



LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Powerline

Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Tip of the Month

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

FROM THE MANAGER

Cooperative Alliance Announced



Steve Foss

The LJEC Board of Trustees and I are pleased to announce an important new step we are taking to limit future rate increases while continuing to provide the excellent service and reliable electric power you expect and deserve.

On October 3, the LJEC board voted to enter into a cooperative alliance with Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative (KVEC), headquartered in Topeka.

The alliance gives our cooperatives cost savings and operating efficiencies neither of us can achieve on our own, and puts us in a stronger position for the long-term. At the same time, we'll keep our current offices, and provide services and monthly bills under our existing names. No full-time jobs will be eliminated.

During the last six years, we have systematically cut costs we control in an effort to offset rising costs we cannot, which are wholesale power costs from our supplier. It's a challenge to hold the line on rates because the costs we control amount to less than 25-percent of your bill, and include electric service distribution, operations and maintenance, accounting and billing, and member services.

Without this alliance, our 10-year

financial forecast shows the need for rate increases in the next one to three years.

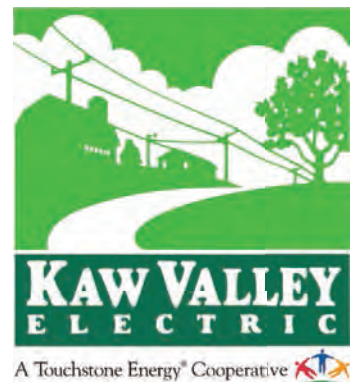
The alliance is the right opportunity at the right time to help us hold down rates and greatly improve operating efficiencies by:

- ▶ Combining purchasing, accounting, billing and member service functions.
- ▶ Sharing equipment, software and engineering services.
- ▶ Incorporating best practices and processes from both cooperatives.
- ▶ Providing members all of the value-added services and discounts available through each cooperative.

This alliance is an excellent fit for

our cooperatives because we are almost identical in how we provide services. Our operations processes are similar and we use much of the same technology and equipment, which will allow us to efficiently and effectively blend functions to maximize cost savings. And, we

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Alliance Announced

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both have a rich history of serving our members and communities for 75 years.

KVEC has 9,300 service accounts in Shawnee, Douglas, Jackson, Osage, Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee counties and has 32 full-time employees.

The alliance will be managed by me and Jerry Manning, general manager of KVEC. We'll start by focusing on areas where we can gain the maximum benefit in cost savings and enhanced services to members. We will do everything in stages to ensure the process runs smoothly.

An expert in electric cooperatives and public power districts guided us, and our Board of Trustees, through a thorough, careful evaluation of the best options available for long-term cost savings. The boards of both cooperatives decided a cooperative alliance was the best option and approved it during a special joint meeting October 3.

The alliance is the first step toward a possible consolidation of the cooperatives in 2016, a consolidation that is projected to deliver cost savings of more than \$13 million over 10 years. Members from both cooperatives would vote on the consolidation at our respective 2016 annual meetings.

We are committed to answering your questions about the cooperative alliance. Please don't hesitate to contact Chris Parr, LJEC's assistant general manager, at any time via email at chrisp@ljec.coop or via phone at 913-796-6111 ext. 123. We will also provide periodical updates about the alliance as we move through this process.

Through this alliance, we are striving to make the most effective use of your membership dollars. I look forward to working with you to make this alliance a success for all of our members and employees.



LJEC Offers High Efficiency Water Heaters

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, water heating accounts for up to 20 percent of the total utility expense for many U.S. households. Older hot water heaters can drive that percentage even higher.

If you're considering replacing your electric hot water heater anytime in the near future, you should consider two high efficiency models that are offered at a discounted rate by LJEC. In addition, both models qualify for an additional rebate from the cooperative.

LJEC stocks Rheem Marathon™ electric hot water heaters as well as the Rheem Professional™ model.

The Marathon™ model offers a high-efficiency design with a lightweight seamless plastic tank that won't corrode and offers a lifetime warranty against leaking. The Professional™ model is a traditional steel tank that includes EverKleen™, a self-cleaning device that fights buildup with a high-velocity spiraling water stream to help with efficiency and extend tank life.

Marathon™ Features

- ▶ Seamless molded non-metallic inner tank that won't rust or corrode
- ▶ Energy saving pipe wrap kit that reduces heat loss through plumbing lines
- ▶ Factory installed temperature and pressure relief valve
- ▶ Energy factor (EF) of .91 to .94 (depending on size)
- ▶ Envirofoam™ insulation that is CFC and HCFC free



- ▶ Lifetime warranty against leaking
- ▶ Eligible for an LJEC rebate of \$250*
 - ▶ 50 Gallon—\$785 plus applicable tax
 - ▶ 85 Gallon—\$990 plus applicable tax
 - ▶ 105 Gallon—\$1,099 plus applicable tax

Professional™ Features

- ▶ Tank lining resists corrosion, prolonging tank life
- ▶ Design reduces conductive heat loss
- ▶ Stainless steel lower heating element
- ▶ Energy factor (EF) of .93
- ▶ 8-year warranty
- ▶ Eligible for an LJEC rebate of \$100*
- ▶ 50 Gallon—\$430 plus applicable tax



*Rebate Qualifications

- ▶ Must be 40 gallon capacity or more (50 gallon recommended minimum)
- ▶ 40-59 gallon must have an EF factor of at least .93
- ▶ 60-gallon or above must have an EF of at least .91
- ▶ The electric water heater must be permanently installed in LJEC's certified territory
- ▶ An existing water heater must be out of warranty to qualify for this rebate, if it is replaced.
- ▶ By accepting a rebate, member(s) agree to allow LJEC to install a load control device, if contacted to do so.

