



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

# NEWS

## Western Cooperative Electric, Inc.

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### Contact Us

635 S. 13th Street  
P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672  
785-743-5561  
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## Like us on Facebook

Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook! Just go to [www.facebook.com/WesternCoopElectric](http://www.facebook.com/WesternCoopElectric) to find co-op news, energy tips, photos from co-op events and more!



## Apply Now for Western Community Grants

In partnership with CoBank's Sharing Success program

Western Cooperative Electric in partnership with matching grants from CoBank provides grants to local organizations whose project serves a public purpose.

### Deadline

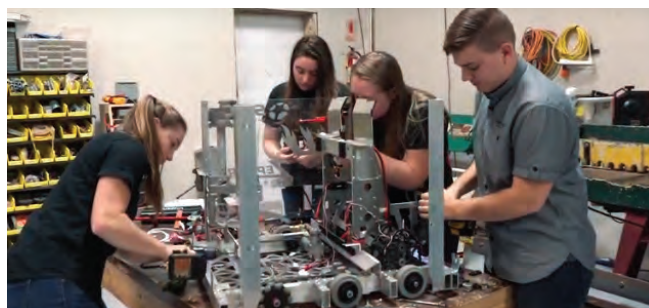
Applications will be available April 1, 2020 and must be turned in to the office by June 1. Both mailed and emailed applications are acceptable. Those interested in applying can request a grant application through Western by emailing Sophia at [sophiay@westerncoop.com](mailto:sophiay@westerncoop.com).

### Contribution Request Amount

Western will award up to three grants totaling \$15,000. The minimum request is \$2,000. CoBank's Sharing Success program is competitive on a first-come, first-served basis and funds are limited; therefore, Western is not guaranteed the full amount of grant dollars.

### Eligibility

In general, contributions to any 501(c)(3) charity are eligible. Select organizations that are not designated a 501(c)(3) may also be eligible. These organizations include schools and government organizations such as counties or



Oregon high school students of the Hot Wire Robotics Team working on their competition robot. Their extracurricular group were recipients of a CoBank matching grant through their local cooperative in 2017. Visit [www.CoBank.com](http://www.CoBank.com) to watch the video of other recipients, which includes a food bank, police K-9 operation, and wildlife group.

municipalities and their agencies or departments, as long as the donation serves a public purpose. Organizations that are political in nature, limit their activities based on religious affiliation or discriminate do not qualify.

Priority will be given to organizations in Western's service territory, which includes areas in the counties of Barton, Ellis, Ellsworth, Graham, Lincoln, Gove, Ness, Osborne, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sheridan and Trego.

There are minimal restrictions to the type of projects that are eligible. Western just asks that your project be community-oriented.

## Find Out More

Western Co-op Electric  
Attn: Sophia Young  
P.O. Box 278  
WaKeeney, KS 67672  
785-743-5561

## Grid Reliability

BY COREY LINVILLE, V.P. OF POWER SUPPLY & DELIVERY, SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC

Providing reliable electricity requires the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Western's power supplier, to provide enough electric generating capacity to meet peak demand ... .

As consumers, we expect electricity to work at the flip of a switch. Anytime, anywhere we want to be able to use power each day. Because of this, electric generating capacity must be available to provide the amount of energy needed to serve a member's electricity needs (known as "load") on demand. Providing reliable electricity requires the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Western's power supplier, to provide enough electric generating capacity to meet peak demand, measured in kilowatts (kW); generate enough electricity to meet annual usage on the grid, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh); and operate the transmission system in a manner that will deliver electricity to each member utility (like your cooperative).

Sunflower meets its members' energy needs through participation in SPP's Integrated Marketplace (IM). The market can be thought of as a clearinghouse for electricity. Owners of power generation facilities sell the electricity they produce to the market, and utilities purchase the energy they need to meet their needs from the market. All load-serving entities in SPP — which include cooperatives, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and municipalities — purchase all of the

energy required to serve their consumers' needs from the IM.

To ensure there is enough generation capacity available to meet these energy needs at any given time, each load-serving utility in the SPP must have enough accredited generating capacity to meet its annual peak load plus a 12% reserve margin. In other words, the maximum output capability from all of the generation facilities owned by a load-serving entity must be at least equal to 112% of the maximum annual demand of the load-serving entity.

Each day, SPP evaluates offers from the pool of generation resources owned by all of the load-serving entities in the SPP and identifies the generators that should run to meet the projected combined energy needs of all those load-serving entities as economically as possible, while maintaining system reliability. Once the resources are producing power, SPP uses a real-time dispatch tool to increase or decrease output instantaneously to match electricity production with energy usage.

