

An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672
800-456-6720

www.westerncoop.com
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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Working Together Key to Success

co-op-er-a-tive

ADJECTIVE

1. willing to be helpful by doing what someone wants or asks for
2. involving two or more people or groups working together to do something

NOUN

3. relating to a business or organization that is owned and operated by the people who use its services; Example: Western Cooperative Electric

These simple definitions describe the beneficial relationships between Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, providers of wholesale generation and transmission services (also known as G&Ts), and their Members—distribution electric companies that serve in central and western Kansas.

How It All Began

By the mid-1950s, six western Kansas distribution cooperatives were facing a rapidly growing demand for electricity. Meeting those energy demands would require a large investment in electric generating resources coupled with a high-voltage transmission system. It soon became apparent that together they could accomplish more than each could individually. In 1957, they formed the G&T now known as Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, a wholesale generation and transmission company operated as a cooperative. Sunflower's members are Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc., Ulysses; Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., Norton; The Victory Electric Coop-

erative Association, Inc., Dodge City; Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc., WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., Scott City.

Fast forward 48 years: In 2005, Sunflower's members again recognized the advantage of working together. They formed Mid-Kansas Electric Company to purchase the assets of the Kansas Electric Network of Aquila, Inc., which provided additional wholesale generation and transmission to serve our members with reliable power at the lowest possible cost. The Mid-Kansas G&T not only brought more wholesale services to the system, but it also allowed more Kansans to experience the cooperative business model.

Mid-Kansas' members include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Western Cooperative Electric Association, Wheatland Electric Cooperative and Southern Pioneer Electric Company, a subsidiary of Pioneer Electric Cooperative.

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Working Together Key to Success Continued from page 16-A

What's Different?

The roles of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas are in some respects quite different from their members' roles. Sunflower and Mid-Kansas generate power or purchase it from other sources to provide wholesale electricity to their members across a super-highway transmission infrastructure. They don't supply services to consumers at the end of the line. That is the role of the distribution co-ops—like Western—to deliver electricity to their members, who are commercial

and residential electric consumers. The distribution co-ops use transformers to step down the high-voltage energy supplied by Sunflower and Mid-Kansas to deliver lower-voltage energy via their distribution lines.

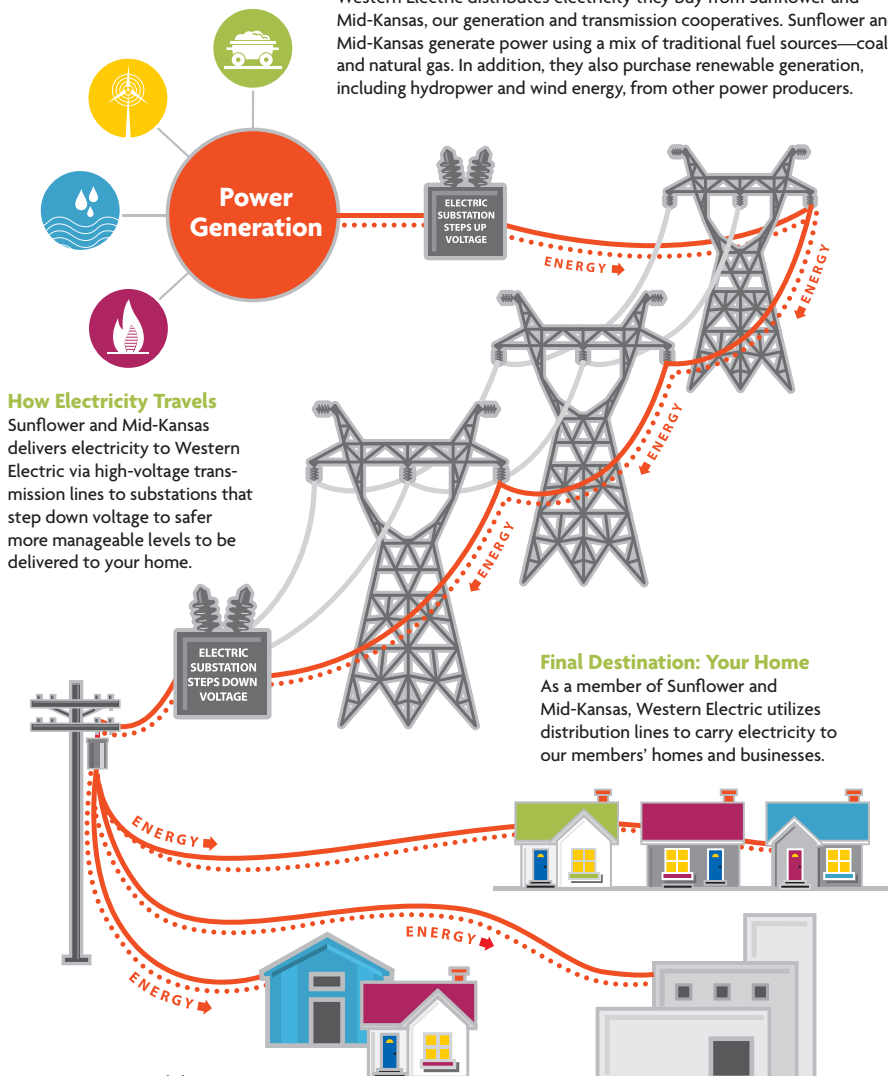
What's the Same?

