

Bluestem NEWS

BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Donald Classen
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Bruce Meyer
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Matthew Rezac
Trustee

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MANAGEMENT STAFF

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Chief Executive Officer

Trisha Bradley
Manager of Accounting and Finance

Jerod Chaffee
Manager of Line Operations

Benjiman C. Easterberg
Manager of AMI and Mapping/OMS

Kevin Heptig
Manager of Member Services

CONTACT US

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 5, Wamego, KS 66547
800-558-1580

FROM THE CEO

Understanding Your Electric Bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bills and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Bluestem Electric, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is

typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Bluestem purchases power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo). The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal, and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home,



Michael Leitch

Continued on page 12B ►

**H A P P Y
LABOR DAY**



In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Understanding Your Electric Bill Continued from page 12A ►

it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Bluestem maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly customer charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses

a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment, and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Extreme temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy consumption can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks, and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption and demand. The Demand Charge is

something each member can control. Demand is the rate of energy used at any given point in time and is measured by the highest rate at which a member uses electricity during a 60-minute period and is billed accordingly. The demand charge will be billed on the highest demand registered during the billing period.

Bluestem's mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill, visit www.bluestemelectric.com/understanding-your-bill or call our office at 800-558-1580. Thank you for allowing Bluestem Electric to serve you.



DIG INTO SAFETY

Aug. 11 | 811 Day

Call Dig Safe at 811 to mark your underground utility lines before digging.

EXTREME HEAT CAN BE DANGEROUS.

Keep these safety tips in mind.

- Stay hydrated, drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
- Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.
- Check on neighbors, family members and friends who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
- Never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can push your air conditioner hard, making now a good time to check the air filter. A dirty filter restricts airflow, reduces efficiency and increases wear. Inspect it monthly during heavy use and replace it when dirty to help your system run better, improve indoor air quality and keep your home comfortable. SOURCE: NRECA



Navigating Your Electric Bill

This graphic highlights the key sections of a typical electric bill, helping you understand your energy use, charges and payment details at a glance. For more information, visit www.bluestemelectric.com/understanding-your-bill

A TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: This section summarizes total amount due and due date. Automatic payment would be indicated if you participate in this program.

B YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION: Your billing date, account number and account name are listed here.

C BILLING SUMMARY: This section shows a summary of the current account balance. It takes the total of all the charges for the current bill, adds the balance forward, and displays the total amount due for the account.

D CONTACT INFORMATION: Ways to contact us about your bill or account are clearly noted on your bill.

E MESSAGE CENTER: Important information will be listed here, which may be unique to your account or provide news about the cooperative.

F GRAPH: The usage history graph displays your usage history over the past 13 months. It compares your most recent average monthly use to the same time period as the year prior.

G CURRENT CHARGES: A detailed listing of the charges will be listed here.

H PAYMENT STUB: Return the bottom portion of your bill with your payment, especially if you have multiple accounts. This ensures that Bluestem applies the correct payment amount to your account(s).



Visit us online at www.bluestemelectric.com
Phone: (800) 558-1580
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Important Messages

Bluestem offices will be closed on Monday, May 30th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Member Name JOHN DOE
Account # 999999999

Billing Date: 05/10/2025
Current Bill Due Date: 06/01/2025

Previous Balance \$128.31
Payment Received -\$128.31
Adjustments -\$5.72
Balance Forward -\$5.72
Current Charges \$141.93
Total Amount Due 06/01/22 \$136.21

Total Amount Due
\$136.21
Due Date: 06/01/22

Service Address: 123 ANY ST.
Map Location: 9 813 A 124
Service Description: Irrigation Pump

Description	Meter No.	Reading Dates From To	Readings Previous Present	Mult	kWh Usage	Demand Reading
8 RESIDENTIAL	12345678	04/10/22 05/10/22	24945 26292	1	1,347	6,000 - 05/31/25 22:00

Kilowatt Hours Monthly Use



Average 45 kWh

Current Service Detail

Customer Charge	\$15.00
Energy Charge-Electric	500 kWh @ 0.07600 \$38.00
Energy Charge-Electric	500 kWh @ 0.08640 \$43.20
Energy Charge-Electric	347 kWh @ 0.09710 \$33.69
Power Cost Adjustment	1,347 kWh @ 0.00630 \$8.49
Gross Receipts Tax	\$3.55
Total Current Charges for this Location	\$141.93