Generally speaking, the costs to produce electricity include costs associated with building and maintaining power plants (fixed costs typically

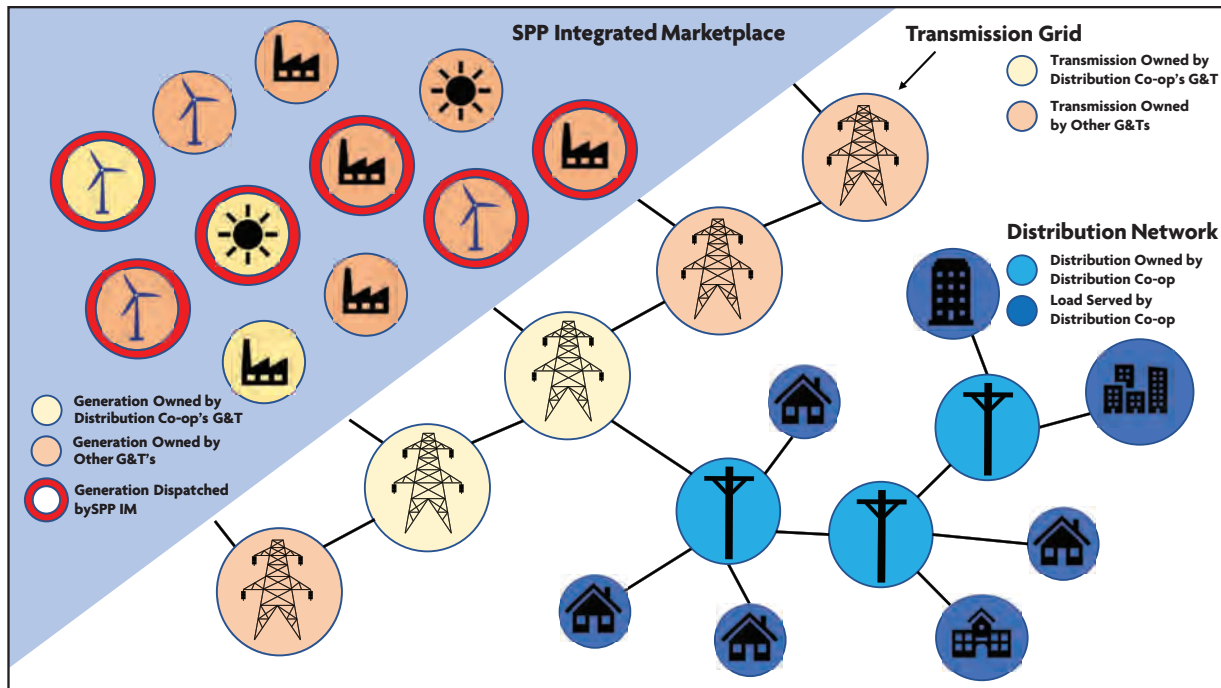
## Memories from the Past



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

1957





The SPP Integrated Marketplace generates energy that feeds into the transmission grid and distribution networks as illustrated at left.

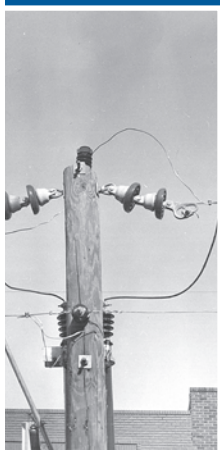
recovered through a demand rate) and costs, such as fuel, associated with operating those power plants (variable costs typically recovered through an energy rate).

Similarly, transmission and distribution facilities required to deliver the energy to the end-use consumer also have fixed and variable costs typically recovered through demand and energy rates. Recovery of fixed and variable costs for

electricity are part of all electricity bills, although not all consumers have an explicit demand and energy rate in their bill.

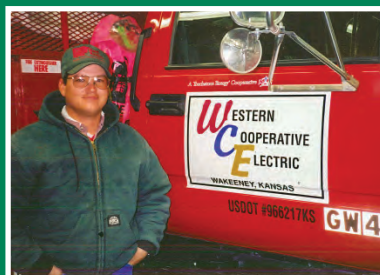
Reliability of the electric grid is impacted by many factors. Factors such as weather or physical damage to facilities can be easily seen. The SPP IM and Sunflower work together to manage reliability and maintain adequate capacity to meet demand.

## Yesterday & Today



This is a demonstration of the high voltage on a powerline during the April 1957 Farm and Home Show on WaKeeney's Main Street. Many people were curious as lines were still being built out to reach their farms.

