

www.4riverselectric.com
620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395

Northern District
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District
9346 Jewell Rd.
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B
Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Michael Springer
President

Robert Converse
Vice-President

Gene Huston
Secretary

Larry Felts
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randall Bunnel
Trustee

Nick Frankenbery
Trustee

Robert Harkrader
Trustee

Stacy Heins
Trustee

David Kunkel
Trustee

Warren Schmidt
Trustee

Sandy Smith
Trustee

Carol Wehmeyer
Trustee

Staff

Dennis Svanes
General Manager/CEO

Mark Doebele
Assistant General Manager/COO

Roger Cole
CFO

Ken Caudell
Manager of Member and
Corporate Services

FROM THE MANAGER

Looking Forward to 2022



Dennis Svanes

Happy New Year! 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative is officially two years old. In our first two years, things have been everything but normal — a worldwide pandemic, rolling

blackouts and supply chain problems, to name a few. I want to acknowledge and thank the 4 Rivers employees and board of trustees for the work done and support given to the members of 4 Rivers.

We are looking forward to 2022 and starting our new work plan. Many projects are included to improve power quality and redundancy. 4 Rivers is also continuing to maintain our system through our pole testing, right-of-way

maintenance, circuit recloser maintenance, and other maintenance programs we do to reduce outages.

We are currently in the process of a cost-of-service study and will be starting a rate study to look at consolidating our tariffs. With the expected increase in electric vehicles (EVs), we need to look at our rate designs to encourage electric usage while making sure extra usage is not during our peak times, which are the most expensive times for power.

On the topic of EVs, we are going to purchase a couple of plug-in hybrid EVs. The vehicles will allow us to both save money on fuel, drive long distances without worrying about battery range, and learn about EVs.

This is also the time of year that the state legislature convenes. We work

Continued on page 12D ►

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



PHOTO ABOVE "AUTUMNAL EQUINOX SUNSET" WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER MICHAEL HOAG OF WAVERLY. THE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY.

LIEAP Benefits – Do You Qualify?

Application period opens this month

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps keep families safe and healthy by assisting eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs by providing a once per year benefit.

The 2022 LIEAP application period opens Jan. 3, and applications must be received online or in a Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) office by **5 P.M., MARCH 31, 2022**, to be considered for eligibility. Applications received after the deadline will be denied.

Benefit levels vary according to household income, number of persons living at the address, type of dwelling, and type of heating fuel. To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines above.

For more information about the application process or to request an application, call 800-432-0043 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

2022 Income Eligibility Guidelines	
Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,610
2	\$2,178
3	\$2,745
4	\$3,313
5	\$3,880
6	\$4,448
7	\$5,015
8	\$5,583
9	\$6,150
10	\$6,718
11	\$7,285
12	\$7,853
13	\$ 8,420
14	\$8,988
+1	\$568 for each additional person

Welcome New Employees!



Austin Birk



Cole Wolfsbauer

On Nov. 29, 4 Rivers Electric welcomed **AUSTIN BIRK** as our new member services representative based in our Lebo office. Before joining the co-op, Austin was a lineman for the City of Burlington. He and his wife, Autumn, live in the Burlington area and are members of 4 Rivers Electric.

We also welcome **COLE WOLFSBAUER** who joined 4 Rivers Nov. 15 as a second-year apprentice lineman. He has been contracting in Texas and Colorado for about four years. Cole currently resides in the Lebo area.

Welcome to the 4 Rivers team, Austin and Cole!



DO YOU QUALIFY? HAVE YOU APPLIED?

LIEAP: HOME ENERGY COST ASSISTANCE

LIEAP HELPS KEEP OUR MEMBERS SAFE & HEALTHY BY ASSISTING WITH HOME ENERGY COSTS.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31.

Students Invited to Apply for Leadership Opportunities

4 Rivers Electric's strong tradition of promoting youth leadership will continue with two in-person leadership programs this summer.

If selected, 4 Rivers will send four high school juniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to either the Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The KEY Leadership Conference will be held in Topeka in early June and will provide leadership learning opportunities, engaging speakers and team-building activities. Student leaders from across the state will tour the Kansas State Capitol and other local attractions. Those selected for this experience also can apply for the Kansas seat on a national youth leadership council.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp will be held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 15-21, 2022. High school students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming participate in this leadership camp. Together, they will create a candy cooperative, hear from dynamic speakers, and raft down the Colorado River.

If you know of a student with strong leadership potential who is ready for new experiences, would like to network with other student leaders, and is willing to learn more about themselves and their communities, encourage them to apply for these incredible leadership opportunities.

Contest applications are available at 4riverselectric.com and are due **NO LATER THAN JAN. 31**, so sign-up today! Four winners and one alternate will be selected. Visit us online for more information or contact Austin Birk (ext. 235) or April Engstrom (ext. 306) at 620-364-2116.



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 15-21, 2022.



Whether you attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp or Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference, you'll be sure to create friendships to last a lifetime.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Looking forward to 2022 Continued from page 12A

closely with our statewide organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., to stay informed on legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and to keep our elected officials informed on who we are and how electric cooperatives differ from other types of electric utilities. We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and

needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our members. This means we can cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We expect 2022 to be a busy year for 4 Rivers. I pray that the challenges we have faced thus far are behind us. Have a great New Year!



Tips to Ditch the Space Heater

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

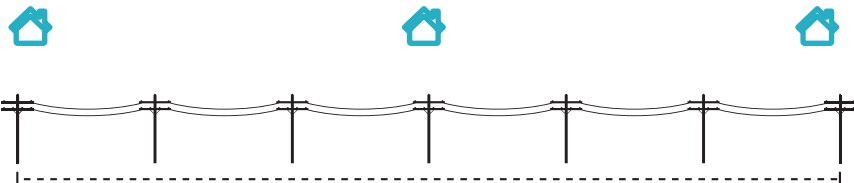
- ▶ Use an electric blanket to keep warm at night.
- ▶ Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- ▶ Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.
- ▶ Open curtains during the day to let sunlight warm your home. Close them at night.
- ▶ Run ceiling fans clockwise in the winter to push warm air down.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities.

Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES serve 3 consumer-members per mile of line.



OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES serve 32 consumers per mile of line.