Although the roles of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas differ from those of their members, important similarities set them apart from other electric utilities: they are private, independent, not-for-profit entities owned by the members

they serve. You could say co-ops epitomize democracy because each member has one vote, and each vote helps to democratically elect the governing boards. That's right—the people at the end of the line own their distribution co-ops, which, in turn, own their G&Ts. That is why G&Ts and distribution co-ops often work together to build, repair or maintain their combined electrical systems. Whereas investor-owned utilities are tasked with making a profit for their stakeholders, co-ops strive to keep costs as low as possible for their members.

Electricity: Its Path from Generation to Your Home

Western Electric distributes electricity they buy from Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, our generation and transmission cooperatives. Sunflower and Mid-Kansas generate power using a mix of traditional fuel sources—coal and natural gas. In addition, they also purchase renewable generation, including hydropower and wind energy, from other power producers.



Source: Iowa Associated Electric Cooperatives

The Co-op Advantage

Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, along with their members and those they serve, belong to a cooperative network that serves an estimated 42 million people in 47 states, provides 12 percent of the nation's meters, and owns and maintains 42 percent of the nation's electric distribution lines. This nationwide network provides competitive electric rates even though they serve an average of 7.4 consumers per mile of line compared to publicly owned utilities, which average 48 consumers per mile of line. That's not all. Many electric co-ops are involved in political advocacy; community development and revitalization projects, including small business development and job creation; and sponsorship of community events. In addition, a concern for the communities in which they serve leads co-ops to support community projects, such as the improvement of water and sewer systems, construction of broadband networks, and delivery of health care and educational services.


How do co-ops accomplish all this? It's the cooperative difference—members who value having a voice, want an electric utility that makes every decision with the best interest of those they serve in mind, and know that, yes, more can be accomplished when everyone works together.

New Bill Format Easier to Read, Shows Usage Comparison

Western Cooperative has made it easier for you to read your monthly bill. The new look has all the same information you need to know plus information to help you track and compare your usage. For example, the new bill includes a graph of your usage by month, which makes it easier to monitor your usage. It also includes more detail about payment options and services available.

Check out the new format example below and where to find the information you need. We think you'll like it! As always, if you have questions or require assistance, please call our office at 800-456-6720.

Western Cooperative Electric New Bill Format Sample



Page 1 of 1

Bill Date: 02/03/2017

Account:

Previous Balance	\$ 247.63
Payments Received	\$ 0.00
Adjustments/Penalties	\$ 0.50
BALANCE DUE IMMEDIATELY	\$ 248.13
Total Current Charges	\$ 21.63
Due on or Before 02/28/2017	

00004748800200000026976000000270188


AMOUNT TO PAY

AFTER DUE DATE

\$ 269.76

\$ 270.18

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P.O. Box 278
635 South 13th Street
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WaKeeney, KS 67672

Customer Service
(785) 743-5561
(800) 456-6720
western@westerncoop.com

To View or Pay Your Bill Online please visit www.westerncoop.com
Through this site you can also enroll in:


- Outage Texting
- Western Cares (a program to provide aid to members in need)
- Budget Billing
- Automatic Bankdraft
- Automatic Recurring Debit or Credit Card Payments

To Report an Outage please call us at the Customer Service numbers provided above or utilize our Outage Texting program.

Visit us on Facebook for timely updates and current information:
Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

Bill Date: 02/03/2017

TOTAL DUE ON 02/28/2017 - PAY THIS AMOUNT \$ 269.76

Account Number	Sub	Meter Number	Rate	Days	Service Dates	Meter Readings	Mult	kWh Usage
					From	Prev		
	002	132509283	202	31	12/31/2016	1989	2044	55
Monthly Usage History								
								
Current Charges & Adjustments								
								247.63
Previous Balance								247.63
Penalty Applied								0.50
BALANCE DUE IMMEDIATELY								248.13
Customer Charge								15.00
Energy 55.00 KWH @ .10517								5.78
ECA 55.00 KWH @ .00883-								-0.49
Plainville City Tax								0.42
Rooks County Tax								0.11
Franchise Tax								0.81
Total Current Charges								21.63
TOTAL DUE ON 02/28/2017								269.76
AFTER DUE DATE								270.18

Please continue to tear off the top stub and return it with your payment. So we can process your payment more efficiently, please do not staple, tape or clip the stub to your payment.

Get to Know Your Western Cooperative Electric Staff

Aaron Frieb

Journeyman Lineman



Aaron Frieb

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife is Jessica Frieb, and we have a bulldog named Prudence.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT WESTERN?

4 1/2 years

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Olmitz

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Travel

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TEAM?

Kansas City Royals

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Trip to Oregon with my wife

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE OR BOOK AND WHY?

Lonesome Dove—it's a great story

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I'm a good skier

IF YOU COULD BE AN ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

A giraffe so I could see for miles

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My dad—good man and always level-headed

Tip of the Month

Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy efficient window treatments or coverings, like blinds, shades and films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

Let Us Help You Mind Your eBiz-ness

Western Electric now offers eBiz—a member-friendly application to access your account online. 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 below.



Register for an 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="password"/>	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="password"/>	
Account number	<input type="text"/>	Required, this is the basic account number.
Phone	<input type="text"/>	This phone number must match the one file with Western. The error "Did not validate" means that you need to provide the co-op with your current contact information.

We've gone MOBILE

We've got an app for that! Western's mobile app provides convenient access to your account information. Search "Western Coop Mobile App" in the App Store or Google Play.

Services provided on Western's mobile app include:

- ▶ Bill payment;
- ▶ View current charges and usage;
- ▶ Receive special notifications;
- ▶ Contact Western by email or phone; and
- ▶ View outage information and updates.

Once you've downloaded the Western Coop Mobile App, login or sign up. Call 800-456-6720 for assistance.