For additional information call Shannon Crouse at LJEC (888-796-6111) or email shannonc@ljec.coop.

Another Successful Health Fair at LJEC

The sixth Annual LJEC Health Fair and Member Appreciation Day held on September 23 was an unqualified success!

The Jefferson County Health Department administered over 70 flu shots during the clinic. This year's flu season is predicted to be worse than normal and the Health Department was extremely happy with the number of people that came out to get vaccinated.

Members were able to collect a wealth of information regarding their physical and financial health as well as the many services and programs available to them locally! Attendees were able to have routine blood pressure/blood sugar tests performed for FREE during the event.

During the event, LJEC collected food for the Jefferson County Service Organization food bank in Oskaloosa. Members were extremely generous and donated over 260 pounds of

food to the less fortunate.

Members were also entered into a door prize drawing when they checked in at the LJEC table.

Congratulations to our door prize winners:

- ▶ **KATHY HUND-BIGLEY**, Meriden
- ▶ **DAVID DETJEN**, Ozawkie
- ▶ **LARRY COP-PINGER**, Winchester
- ▶ **JACKIE OT-TENSMEIER**, McLouth
- ▶ **DOUG MEYER**, Tonganoxie
- ▶ **FLOYD EBERTH**, Basehor
- ▶ **RICHARD LOPEZ**, Tonganoxie

LYNN SEARLES of Meriden was also a winner of a separate drawing conducted by McLouth Dental. She won a Sonicare toothbrush; a \$100-plus value!

LJEC members were also treated to a free meal, courtesy of the cooperative. This is our thanks for



Health Fair attendees were able to have routine blood pressure/blood sugar tests performed for FREE during the event.

supporting the cooperative throughout the year and supporting, what has become, a very important event for the community.

A special thanks to Capital City Oil, who provided their "rolling trailer grill" and grilled up the hamburgers and hotdogs for the event!

LJEC is dedicated to providing the programs, services and events that have an impact on our local community. If you have any suggestions about things LJEC could be providing, please don't hesitate to contact the office at 888-796-6111.



Lynn Luck, Director of Jefferson County Service Organization, stands with the more than 260-pounds of food donated by LJEC members.

LJEC would like to thank all of this year's vendors

- ▶ A&D Hearing, Leavenworth
- ▶ American Red Cross, Topeka
- ▶ Bank of McLouth, McLouth
- ▶ Catholic Charities, Leavenworth
- ▶ First State Bank, Perry
- ▶ Friends of Hospice of Jefferson County, Valley Falls
- ▶ FW Huston Medical Center, Winchester
- ▶ Holland Eye Clinic, Oskaloosa
- ▶ Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Oskaloosa
- ▶ Jefferson County Health Department, Oskaloosa
- ▶ Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence
- ▶ McLouth Dental, McLouth
- ▶ McLouth Medical Clinic, McLouth
- ▶ McLouth Fire Department, McLouth
- ▶ Phillips Insurance, Valley Falls
- ▶ Sam's Club, Kansas City, KS

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year—the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen.

As we embark on the holiday season, LJEC urges you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- ▶ Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- ▶ Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- ▶ Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- ▶ Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- ▶ Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- ▶ Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- ▶ To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- ▶ Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- ▶ Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- ▶ Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.

Unwrap Winter Energy Savings

The holidays are upon us! It's that special time of year when we spend a great deal of time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, LJEC reminds you of a few ways to be energy efficient during this busy time of year.

Cooking efficiently

- ▶ **Be kind to your oven.** Every time you open the oven door to check on that dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible. Also, remember to take advantage of residual heat for the last five to 10 minutes of baking time – this is another way to save energy use. If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated, since these items hold more heat than metal pans.
- ▶ **Give your burners some relief.** The metal reflectors under your stovetop burners should always be clean. If not, this will prevent your stove from working as effectively as it should.
- ▶ **Utilize small appliances.** During the holidays, the main appliances used are the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate more often. This will result in substantial energy savings.

Home efficiency

- ▶ **Take advantage of heat from the sun.** Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally

heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

- ▶ **Find and seal all air leaks.** Check areas near pipes, gaps around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.
- ▶ **Maintain your heating system.** Schedule services for your heating system before it gets too cold to find out what maintenance you may need to keep your system operating efficiently.
- ▶ **Eliminate “vampire energy” waste.** When you are not using an appliance or an electronic, unplug it to save energy. Power strips are definitely a good investment for your home.

Efficient shopping

- ▶ **Purchase LED holiday lights.** A string of traditional lights uses 36 watts of power and a string of LED lights only uses 5 watts. They can even last up to 10 times longer!
- ▶ **Ask for Energy Star-rated TVs and appliances.** This will save you a lot of power use because the stand-by-mode is lower and the device will use less energy overall.
- ▶ **Combine errands to reduce the number of small trips.** To-do lists seem to pile up around this time of the year. Believe it or not, several short trips in the winter can use twice as much fuel as one longer trip covering the same distance as all of the shorter ones.

Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize the lack of efficiency until the next bill comes in. Prevent your post-holiday shock this year by thinking creatively and remembering all of these tips!

