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FROM THE MANAGER

What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is a popular concept being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here at Western Cooperative Electric, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things—reliability in your electric service, our ability to efficiently restore your power, meeting the demands of new technology and how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our members.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation—such as wind, solar, coal and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into grid resiliency.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

Similar to maintaining vehicles with regular oil changes, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole damaged from termites or rot, we replace it. This ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

In Kansas, significant power outages can occur as a result of inclement weather year-round. Whether we face tornadoes or winter storms, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover with as little disruption as possible. When it comes to providing our members with resilient service, this is what we work toward—day in and day out!



Tom Ruth

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

Western Sends Bolton &

JOSIAH BOLTON and **PAUL BRULL**, were awarded the opportunity to attend the 58th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour with 1,800 peers from across the nation from June 7-14. Western Cooperative Electric selected these delegates as our representatives through a quiz and an interview process.

Bolton and Brull joined other teens from across Kansas and Hawaii to spend a week touring Washington, D.C. There, delegates learned how to become community leaders.

"I'm inspired to make history by bringing back ideas and thoughts to my community," Bolton said. "History is important, but we decide how to shape it."

While in D.C., the students toured the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the National

Cathedral and many memorials and historical sites. The students

also attended a professional baseball game, a theater performance at the

John F. Kennedy Center for

Performing Arts and saw the pandas at the National Zoo.

As part of the National Rural Electric



Paul Brull enjoys the view outside of the White House on the 58th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Cooperative Association's National Youth Day on June 11, all of the state groups convened to learn from inspirational speakers. This year's keynote speaker was Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared his inspiring message, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out!"

"My favorite memory is when we went to the Capitol and were able to discuss current issues with our senators," Brull said. "I knew I wanted to come back and be on the other side of that conversation, as well. I'll be back to Capitol Hill one way or another."

Brull was also selected by his peers to represent Kansas on the national Youth Leadership Council.

I'm inspired to make history by bringing back ideas and thoughts to my community. History is important, but we decide how to shape it.

JOSIAH BOLTON, 2018 WESTERN DELEGATE



Brull to Nation's Capital



Mount Vernon was one of many stops on Youth Tour for Josiah Bolton and the 34 other Kansas delegates.

Western is proud to have sponsored students on this trip.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity that can change these students’ lives,” said Christina Lowry, Western Youth Tour coordinator. “After touring our nation’s capital, meeting our senators and congressional representatives and learning firsthand about how our government operates, they return home with a greater knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime.”

To learn how you can participate in Western’s Youth Tour program, contact Christina Lowry at 800-456-6720. For more information about Youth Tour, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Before heading to Washington, D.C., students received a guided tour of the Kansas State Capitol from Youth Tour alumni including U.S. Reps. Kyle Hoffman and Steven Johnson, and Gov. Jeff Colyer’s chief counsel, Brant Laue.



Thirty-nine delegates from Kansas and Hawaii stand in front of the White House during their tour of Washington, D.C., June 7-14.

The Value of Electricity in Today's World

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 fast food out of your spending

Western Cooperative Electric is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

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 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 craving, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you are getting for your dollar.



Let Us Help You Mind Your eBiz-ness

Register for eBiz

1. Go to www.westerncoop.com
2. On Western's homepage, click the link to eBiz
3. Enter the information requested (shown below)

User Name	<input type="text"/>	Required, at least 8 characters in length.
Password	<input type="text"/>	Required, at least 8 characters long, contain at least an uppercase letter, at least one number, and may not contain any blank spaces.
Re-enter password	<input type="text"/>	
Account number	<input type="text"/>	Required, this is the basic account number.
Phone	<input type="text"/>	This phone number must match the one on file with Western. The error "Did not validate" means that you need to provide the co-op with your current contact information.

- Western Electric now offers eBiz—a member-friendly application to access your account. eBiz offers the following account management tools:
- ▶ See your current billing and billing/payment history;
 - ▶ View your daily meter readings from your meter;
 - ▶ Pay your bill with a check or card (no processing fee);
 - ▶ Pay one time or set up for monthly payments;
 - ▶ Use our online bill calculator;
 - ▶ View charts and graphs of usage data;
 - ▶ Compare months or years of usage;
 - ▶ Make account changes;
 - ▶ Sign up for email billing notifications;
 - ▶ Request service from Western Cooperative; and
 - ▶ Store payment options and go paperless.

To create an eBiz account, visit www.westerncoop.com and follow the directions at left.