



**FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

The Outlet

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District Offices

East District
P.O. Box 70
McLouth, KS 66054-0070

West District
1100 SW Auburn Rd
Topeka, KS 66615

East & West District Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step, and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. Solar-powered lighting is also an option.

FROM THE CEO

Load Management Program



Steve Foss

FreeState Electric Cooperative purchases power from our wholesale power suppliers. The East and West Districts have different suppliers that provide

power needed to meet demands.

As a distribution co-op, FreeState looks at strategies that benefit members by decreasing costs and increasing efficiency. One way to do that is our renovated Load Management Program (LMP).

FreeState's LMP is designed to reduce energy consumption during peak demand. We can use this to balance electricity demand and the costs associated with the purchase of electricity from our power suppliers. FreeState can save members money by curbing the demand in times when power is most expensive.

What is Load Management?

Electricity consumed by our members is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). The demand refers to the amount needed from FreeState's system to power each of our meters measured in kilowatts (kW). The consumption and demand impact the rates FreeState pays for power. Peak demand is the period when members use the most electricity, and this is when prices are the highest. The LMP is designed

to decrease the amount of electricity members use during peak times and help the co-op save by purchasing less power.

So, How Does the Program Work?

The program offers bill credits to participating members who agree to reduce their energy usage during peak demand. FreeState monitors power demand and will remotely control usage during peak times.

This program is free to members. FreeState will arrange to have a licensed electrician install a Demand Reduction Unit (DRU) at your home at no cost.

How Do We Monitor Power?

FreeState's energy use coordinator will work with interested members to have a DRU installed on their water heater, air conditioner, or heat pump. FreeState will monitor demand and when peak levels are reached, the office will remotely shut off or cycle power to member's devices for a short period of time—typically three hours.

What Do I Get Out of the Program?

Savings! When you sign up for the program you'll get back bill credits.

Participating in FreeState's LMP will allow you to save directly, as well as assist the co-op when it comes to purchasing power. This saves everyone money.

If you have additional questions, contact us at 800-794-1989.

Capital Bound

FreeState sponsored two local youths to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour where they met more than 1,800 other students from across the nation.

FreeState Electric Cooperative sent two students from our service territory to Washington, D.C., for the 58th Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to

meet up with 1,800 peers from across the nation. Youth Tour was held June 7-14.

Each participant was chosen after completing an essay, interview, and application. **BRAXTON SHUPE**, Tonganoxie, and **ADAM DEMARANVILLE**, Tonganoxie, were selected as this year's representatives.

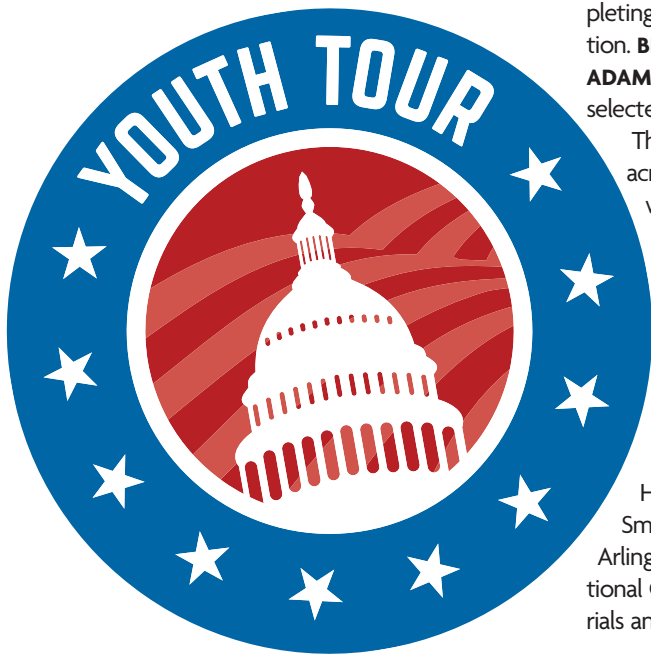
These students joined teens from across Kansas and Hawaii to spend a week touring our nation's capital. There, these student leaders learned more about our history, our government, the co-op business model, and how to become better leaders in their communities.

