



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

NEWS

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC, INC.

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GENERAL MANAGER

Nolan Numrich
CEO/General Manager

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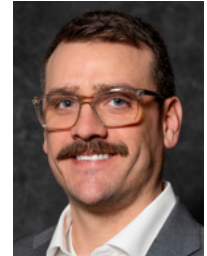
FROM THE MANAGER

Representing Our Members

Western Co-op visits the capitol

In early February, we had the opportunity to visit the Kansas State Capitol to meet with legislators and discuss important issues facing electric cooperatives like ours. As your CEO, I am committed to ensuring that Western Cooperative Electric protects the best interests of our members. To that end, Electric cooperatives like ours play a crucial role in safeguarding consumer rights and promoting responsible energy practices across Kansas.

office. While we support our members' choice to install solar energy and maintain positive relationships with several local and state-based solar companies, we must protect our members from unscrupulous practices. Severe consequences are necessary for those who take advantage of Kansas consumers.



Nolan Numrich

SOLAR CONSUMER PROTECTION PROVISIONS

During this legislative session, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., our state-wide association, has strongly advocated solar consumer protection provisions. Deceptive practices from certain solar companies have harmed Kansans, leading to numerous complaints being addressed by the attorney general's

AVERSION TO COST SHIFTING

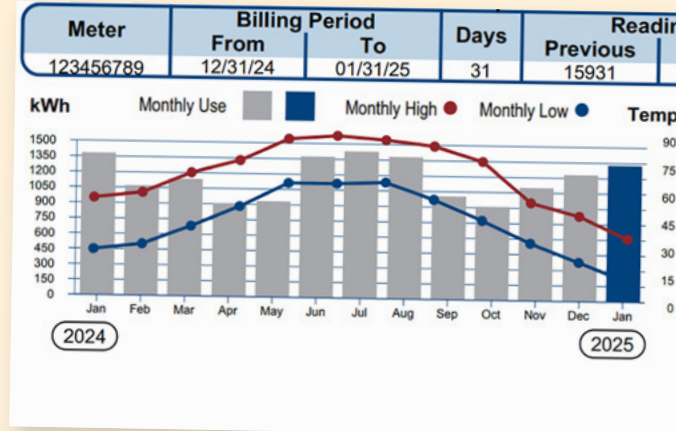
While some industries have advocated for lower electric rates, it may come at a cost to other consumers. We oppose energy policies that shift costs unfairly among our members or rate classes. We prioritize maintaining equitable pricing and minimizing cross-subsidization. Additionally, we value our relationships

Continued on page 12C ▶



In early February, Western representatives visited the Kansas State Capitol to meet with legislators and discuss important issues facing electric cooperatives like ours.

Understanding Electricity Demand



Electricity powers our homes, businesses and farms every day, but have you ever wondered how much energy you use at different times?

Starting this month, all Western Cooperative Electric members will see a new piece of information on their electric bills — demand. Medium and large commercial accounts have had a demand rate component for several years, but this will be the first time demand readings will be printed on the bills for residential, irrigation, and small commercial accounts.

Currently, there is no billing component for demand for residential, irrigation and small commercial consumers, which will show as a \$0.00 charge on your bill. This line item is informational

and will give you a clearer picture of how much power you require at any given time, helping you make informed decisions about your energy consumption.

WHAT IS ELECTRICITY DEMAND?

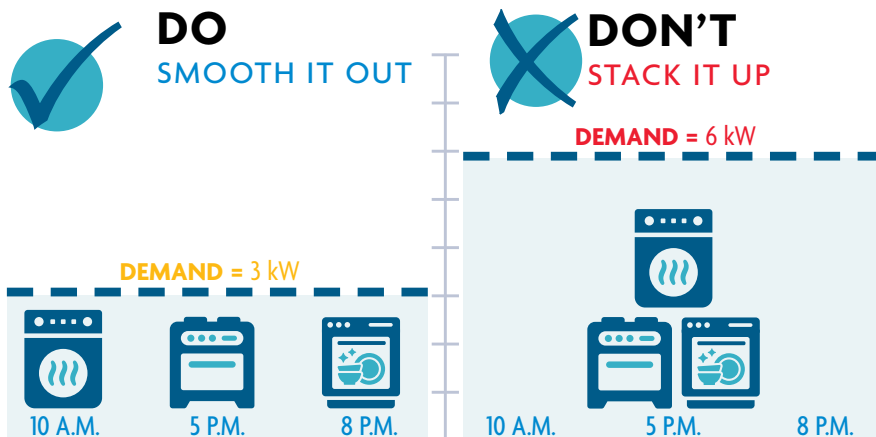
Electricity demand is the highest amount of power a home or business uses at any one time. Think of it like traffic on a highway — when only a few cars are on the road, everything moves smoothly. But if too many vehicles merge at once, traffic slows down and causes congestion. Similarly, if

many appliances run at the same time, your electricity demand spikes, putting more strain on the system. Western must build our system to accommodate the highest demand our consumers may need at any given time.

