



FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Outlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Christopher Parr
CEO

DISTRICT OFFICES

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

OFFICES CLOSED NOV. 28-29

FreeState offices will be **CLOSED ON NOV. 28 AND 29** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

FROM THE CEO

The Cooperative Difference

Affordability is more than just a matter of concern. It's a core part of FreeState's mission. We are dedicated to powering your homes and businesses with safe, affordable and reliable power.

It's what we do.

Every day, we all feel the impact of rising prices around us. It's hard not to notice rising costs every time we make a monetary transaction. The cooperative sees it, too. Did you know 31% of cooperative staff are also members? And all our board of trustees are members elected by you to govern your cooperative.

That means every decision made impacts those making the decisions, too.

All of our employees, whether members or not, understand the importance of the cooperative difference. When making decisions, we look across the table because we work for our co-workers, neighbors and extended families. That connection to the power we provide is a big responsibility, and keeping costs down is something we all think about.

It seems every pole, spool of wire and gallon of fuel is getting more expensive. But it's more than that. We are responsible for the safety of our employees, the communities we call home and each one of our members. We don't take this responsibility lightly.



Chris Parr

“When making decisions, we look across the table because we work for our co-workers, neighbors and extended families.”

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Demand Rates Offer You Control

Modernizing rates is a priority at FreeState with the goal of providing members with more control, choice and convenience. One aspect of that goal is the introduction of demand billing for residential members.

FreeState will implement demand billing in 2025 as part of the cooperative's new rate structure. Demand billing provides equity among members, and makes sure all members pay their fair share by eliminating subsidies of rate classes. Demand billing also provides members with more cost control by monitoring energy usage during specific blocks of time.

WHAT IS DEMAND AND WHY BILL FOR IT?

Demand is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running at your service address at a specific point in time. It is the maximum rate at which your household has consumed electricity.

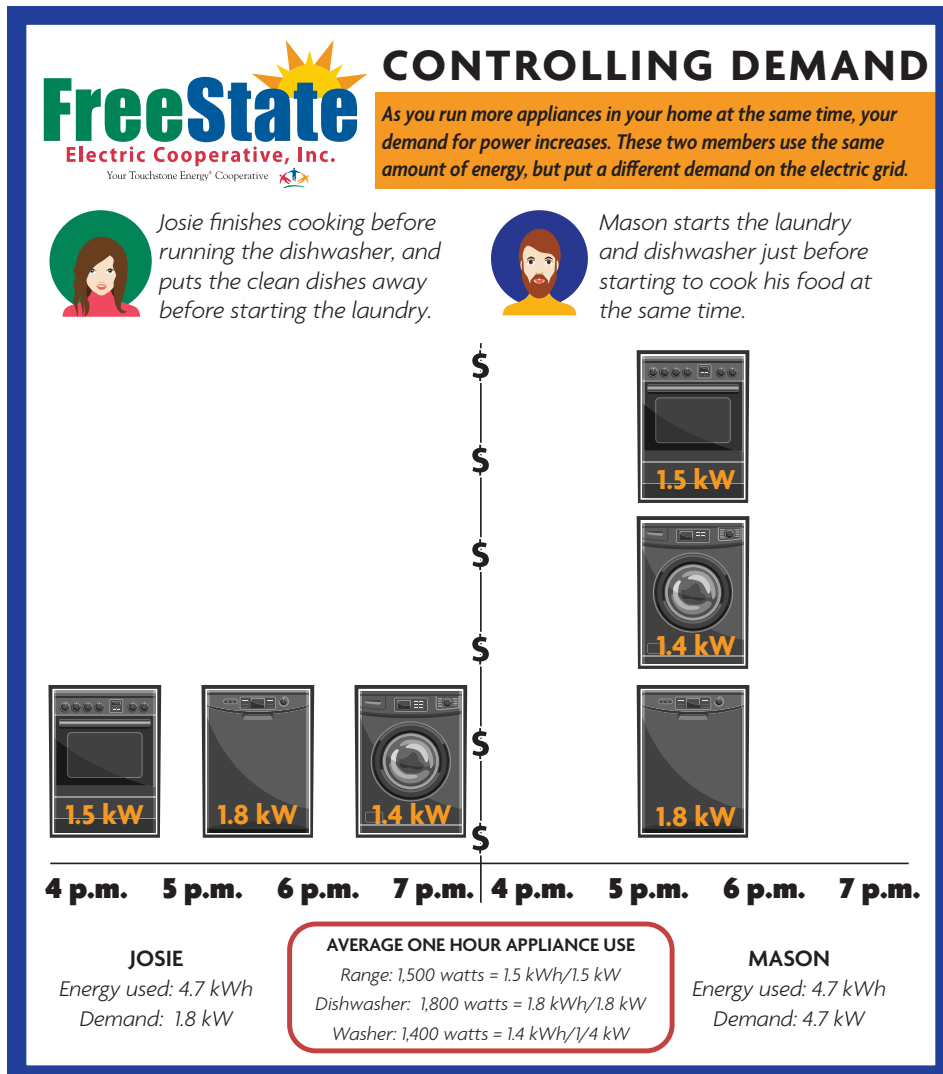
FreeState's wholesale rates from Evergy and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) are based on the total co-op demand. Some members

