

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

Northern District
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District
9346 Jewell Road
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.

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



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FROM THE MANAGER

Board Seeks to Adjust Rates After Cost-of-Service Study

Our cost-of-service study and rate analysis are not exactly riveting topics, but they are very important to 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, your board of trustees, and you — our members.

The board's goal is to work toward a rate design that will match revenues to costs, so that what members pay for specific items aligns more closely with the cost of that item. This means that the costs associated with having an electric service — fixed costs, demand costs and energy consumption costs — are assessed accurately and fairly for each component within each of the rate classes. Adjusting these components within our rates will decrease overall costs for some, increase for others, and have no effect on the rest.

A customer charge is assessed monthly to cover the costs for the cooperative to provide electric service to a location without regard to energy usage on the account. If that fee is too low, energy costs increase to make up for the deficit. This cost shift means that those accounts using more electricity are subsidizing the accounts without usage. By bringing that base service charge closer to the actual cost to have electric service in place, we can collect revenues for associated costs more accurately. The takeaway: an increase in the monthly service fee

does not necessarily mean an increase of the overall bill — just that the cost components are being adjusted to more accurately represent costs incurred for service.

Your board of trustees is anticipating a rate hearing with the changes discussed. Proposed adjustments will have an overall revenue-neutral impact to residential/non-commercial services and services in the general service large category. The general service small rate schedule category will see an overall 2.78% increase, with a significantly higher base customer charge. Again, a higher customer charge doesn't necessarily mean a higher bill at the end of the month due to adjustments in the energy charges.

The 2023 board of trustees election cycle is starting soon. **ELECTION PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON DEC. 1** at www.4riverselectric.com, or you can call us at 620-364-2116 to make arrangements to receive an election packet. As a reminder, any qualified member who would like to be listed on the ballot for your district must submit a petition for nomination. Look for more information in next month's edition of *Kansas Country Living*.



Dennis Svanes

Billing and Payment Options Give Co-op Members More Control

With the busy pace of life, we know the importance of having bill payment options. Whether you want to analyze each month's usage before you pay, or you want to "set it and forget it" to ensure your account is always paid on time, 4 Rivers has multiple options available for your convenience.

Pay by Phone

With the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, you can access your account at any time by calling 620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395.

SmartHub — Online or Mobile App

Download the SmartHub app for Apple or Android devices to manage your account, make payments, monitor usage, check balances or update your information. The app is free and easy to use. If you have trouble logging in, please call our office Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. One of our representatives will be happy to assist you with the setup.

You can also access SmartHub online at www.4riverselectric.com. Under My Account, click "Pay My Bill with SmartHub" to login to your account. You can also select "Pay as a Guest" to pay your account without logging in, using only your account number.

Automatic Payment

Using SmartHub, you can set up your account to automatically draft your bank account or debit/credit card on the 15th of every month. Another date option for recurring payments is the 25th of the month, but you must call our office to change the payment to that date.

Scheduled One-Time Payment

Using SmartHub, one-time payments can be scheduled to draft your bank account or debit/credit. As a reminder, payments scheduled past the due date are subject to late fees and possibly disconnection if payment arrangements have not been made on your account.

Mail

Payments can be mailed to 2731 Milo Terr., Lebo, KS 66856. Please allow plenty of time for the USPS to deliver your payment on time. Payment date is determined by the date received at our office — not the postmarked date.

Drop Boxes

Payments can be left in the secure drop boxes at any of the 4 Rivers office locations: Emporia, Fredonia or Lebo (BETO Junction). Payments can also be dropped at First National Bank of Kansas's Burlington branch.

Bank Payment

Most banks have a bill pay service for their customers where you can schedule the financial institution to pay your electric bill each month. If you set this up with your bank, they usually debit your bank account and create a physical check which is mailed directly to 4 Rivers for you. These payments are still subject to late fees if not received by the due date each month.

Budget Billing

One option to traditional monthly billing is budget billing. You may have heard this type of billing called "even payment plan" or "levelized billing." This option gives members a more consistent payment each month by considering an account's usage history and fees. Budget accounts are evaluated automatically twice per year, and the payment amount is updated to reflect any changes to the usage/fees and avoid a large credit or balance on any accounts.

Prepaid Billing

Prepay billing allows you to pay for usage on your account throughout the month. With prepaid billing, there is no deposit required, and there are no late fees or disconnect/reconnect fees assessed. Each day, the cost of the power you used the previous day is deducted from your prepaid balance. Account balances can be checked daily via SmartHub or by calling the IVR system. When the traditional monthly bills are assessed around the 10th of the month, prepaid accounts are adjusted with the current power cost factor, whether that is a positive or negative amount. Via SmartHub, members will receive push notifications alerting them to account details, such as low-prepaid balances, to help manage your prepaid account.

Invoice Billing

Members with multiple accounts can consolidate their accounts onto a single invoice. Call one of our representatives at 800-748-7395 to set this up.

Paperless Billing

Go green! Sign up for paperless billing on SmartHub or call us to enroll.

Our account representatives are here to help you with our billing and payment options, just give us a call at 800-748-7395.



Hunting Kansas Safely

Hunting is ranked as one of the safer activities when compared with other sports, including baseball, football, basketball and jogging. Over the past 20 years, the number of unintentional firearm fatalities has declined. From 1997 to 2017, the number dropped by 50%, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF.org).

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room. Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

- ▶ Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters may walk far distances while hunting and recovering an animal, which can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks.
- ▶ Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
- ▶ Do not lean tree stands against utility poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
- ▶ Write and share a hunting plan. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
- ▶ Always carry a first-aid kit.

Hunters spend approximately **\$25,944,894** on Kansas hunting licenses of all types. And the total numbers of hunting licenses, tags, permits and stamps is over **468,000**, according to 2021 data compiled by stacker.com.

- ▶ Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
- ▶ Keep your cell phone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
- ▶ Know the hunting area. Check boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- ▶ Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun like it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
- ▶ Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize your surroundings or cause a fire.
- ▶ Wear blaze orange.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



STAY SAFE OUT ON THE

HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.



Always implement firearm safety techniques.

Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first-aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Check tree stands regularly for stability.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Keeping Pets Comfortable Can Save on Energy Bills

Many consider their four-legged companion(s) part of the family and can't imagine life without them. During the winter months, you can keep your whole family cozy — including the four-legged members — without taking a big “bite” out of your budget.

Here are a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter that can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Winter can be “ruff.” Set your thermostat at 68 degrees, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs — not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion

works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a doughnut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At 4 Rivers Electric, we want to help you save energy and money. Visit www.kclonline.com/energy-wise for additional energy-saving tips. We can't control the weather, but we



Daisy says to open your curtains during the day to let the sunshine warm your rooms, but don't forget to close them at night for insulation from the cold.

can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

for kids

Share these ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS with children and teens to help keep them safe.

- 1

DO NOT climb or sit on green boxes or other electrical equipment.
- 2

STAY AWAY from electrical equipment marked “keep out,” “high voltage” or “danger.”
- 3

NEVER ENTER the fenced area around a substation to retrieve an item or pet.
- 4

FLY kites, remote-control devices and drones **FAR AWAY** from overhead power lines.