Look at Ron Acshenbrenner approximately 20 years ago as a lineman compared to today as line superintendent. He claims that he still has these glasses and one of his children had worn them to school on "nerd day."



# ANNUAL MEETING

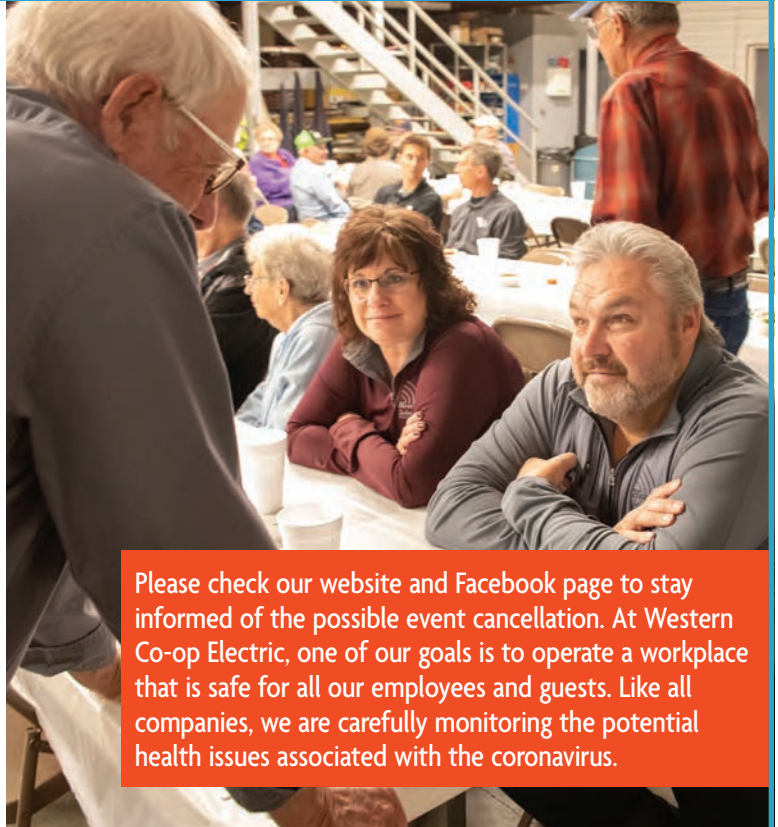
Connect with neighbors and co-op employees

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

Western Cooperative Electric  
635 S. 13th St., WaKeeney, KS 67672

Registration starts at 11 a.m., lunch will be served at noon, and the meeting begins at 1 p.m., with an ice cream social to follow. Valet parking will be provided. Members will receive a registration gift and be entered in a prize drawing.

The annual meeting date was listed incorrectly in the March edition of *Kansas Country Living*. Our annual meeting will be held in May.



Please check our website and Facebook page to stay informed of the possible event cancellation. At Western Co-op Electric, one of our goals is to operate a workplace that is safe for all our employees and guests. Like all companies, we are carefully monitoring the potential health issues associated with the coronavirus.

## Let Us Help You Mind Your eBiz-ness

Western Cooperative Electric offers eBiz — a user-friendly application to access your account. eBiz offers the following account management tools:

- ▶ See your current billing statement and billing/payment history;
- ▶ View your daily meter readings from your meter;
- ▶ Pay your bill with a check or card (no processing fee);
- ▶ Pay one time or set up monthly payments;
- ▶ Use our online bill calculator;
- ▶ View charts and graphs of usage data;
- ▶ Compare previous months of usage;
- ▶ Make account changes;
- ▶ Sign up for email billing notifications;
- ▶ Request service from Western; and
- ▶ Store payment options and go paperless.

<b>User Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	Required, at least 8 characters in length.
<b>Password</b>	<input type="password"/>	Required, at least 8 characters long, contain at least an uppercase letter, at least one number, and may not contain any blank spaces.
<b>Re-enter password</b>	<input type="password"/>	
<b>Account number</b>	<input type="text"/>	Required, this is the basic account number.
<b>Phone</b>	<input type="text"/>	Must match the one on file with Western. The error "Did not validate" means you need to provide the co-op with your current contact information.

**Follow the directions below to create an eBiz account:**

- ▶ Go to [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)
- ▶ On Western's homepage, click the "Pay My Bill with eBiz" link.
- ▶ Enter the information requested (shown left)

Payment through the eBiz phone application is currently unavailable while software upgrades are being performed. Members can still use eBiz through a web browser to make a payment.