create more demand by using more appliances at the same time and as a result, demand more electricity. It is becoming more common to see utilities move to a three-part bill with a demand charge, energy usage charge (kilowatt-hour, kWh) and an electric service charge (ESC).

We now have the technology to capture demand for each FreeState member. A three-part rate insures rates are as equitable as possible and removes subsidies among rate classes.

There is no penalty for the demand on an account. Member demand has always been bundled into the kWh charge, but now with affordable technology we can measure and bill demand separately giving members more control. By charging separately for demand we can fairly distribute the costs of providing service to members who use large amounts of energy at one time.

Beginning in 2025, members will start paying



for their portion of the demand created, which will affect the wholesale cost of electricity. FreeState pays for electricity based on the cooperative's collective peak demand.

WHAT ABOUT TIME OF USE RATES?

Time of use is a variable rate structure that charges for energy depending on the time of day energy is being used. We have a time-of-use rate available to east members (former LJEC members), and west members (former Kaw Valley members) will have access to that rate as well in 2025.

Conversely, demand rates are not affected by when you use electricity: instead, it depends on how much you use at a given time. You are billed for what you use.

WHAT IMPACTS MY DEMAND?

Everything with a plug can affect your demand. Lighting represents less than 15% of the average electric bill, but by using efficient lighting, it can be a simple change members can make to lower their demand. For example: One 100 watt lightbulb on for 10 hours uses 1 kWh of electricity.

Ten 100 watt lightbulbs lit for 1 hour use the same 1 kWh of electricity, BUT require 10 times the generating resources (demand) to produce the same amount of electricity.

▶ Another example is using large appliances at the same time. When you do a load of laundry, have three televisions on and have dinner in the oven **AT THE SAME TIME** your need for energy (demand) increases dramatically.

HOW CAN I CONTROL OR REDUCE DEMAND?

Every service that uses electricity will create a certain level of demand. For some households, staggering the use

Staggering the use of major appliances and adjusting your thermostat are the most effective ways to curtail demand.

of appliances will help manage and reduce demand.

On the other hand, some busy families may see saving time as more important than reducing demand — and that's OK.

The easiest way to control demand is to spread usage of appliances or electronic devices throughout the day and night. For example, if your appliances have timers, like dishwashers or washing machines with delayed start, using them in the overnight hours can help.

It is possible to make small changes to make a larger impact on your bill.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO CONTROL DEMAND:

- ▶ Are there a few household improvements you can make? Regular HVAC maintenance insures units are running as efficiently as possible.
- ▶ Do you need all equipment running at the same time? Can you stagger the use of some appliances or devices?
- ▶ Can some devices be switched off when they are not in use?
- ▶ If you are in the market for new appliances, are you seeking out the most efficient models?

Demand billing does provide you more control over your electric bill with the ability to manage when you use power, not just how much you use. And FreeState provides SmartHub, a FREE tool to help you monitor your account 24/7.

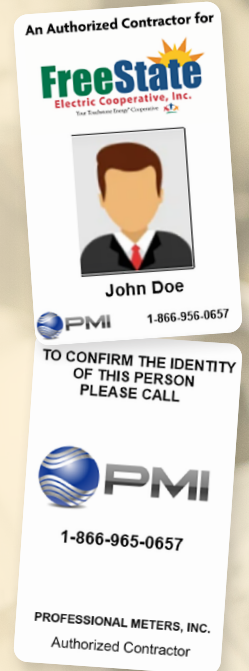
METER EXCHANGES PMI

FreeState has contracted with Professional Meters, Inc. (PMI) to help with this project. They will wear badges with both the FreeState and PMI logos, as shown below. Rest assured, they are a trusted FreeState vendor.