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 other 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 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!"

FreeState is proud to sponsor local students on this trip and looks forward to encouraging more students to apply in the future. To learn how you can participate in the Youth Tour program and to see exclusive content from this year's trip, visit our website at www.freestate.coop/youth. Learn more about Shupe's and DeMaranville's experiences on the following pages.



This year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegates pose in front of the White House before having the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of touring the inside.





Braxton Shupe represents FreeState and Tonganoxie as he poses at the World War II Memorial.



Shupe had the opportunity to visit and tour the White House.



Shupe, right, gets a glimpse into the life of a co-op lineman as he poses with FreeState lineman Bryce Shaver.

I will always have the memory of all the places I got to experience, but most importantly, I will always have the memory of all the great people I met and experienced this trip with and the impact they had on me.

**BRAXTON SHUPE
TONGANOXIE HIGH SCHOOL**



Braxton Shupe

museums. I enjoyed seeing all of the monuments and memorials dedicated to great people, and the people who served. I learned how our nation was formed, and how it became the country we know today.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is truly an experience of a lifetime! The entire trip was amazing, however, some of my favorite stops included the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Fort McHenry, Mount Vernon, and the Smithsonian

The tour began in Topeka where FreeState Electric Cooperative gave us the opportunity to ride in a bucket truck, and we learned how energy is produced and distributed in rural areas. We also visited the Kansas State Capitol and the Brown vs. Board of Education museum.

From there we traveled to Washington, D.C., and were given the opportunity to meet other rural youth from across the United States. I gained a lot of new friends and experiences that I will always hold dear to me.

I would highly recommend this trip because it gave me the opportunity to learn about the past, and develop an understanding of what the future holds. The experiences and memories I made will definitely have a positive impact on my future. I am incredibly thankful that I was given the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful experience.

The one aspect of the trip that had the largest impact on me was seeing all of the different monuments and being able to learn about how our country was built.

ADAM DEMARANVILLE
TONGANOXIE HIGH SCHOOL



FreeState delegate Adam DeMaranville poses with his sister, Emma, who is a FreeState Youth Tour alumna from 2015.



DeMaranville poses in front of the National Archives.



DeMaranville (right) met other Kansans, including Midwest Energy delegate Gage Winger.



Adam DeMaranville

Youth Tour was unlike anything I have ever experienced in my life. At first I was skeptical about the trip. After all, how could I possibly become friends with nearly 40 strangers in just a week's time?

While I started off with this mindset, it quickly changed.

I didn't realize that the adventure would start before we even got to Washington, D.C., but after the first night we were able to learn some of the historic significance of Kansas by going to the Brown vs. Board of Education site and museum. Afterwards, we were lucky enough to contribute to a nearby mural

for the site by painting small portions at the base of the colossal work of art.

Once we finally arrived in D.C., I knew right away this adventure was going to be like no other. Throughout the week we were able to indulge in all that D.C. had to offer. We explored everything from the White House to what seemed like nearly every memorial in the immediate area, all while never being able to forget just how many bathrooms are in the Pentagon's 17 miles of hallways. Seeing all of these amazing places and learning about the history of our country taught me that an experience like this could not be had without some of the most interesting and fun people and it was the friends I made along the way that made this trip so great.

Finally, we arrived back at the very spot we originally left feeling dubious one week before. However, upon our return I think it really hit all of us that even though we only spent a week together, the relationships and experiences we now shared from this trip would ensure that we would all be friends for life.

Cooperative Connections

FreeState's new program will provide members with exclusive benefits while building stronger community connections

FreeState Electric Cooperative is excited to announce the launch of the Co-op Connections Program in our service territory. This free program was started by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives as another way cooperatives can demonstrate the cooperative difference and give back to their members.