Your electric bill has always shown how much total energy you use in a month (measured in kilowatt-hours or kWh). Now, with demand shown on your bill (measured in kilowatts or kW), you'll see the highest amount of power you used at one time during the billing period.

WHEN IN DOUBT, SMOOTH IT OUT

AVOID MULTITASKING: Using multiple appliances at the same time will increase your demand usage and thereby increase any potential demand charges on your monthly bill.



Readings Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Rate Type
17260	1	1,329	Residential Service
Previous Account Activity			
Previous Balance			\$138.90
Payment Received - Thank You			-\$138.90
Balance Forward			\$0.00
Current Activity			
Energy		1,329 kWh @ 0.08945	\$118.88
ECA		1,329 kWh @ -0.009159	-\$12.17
Base Charge			\$45.00
Demand		10.627 kW @ 0.00000	\$0.00
Ellis County Tax			\$0.76
Current Charges			\$152.47
Balance Forward			\$0.00
Total Amount Due			\$152.47

Beginning this month, residential, irrigation and general service small (GSS) accounts will see demand readings on monthly bills.

WHY IS DEMAND IMPORTANT?

Understanding demand is key to managing energy costs and ensuring everyone's electricity is reliable. When demand is high — especially during peak hours — more electricity must be generated, which can lead to higher wholesale costs. By spreading out when we use energy, we can help lower demand and keep electricity more affordable for everyone.

HOW CAN YOU MANAGE DEMAND?

With this new insight into your bill, you can take steps to reduce your peak demand:

- ▶ **STAGGER APPLIANCE USE:** Instead of running the oven, dishwasher and washing machine all at once, try using them at different times of the day. Many appliances are now equipped with delayed start functions for this very reason.
- ▶ **USE TIMERS AND SMART THERMOSTATS:** When possible, adjust heating, cooling and water heaters to run during off-peak hours.
- ▶ **TURN OFF UNNECESSARY DEVICES:** Even small changes can make a difference, like turning off lights and electronics when not in use.

At Western Cooperative Electric, we are always looking for ways to help our members take control of their energy use. By including demand information on your bill, we hope to provide valuable insight into your electricity habits and empower you to make energy-smart choices.

If you have any questions about how to read your bill or manage your electricity demand, please contact us — we're here to help!

Representing Our Members

Continued from page 12A ▶

with landowner members and support new technologies and businesses in our service territories, provided they do not burden our members with increased costs.



Western Board members went to the capitol on Feb. 3 to discuss cooperative issues with legislators. **BACK ROW, FROM LEFT:** Landon Heier, Tim Stanton, Marvin Keller and Terry Hobbs. **FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT:** Nick Zerr and Nolan Numrich, CEO.

RELIABILITY

Grid reliability is paramount. Kansans rightfully expect uninterrupted electricity at affordable rates. Our energy policies must reflect this expectation by allowing timely investments in critical infrastructure and embracing a diverse mix of economically viable generation resources. Reliable power is essential for the growth of Kansas' rural industries and small businesses, which heavily rely on electricity.

CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we provide electricity to Kansas' least populated, highest cost-to-serve areas. Our members, as co-op owners, directly benefit from our successes. To address grid instabilities and emerging challenges, we continuously modernize our co-op practices and infrastructure to maintain reliable electricity service for rural Kansans while minimizing financial risks for our members.

FOCUSED ON RATES

Understanding electric rates is essential. Reliability must be balanced with affordability. As we begin a cost-of-service study to analyze our current rate structure, we must consider the cost of future system improvements. Our mission of providing reliable electricity and affordable rates must be balanced. Ultimately, every dollar we spend comes from our consumers, so we try to find that sweet spot that maximizes the value of every dollar.

STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE

Western Cooperative Electric remains dedicated to serving our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity while advocating for policies that protect consumer rights and promote sustainable energy practices. With the help of our local representatives and common sense policies, we will continue to strengthen our cooperative for the benefit of all members.

HERE TO SERVE, NOLAN NUMRICH

1945 • SERVING KANSAS • 2025



ANNUAL 80TH MEETING

WESTERN

CO-OP ELECTRIC



YOUR POWER, OUR PURPOSE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Door Prizes | Cooperative Updates | Trustee Election Results

**DOORS OPEN AT 11 A.M.
LUNCH & MEETING AT NOON**

VFW POST 3449 | 400 N. RAILROAD AVE. | WAKEENEY, KANSAS