PMI shared some information to help FreeState Electric Cooperative and its members know what to expect during the process:

- ▶ PMI field techs will attempt to make contact with the member prior to interrupting electric service to change the meter. This is typically a simple door knock to notify the member that they are there for the meter exchange and there will be a short interruption of their electric service, typically less than 5 minutes.
- ▶ PMI installers will have high visibility shirts with the PMI logo on them. They will also have the PMI logo on their vehicles and will have an ID badge that will identify them to the member.
- ▶ PMI will leave a door hanger to let the member know that the meter has been successfully exchanged. In the instance that they are unable to exchange the meter, there is another door hanger that will notify the member of the attempt and what their next steps should be.
- ▶ The meter exchange only takes a few minutes and unless there are extenuating circumstances, appointments are not needed.

If you have any questions about the meter exchange process, please call our office at 800-794-1989.



MUTUAL AID FOR HELENE



Nine lineworkers from FreeState, including (from left) Bryce Shaver, Blake Blassingame, Jordann Moody, Kyle Hallgren, Jeremy Cameron, Bryce Best, Jacob Pineau, Cole Bryant and Chase Mills, left Oct. 3, for South Carolina to provide mutual aid to Aiken Electric Cooperative in the wake of Hurricane Helene. They took two bucket trucks, two diggers, two pole trailers and a flat-bed truck.

More than 80 lineworkers from 15 Kansas electric co-ops convoying with nearly 40 pieces of equipment — from bucket trucks to diggers to skid steers — left Kansas the morning of Oct. 3 to aid in Aiken’s power restoration efforts.

At the height of the storm, Aiken EC reported 92% of its system was down, leaving only a few thousand members with power. As of Oct. 2, 50% of their members were still without power. The damage was so severe, Aiken Electric Cooperative reported that “it’s more than power restoration, but rather a complete system rebuild.”

The electric cooperative mutual aid model allows electric co-ops to help each other during times of need. This approach permits co-ops to “borrow” restoration workers from other co-ops, thereby increasing the workforce response to areas impacted by a major outage event. It’s essentially about neighbors helping neighbors, even when those neighbors are fellow co-ops located hundreds of miles away.

Electric co-ops were formed to provide reliable electric service to our members at the lowest reasonable cost, and mutual aid has been a fundamental part of our DNA since co-ops were formed. The concept of mutual aid originated with the rural electrification efforts in the 1930s. From the very beginning, electric co-ops relied on each other to assist in times of need, and mutual aid provides an essential safety net in times of crisis.



Just as with any job, crews begin by completing a tailgate meeting, an informal discussion to go over safety hazards and best practices. The goal is to prevent incidents and create a culture of safety and teamwork. Pictured: Bryce Best, Jordann Moody, Blake Blassingame, Kyle Hallgren (head) and Chief Operations Officer Zach Sterling.

The Cooperative Difference

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As we work to review and propose modernized rates, we want members to know that we are also working diligently to reduce operating costs without sacrificing the reliability and service you expect. Your trust in us is what motivates us.

We also offer some tools and options that can help members manage some of the costs.

- ▶ **SMARTHUB** — One of our most popular tools, provides information about your account 24/7. You can monitor usage, see your costs and find ways to be more efficient. We even have a catalog of ways (101 ways, to be precise) you can save money, and they all require little effort — no matter if you own or rent your home.
- ▶ **BUDGET BILLING** — Allows qualifying members to spread out electric costs over 12 months rather than facing large bills during volatile seasons.
- ▶ **POWERPAY** — Offers daily billing and flexibility on how much and when you pay.
- ▶ **VANILLADIRECT** — Prefer to pay with cash? Use VanillaDirect at various local retailers to pay your bill.

We want to provide options that best fit your lifestyle because you expect convenience and consistent service from your cooperative. We’re here to help, so give us a call to talk about billing options or to sign up for paperless billing and save a stamp each month. You can even **AMP** up your paperless billing by choosing the convenience of automatic monthly payments.

Powering communities is more than just flipping the light switch on. It’s a commitment to connections.

It’s the cooperative difference.