Co-op Connections is a program that benefits FreeState members by offering exclusive offers from participating businesses and helps you—our members—save on daily expenses. These participating businesses include locally and nationally owned businesses that offer deals on health, travel, entertainment, shopping, and more.

In addition to giving back to our members, it is our goal to also support our communities and local businesses. To help promote shopping locally, any business throughout FreeState territory can contact our communications team to sign up as a participant and learn more about the benefits included for them as business owners.

How Does it Work?

Starting in September, members can contact FreeState to request a physical Co-op Connections card be sent to them via mail. Members who choose to not carry a large wallet or bother with a physical card, you can download the Co-op Connections app using the instructions to the right, or visit www.connections.coop to shop online for cash back or search hotel and event discounts.

All it takes to get started is a quick visit to www.connections.coop to create a free account to have access to thousands of deals right at your fingertips. These exclusive deals include a vast variety of options such as:

- ▶ healthy savings discounts for prescriptions, dental, and more;
- ▶ cash back online shopping at over 3,000 retailers;
- ▶ hotel savings at over 400,000 hotels;
- ▶ saving 10 percent on all concerts, sports events, and theaters;
- ▶ insurance savings to protect your family; and
- ▶ food and dining experiences.

A complete list of participating businesses can be found in the Co-op Connections app or by visiting the program website, www.connections.coop.

FreeState will officially be launching the Co-op Connections program in September when physical cards can be requested. Members can, however, access the exclusive deals offered through the program immediately on the Co-op Connections app.

A booth featuring the program will be available at FreeState's Community Health Fair in McLouth on Oct. 2 and the Energy Efficiency Fair in Topeka on Oct. 24 for members to learn more about their benefits as a FreeState member and get a physical card if desired.

For questions regarding this program or to become a participating business, contact us at 800-794-1989.

Download the App

The deals and benefits offered through Co-op Connections can be accessed in three different ways—the Co-op Connections website, a physical card, or by downloading the Co-op Connections app by following these steps:

Step One

Go to the App Store and search for "Co-op Connections" by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Download the app.



Step Two

On your iPhone or desktop and visit www.connections.coop. Click "sign up" and enter in your information and click "activate account."



Step Three

Open the Co-op Connections app and sign into your account using the same information you registered your account with. (Note: registration has to be done on a desktop.)



Step Four

View your virtual card, shop online, and browse the app for local and national benefits categorized by type.



If you have questions in regards to downloading the app, contact us at 800-794-1989.

Co-op Connections® Card

FreeState
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Request Your Co-op Connections Card Starting Sept. 1!

We Are FreeState Accounting & Finance

As a member-owner of FreeState Electric Co-op, your knowledge of and engagement with our co-op is our priority. In addition to helping you understand the services we offer, we believe it's important to also introduce you to those who provide you with safe, reliable, and efficient power. To that end, FreeState will be publishing a year-long monthly series that focuses on our departments and the employees who serve our members. Look for the articles in The Outlet, on our social media channels, and on our website www.freestate.coop, where we will feature exclusive web content. Our goal is to help you put faces and names behind those who work on the other end of the line because we are your neighbors who work for you every day.

While electric cooperatives are typically more well-known for their linemen, many departments work together within the cooperative to ensure the business is successful and that members are being provided safe and reliable electricity throughout the service territory. FreeState Electric Cooperative is no different and relies heavily on each and every department to continue to uphold the cooperative principles. One of the most vital departments to FreeState's success is the Accounting and Finance Department.

While FreeState is a cooperative and therefore does not make profit, finances still remain a signifi-

cant aspect of the cooperative's overall success as they are the foundation to having the capabilities to go above and beyond for our members and communities.

"In the Accounting and Finance department, we see the end result of almost all transactions that happen throughout our organization," said **MICHELLE MEYER**, accounting and finance manager. "It is our responsibility to ensure transactions are being processed correctly according to general accounting standards and guidelines."

As the department's manager, Meyer's main responsibilities include overseeing and mentoring the department employees, approving payable invoices, presenting monthly reports to executive management and board members, managing business cash, creating annual budgets and financial audits, and anything else finance-related in the cooperative.

