members pay one rate of charges for electricity service, covering both consumption of electricity and demand. This simple, combined charge is possible because there is little variation in electricity use from home to home — think lights, TVs, blow dryers, heating and air conditioning.

This is not the case with commercial and industrial members, whose electricity use, both consumption and demand, vary greatly. Some need large amounts of electricity occasionally such as large pump motors, others almost constantly when used in a manufacturing a product or running a process that involves motors and other electrical equipment.

What is the cost of demand?

Western's demand cost is approximately \$4.5 million annually. In turn, Western passes along this demand cost to members based on their proportional share used. Western's total cost of wholesale power and transmission service is

approximately \$24 million annually.

To illustrate how demand charge can affect an electric bill, look at two simple examples:

▶ Running a 30 kW load for one hour would result in usage of 30 kilowatt-hours (kWh) and accrue a demand charge of 30 kW.

30 kW x 1 hour = 30 kWh

Demand = 30 kW

▶ Running a 3 kW load for 10 hours would also result in usage of 30 kWh but would only accrue a demand of 3 kW.

3 kW x 10 hours = 30 kWh

Demand = 3 kW

Both examples use the exact same amount of energy (30 kWh) and perform the same amount of work. However, the resulting bills will be very different. One method performs the same amount of work in a much shorter time.

For the following examples, applying a rate demand charge of \$9.00 per kW and an energy charge of \$0.08 per kWh to both examples produces the following results:

Bill Number 1

▶ **Demand Cost:** 30 kW x \$9.00/kW = \$270.00

▶ **Energy Cost:** 30 kWh x \$0.08 = \$2.40

▶ **Total = \$272.40**

Bill Number 2

▶ **Demand Cost:** 3 kW x \$9.00 = \$27.00

▶ **Energy Cost:** 30 kWh x \$0.08 = \$2.40

▶ **Total = \$29.40**

Why so different?

The actual energy (kWh) used is the same, and the total amount of work done is the same. The difference between the bills is based entirely on the highest demand recorded during any given 15-minute period that month.