

**KAW VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

LightTalk



Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade?

Reduce Heating & Cooling Needs by

30%

Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

FROM THE MANAGER

EPA Ruling Presents Co-op Challenge



Jerry Manning

On August 3, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized their Clean Power Plan that calls for the U.S. power sector to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030.

States will be required to produce a compliance plan by 2018, make interim reductions by 2022, and be in full compliance by 2030.

Compliance will not be optional. The concern for cooperatives is that the Clean Power Plan's reduction of greenhouse gas goals will come at the expense of reliability and affordability.

This means transitioning coal generation to alternative energy sources.

Renewables account for approximately 13 percent of power generated according the Energy Information Administration. This plan projects renewable energy will reach 21 percent by 2030, which is considerable large-scale growth in a short amount of time. This shift will push utilities to invest in upgrades to transmission and delivery networks across the country.

A transition of coal burning plants to alternative energy sources could mean coal plants may have to shut down or undergo massive upgrades to meet compliance.

It seems fairly simple. The goal of the Clean Power Plan is to generate 28 percent of electricity from renewable sources.

Enough to rival non-renewables, but not surpass them. This goal is designed to make the U.S. less dependent on non-renewable fuels over the 15 year timetable.

So what impact does the Clean Power Plan have on members?

Short-term implications will primarily be legal battles by states who feel that the EPA has overstepped its boundaries. States who fight the EPA and the Clean Power Plan will most likely alter the timing and implementation of the plan, but what cooperatives are most concerned with is the long-term consequences members should be aware of.

These consequences could mean drastic changes to how we consume electricity in the next 15 years. It will mean large capital expenditure plans for coal-based generation. It means the cost of doing business may increase dramatically, and that could mean higher rates in the long run for our members.

We want our members to be aware of the EPA proposal, and to know that we are doing everything we can to understand the plan, and how it will trickle down to our membership. We don't expect any vast changes immediately, but we do want you to be aware of the ever changing landscape of the industry.

Right now, very little impact will be felt. However, change is inevitable.

As always, if you have questions about the Clean Power Plan we encourage you to contact us by calling the office at 785-478-3444 or emailing info@kve.coop.

FUN FIVE

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Paula Spreer
 Engineering Assistant
 25 years at Kaw Valley



Paula Spreer

Q: If you could have a super power, what would it be?

A. Time travel. I watched a lot of westerns growing up, and thought it would be fun.

Q. What is your favorite thing to do on a Sunday?

A. Spend time with family. I have four grandkids that are growing up fast.

Q. What is one thing most people don't know about you?

A. I was a tom-boy growing up. I enjoyed hunting and fishing with my dad, but not putting up hay.

Q. Do you collect anything?

A. Not really. I never wanted the clutter.

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. Helping other departments by providing accurate information to better serve our members.

Join us for the LJEC Health Fair on September 22 in McLouth

Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC) is hosting the 7th Annual Health Fair and Member Appreciation Day on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. The event will include a community food drive.

The Health Fair is open to LJEC and Kaw Valley members. Area businesses will be on hand to distribute information regarding physical, mental, and financial health. They are:

- ▶ American Red Cross
- ▶ Bank of McLouth
- ▶ First State Bank & Trust
- ▶ Friends of Hospice
- ▶ Holland Eye Clinic
- ▶ Jefferson County Health Department
- ▶ Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- ▶ LMH Sleep Center
- ▶ McLouth Dental
- ▶ McLouth Fire and EMS
- ▶ Phillips Insurance
- ▶ Saint Vincent Clinic
- ▶ Sam's Club
- ▶ The Willow Domestic Violence Center
- ▶ Vintage Park at Tonganoxie

There is no charge to attend this event. Members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate, or make a cash donation.

The event opens at 4 p.m. on and will conclude at 7 p.m. at the LJEC office at 507 N. Union in McLouth. A meal will be served.

Kaw Valley is also conducting a food drive from September 1-25 at our office on Auburn Road in Topeka. Members are encouraged to stop in during that time and make a donation during business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

For more information, visit www.ljec.coop or contact Sarah Farlee at LJEC, sarah.farlee@ljec.coop or 913-796-6111.



Alliance Question of the Month

Will the cooperative alliance eliminate jobs?

Not at all. No full-time jobs will be eliminated. The greatest cost savings and timing for the alliance center on upcoming employee retirements at both cooperatives. Under the alliance, as employees retire, jobs will be filled internally based on how we blend our operations to ensure maximum cost savings and operating efficiencies, while providing high quality, reliable electric service.

As the cooperatives blend, some job duties may evolve. As we move forward with the alliance, employees can look forward to opportunities for specialized skill training and advancements.

Each month we'll address a question regarding the cooperative alliance between Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative and Kaw Valley Electric. Do you have a question you'd like us to address regarding the alliance? Feel free to submit your question to info@kve.coop.

Shield Your Home With Adequate Insulation

Walls, floors, ceilings, attic...these are some of the prime areas of a home that need insulation in order for you to maximize energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), you can reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

If your home is more than 20 years old and was not specifically constructed for energy efficiency, additional insulation can likely reduce your energy bills and increase the comfort level of your home. The actual amount of savings for each home depends upon several factors—the current level of insulation, your climate, efficiency of your heating/cooling system and your utility rates. On average, older homes have less insulation than homes built today, but even adding insulation to a newer home can pay for itself within a few years.

So, where do you start?

You first need to determine how much insulation you already have in your home and where it is located. For those with the “do-it-yourself” spirit, you can conduct an insulation audit yourself. Here’s what to look for:

- ▶ Where your home is, isn’t, and/or should be insulated
- ▶ The type of insulation in your home
- ▶ The R-value and the thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation

A prime area that is chronically under-insulated is the attic. Whether you live in a cool or warm climate, attic insulation is essential to help keep warm air inside in the winter and prevent hot attic air from heating your living spaces in the summer. If you have R-19 or less insulation in your attic, consider bringing it up to R-38 in moderate climates and R-49 in cold climates. For flooring in cold climates, if you have R-11 or less insulation, consider bringing it up to R-25.

How does insulation work?

Heat flows naturally from a warmer space to a cooler space. During winter months, this means heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature. During summer months, the opposite happens—heat flows from the exterior to the interior of a home. Proper installation of insulation creates resistance to heat flow. Heat flow resistance is measured or rated

in terms of its R-value—the higher the R-value, the greater the insulation’s effectiveness. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs will be.

Get started and get saving

While an older home will never be as efficient as a new home, an insulation upgrade will make a noticeable difference in your energy use and wallet. A well-insulated home is one of the most cost-effective means of saving energy and decreasing heating and cooling bills.



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[@KawValleyElec](https://twitter.com/KawValleyElec)



1-800-794-2011
Have questions? Give us a call!

Get more information about our services: www.kve.coop

**TRUTH BE TOLD, YOUR ELECTRICITY
COMES FROM PEOPLE POWER.**

Thankfully, there's one energy source that co-op members can always depend on—the hard-working dedication and efficiency of your electric co-op linemen. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.



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