In addition to her primary tasks and responsibilities, Meyer said communication with other FreeState departments is essential.

"Our department interacts with every department within the organization at some level or another," Meyer said. "Having that interaction has

been beneficial in allowing our department to see the big picture and understand how our cooperative operates as a whole."

The department's other two employees agree that communication and cooperation between all

Seeing each department work as one to do whatever is necessary to keep the cooperative running smoothly and efficiently is rewarding in itself.

JESSICA BRYAN
ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST

FreeState employees and departments is a very prominent feature throughout the co-op industry.

“Oftentimes it is the most stressful situations and issues that arise that really bring departments together to utilize each other’s strengths,” said **JESSICA BRYAN**, accounting specialist. “Seeing each department work as one to do whatever is necessary to keep the cooperative running smoothly and efficiently is rewarding in itself. It is what makes me proud to be a FreeState employee.”

Along with assisting Meyer and department staff with unexpected situations that may arise, Bryan works to maintain the cooperative’s daily cash activity, reconcile bank accounts, process material and work order modules for our FreeState systems, enter payable invoices, and assist the department manager with any tasks required.

“My favorite part of my position is seeing how the different reports we create and the processes we do to assist other departments,” said Bryan. “I love seeing all of our hard work come to fruition and help the cooperative run successfully.”

The third member of the accounting and finance department is the financial accounting assistant who, outside of assisting the others in the department, serves as liaison between FreeState and Fort Leavenworth. FreeState provides replacements and renewals of existing infrastructure and assets to the case to as well as outage repair and mainte-

nance. The financial accounting assistant works with Fort Leavenworth personnel on contract modifications, payments, requests for proposals and changes to contract requirements.

The cooperative’s financial stability relies heavily on the three employees working in the department. Without their dedication to FreeState’s success and willingness to work with other departments, the cooperative would not be as successful as it is today. Meyer said the cooperative community, both state-wide and national, is a great asset.

Meyer says the cooperative community is a great asset to the continued success of FreeState.

“One thing all cooperative employees have in common is their willingness to help each other,” Meyer said. “There is a lot of collaboration in the cooperative world through meetings, phone conferences, and email groups. We are all willing to help each other succeed.”

The accounting and finance team is also responsible for developing a 10-year plan to help estimate and stabilize the future of FreeState in regards of finances—especially in cases when FreeState works to try to save our members money by creating a more financially efficient cooperative.

If you have questions regarding any of FreeState’s departments, or to view more in-depth information, visit www.freestate.coop or call 800-794-1989.

FreeState Hosts Senator Jerry Moran For the Kansas Listening Tour

U.S. SENATOR JERRY MORAN hosted a town hall meeting on June 11 at FreeState Electric Cooperative’s McLouth office. This event was another in his series of listening tours.

The hour-long meeting allowed members to ask questions and share feedback on the critical issues facing Kansas and the nation.

During his time at FreeState, Sen. Moran shared that the VA Mission Act recently became law, making it easier and more efficient for all veterans to receive deserved care, especially in rural Kansas areas. He also discussed the Farm Bill, how the U.S. must responsibly negotiate global trade deals, talks with North Korea, and the importance of rural broadband to small communities.

FreeState was proud to host Sen. Moran and give members the opportunity to have their voices heard.

For questions regarding Sen. Moran’s visit, call us at 800-794-1989.



Sen. Jerry Moran speaks with FreeState employees and members in FreeState’s McLouth office as one of his Listening Tour stops.



DORM SAFETY: 101

AVOID ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD



It's the time of year when college campuses are preparing for students moving all of their worldly possessions into their home away from home - the dorm!



Safe Electricity urges everyone to make sure their college-bound students take precautions to prevent and protect themselves from campus-related fires and shocks. **Do not overload your electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords.** Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.



Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to a resident assistant or housing manager.



Visit SafeElectricity.org for a complete list of safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires.

