



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

**TWIN VALLEY  
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

# NEWS

## Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

**Bryan Coover**  
President

**Larry Hubbell**  
Vice President

**Dareld Nelson**  
Treasurer

**Bryan Huckle**  
Secretary

**Rodney Baker**  
Trustee

**Tom Ellison**  
Trustee

**Diane McCartney**  
Trustee

**Jared Nash**  
Trustee

**Jason Zwahlen**  
Trustee

### Staff

**Angie Erickson**  
CEO

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Contact Us

1511 14,000 Rd.  
P.O. Box 368  
Altamont, KS 67330  
866-784-5500  
[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

## Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer "just the light bill."

### Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones and computers, and powering your TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%.

Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the consumer-members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Twin Valley Electric will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.



**Angie Erickson**

# 2021 Annual Meeting Highlights

Twin Valley's Annual Meeting of the members was held on the evening of July 13, 2021, at Labette County High School. A fried chicken dinner was catered by Chicken Annie's Annex, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Richard Hines, Hines & Jones, LLC, conducted the director election. Re-elected to three year terms were Bryan Coover, Diane McCartney and Jason Zwahlen.

Treasurer Dareld Nelson could not attend the meeting. President Bryan Coover gave the treasurer's report in his absence. He discussed the financial challenges of 2020 and Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

Coover then gave the president's report, informing the group that Twin Valley will be conducting a rate study in the fall. He stated that while revenue requirements must be met, the board's focus is to implement a design that treats all members fairly.

Angie Erickson gave the CEO's report. She reported on COVID impacts on cooperative operations over the past year, the addition of solar energy to TVEC's power supply portfolio, and the potential impacts of green energy legislation in the future.



Twin Valley Board of Trustee Jared Nash catches up with co-op members after more than a year of not meeting in person.

Erickson also presented service awards to Board Members Diane McCartney, for 5 years of service, and to David Hubbell for 20 years of service.

Scholarship recipients Elsie Sorrel and Amber Ross told the membership of their college plans and thanked the membership for investing in their education.

Members in attendance received a Twin Valley insulated tumbler and a \$38 bill credit. A drawing was held for the early bird prize of \$200, and for four \$50 bill credits sponsored by TVEC's power supplier, KEPCo, and KSI, KEPCo's engineering firm.



Scholarship recipients Elsie Sorrel and Amber Ross told the membership of their college plans and thanked the membership for investing in their education.



Twin Valley Electric Cooperative Board President Bryan Coover and CEO Angie Erickson address the members who attended the 2021 annual meeting.



# Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

## What's a Power Surge?

Power surges are brief over-voltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts — this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Twin Valley encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

## What's a Power Blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device



CARIN AHOFMEISTER

**Squirrels may be cute, but they can cause major damage to electrical infrastructure such as substations and power lines.**

that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Twin Valley crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 866-784-5500.

## Safety Demonstrations Available

**Did you know? Twin Valley offers electrical safety demonstrations to organizations in our community.**

Because providing safe electricity to our members is our primary purpose, we believe strongly in the importance of educating our membership and our community on how to live and work safely around high voltage power lines. While we often present to youth, it's usually adults who find themselves in an accident involving power lines. In our area, individuals operating agricultural or construction equipment are the most at-risk for serious injury from unintentional electric contact.

If you think your club, organization, or event would benefit from a free electrical safety demonstration, contact our office at 866-784-5500



# Home Charging Options for Electric Vehicles

Before purchasing your own electric vehicle (EV), be sure you consider the multiple options for charging your vehicle at home. Your local electric cooperative is a great resource to learn about EVs and how the vehicle charging will affect your energy usage. EVs have three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

## Level One Charging

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

## Level Two Charging

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet

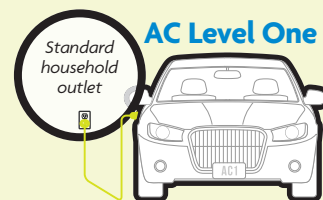
must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings and multi-family community spaces.

## DC Fast Charging

DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV at 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Kansas.

If you're charging an EV at home, please contact Twin Valley Electric at 620-784-5500. EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day you charge your EV can have an impact on the grid and your monthly energy costs. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure the electric service to your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption, and that your charging habits are the most economically advantageous for you.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Levels



### VOLTAGE

120V 1-Phase AC

### AMPS

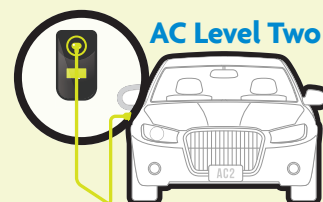
12-16 amps

### CHARGING LOADS

1.4 to 1.9 kW

### VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

3-5 miles per hour



### VOLTAGE

208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

### AMPS

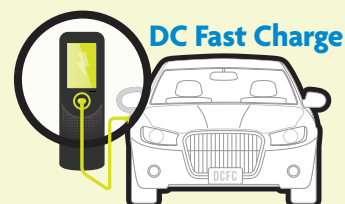
12-80 amps (32 amps typical)

### CHARGING LOADS

2.5 to 19.2 kW (6.6kW typical)

### VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

10-20 miles per hour



### VOLTAGE

208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

### AMPS

<100 amps

### CHARGING LOADS

50-350 kW

### VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

60-80 miles in 20 minutes

SOURCES: ADVANCED ENERGY AND EPA

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

When shopping for new lightbulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb, while watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**

*Happy  
Labor  
Day*

In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6.