Energy Usage Comparison

This Month: 1,347 kWh 30 days
Last Month: 926 kWh 30 days
This Month Last Year: 1,377 kWh 31 days

Avg Daily Use: 45 kWh
Avg Daily Cost: \$4.61
Avg Daily Temp: 83°F

KEEP SEND

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1000 South Wind Drive
Wamego, KS 66547-0005

PAY YOUR BILL 24/7
PAY BY PHONE (844) 973-2526
ONLINE: Electronic Check, or credit/debit card at www.bluestemelectric.com or download the SmartHub mobile app.
If paying by check, you authorize us to convert it to an electronic funds transfer.

DISCOVER VISA MasterCard

5655 0 AV 0.545
JOHN DOE
123 ANY ST
ANYWHERE, USA 99999

5 5655

Account Number 999999999
Balance Forward -\$5.72
Current Charges \$141.93
Total Amount Due 06/01/2022 \$136.21

Checks must be in U.S. funds and drawn on a U.S. bank.
Allow ample time for delivery before the due date if paying by mail.

BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC
PO BOX 33
WAMEGO KS 66547-0033




EXCERPT FROM THE BLUESTEM ELECTRIC BYLAWS

Bluestem Nomination and Election Process

SECTION 4.05 NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES. The Board shall appoint a nominating committee, on or before the first of October of each year, consisting of not less than one, nor more than five members from each district for whom a Trustee is to be elected. Board members may not serve on the nominating committee.

Only committee members from each district will nominate their own candidate. Committee members from districts one and two will meet together in any County within District #1 and/or District #2 where the Cooperative is providing a Cooperative Service and committee members from districts three and four will meet together in any County within District #3 and/or District #4 where the Cooperative is providing a Cooperative Service. Nominating committees shall meet during the month of October. On or before the first day of November, the nominating committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Trustee at the Wamego office and on the Cooperative Website and/or other Cooperative Social Media sites. The committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each position. Nominations may be made by petition, filed on or before the close of business, November 30, at the Wamego office. The petition must be signed by no less than 5% of the membership of the district for whom the Trustee is to be elected. The secretary shall immediately post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted. Nominations made by the petition shall appear on the ballot in the order received.

SECTION 4.06 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES. The election of Trustees shall be by mail ballot and/or electronic ballot as determined by the Trustees. Only those nominees selected

by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the ballot. There may be write-in votes for a qualified member not named on the ballot. The ballot shall first list the name(s) nominated by the committee, then the name(s) nominated by petition in the order received and, at the end, a place to write in a name. Failure of strict compliance with provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any election of Trustees.

The secretary shall mail the ballots to the respective members by the 10th day of December of each year.

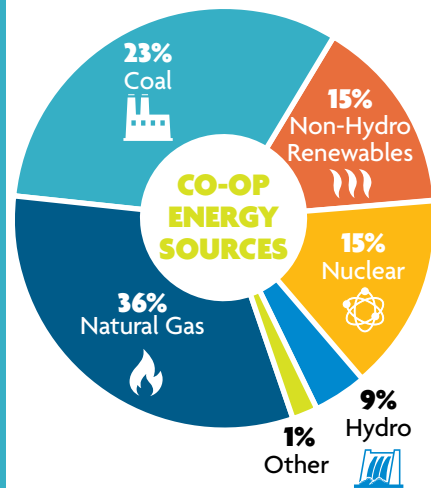
On or before the first day of January of each year, ballots must be postmarked or received at the Wamego office.

Those members who have been appointed to serve on each district's respective Nominating Committee will be listed in next month's Kansas Country Living Magazine.

Nationally, electric cooperatives use a variety of fuels to power consumer-members' homes and businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (2024 DATA)



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS?

A little planning now can make a big difference later.

Build an emergency kit with essentials like water, non-perishable foods, batteries, medications and flashlights.

Only operate portable generators outside, away from doors, windows and vents.

Charge phones, backup batteries and essential medical devices before storms move into the area.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION