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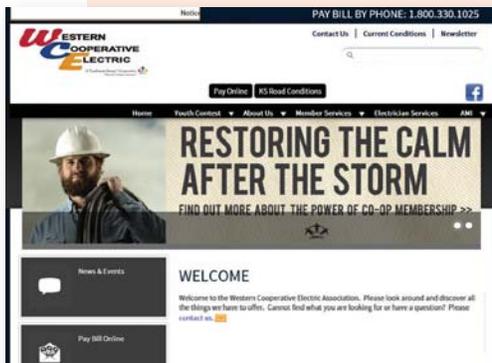
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[www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)  
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**WESTERN  
COOPERATIVE  
ELECTRIC**

**WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
NEWS**

## Western's Payment Options



Western's members can make payments through our website or by phone using a credit card or electronic funds transfer.

To pay by phone, call our automated service at 800-330-1025, or call our main office to speak with a Western employee.

Through our website, you can also view your account or enter your meter reading. You will be prompted to set up a login and password the first time you use the online services. You will be asked to enter your base account number and meter number.

**Check this feature and other services at [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)**

## The Value of Electricity

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a fast-food meal. But did you know that an average days' worth of electricity costs less than \$5?

Even in our country's shifting economic climate, electricity remains a good value. In fact, electricity has the lowest cost per day of any of the items listed above. And not all of those items are necessary for daily life.

At Western Cooperative Electric, we urge you to think about your daily necessities and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase on a weekly basis (maybe even on a daily basis for some items). We don't often question the cost of a fast food meal, and often add a \$1 more to "supersize" the meal. And yet, we frequently become concerned if our electricity rates rise.

It makes sense; we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. Electricity has, for many of us, gone from a luxury commodity to a necessity and an expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we expect our power to stay on during the best and worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh, our

homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter? It is easy to cut a fast food out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars. But we cannot simply cut electricity out of our budgets, if times get tough, or we decide that we want to scale back our spending in order to save.

Perhaps that is why it is so upsetting to us when our rates increase, even if only in small increments. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we did not have electricity. If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember—even as the demand for electricity grows—annual cost increases still remain low, especially when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline, and, yes, even fast food. Electricity is still a great bargain. Western Cooperative Electric is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

So the next time you have a fast food crave, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you are getting for your dollar.

We will continue to explore and explain the value of electricity and how important it is in our daily lives.

## Local Youth Meet with Legislators on Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

**L.T. COBURN**, Quinter, and **FAITH TUTTLE**, Gove, were selected by Western Cooperative Electric to attend the 55th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 11-18. These local youth joined more than 1,700 high school students to tour important historical sites, learn about our nation's government, and develop leadership skills.

The 37 Kansas delegates first met in Topeka where they heard from several youth tour alumni. Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback, sponsored by C&W in 1978; Representative Steven Johnson, District 108, 1983 Youth Tour Delegate; and Representative Kyle Hoffman, District 116, 1989 Youth Tour delegate, spoke to the students at a kick off banquet in Topeka before the youth departed for Washington, D.C.

While in our nation's capital, the students met with Congressmen Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo, and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They also visited with Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran. On Wed., June 17, Sen. Moran gave a short speech about the youth tour program on the Senate Floor.

As part of his speech, Moran said, "Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities." Moran added, "Recognizing that youth are the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

This trip opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles, while building lifelong friendships. "Meeting and visiting with our Senators and Representatives in D.C. and taking time for us, really impressed me," stated Tuttle.

The youth toured the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several memorials, along with seeing the musical *Newsies* at the National Theatre and attending a professional ballgame at the Nationals Stadium. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought



Faith Tuttle (left) and L.T. Coburn stop for a photo in front of the Jefferson Memorial.

together 1,700 youth from 43 states.

"What an inspiring trip to witness so much history," commented Coburn.

Western Cooperative Electric sponsors the Youth tour each year as part of our strong commitment to the community and our mission to help the future generations to become leaders.

For more information about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, contact Western at 800-456-6720 or 785-743-5561 or visit [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com).



Coburn and Tuttle, along with their youth delegation, pose by the White House during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.