



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

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Contact Us

1511 14,000 Road
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
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FROM THE CEO

May is Military Appreciation Month



Angie Erickson

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a

core co-op ethos.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial within our communities. Twin Valley Electric is grateful for veteran contributions to our local community.

Leadership and Teambuilding Skills

Our veterans are equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. While on active duty within their units, service members work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, sense of personal responsibility and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

Mission-Oriented Outlook

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work — to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that

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Energy Savings for Small Businesses

Electric cooperatives are proud to serve small businesses that are essential to our local Kansas communities. As costs for pretty much everything continue to rise, small business owners are feeling strained. Luckily, there are steps Kansas' small business owners can take to conserve energy — and save money.

Many small businesses are in commercial buildings smaller than 50,000 square feet. These buildings use 44% of the energy consumed by commercial buildings in the United States. A survey conducted by the National Federation of Independent Business found that energy costs are a top-three expense for more than a third of the nation's small businesses.

Small businesses can reduce their energy costs by taking advantage of competitive rates, making upgrades to increase efficiency and making simple changes to how they do business. This can have a direct effect on a business's bottom line and make it more competitive in the current market.

Here are a few areas small business owners can focus on saving energy and money.

Lighting

Many small businesses, like offices and retail stores, depend greatly on lighting, which can be a major expense. Two ways to increase the efficiency of your business's lighting system include installing energy efficient equipment (bulbs and/or fixtures) and changing how you use lighting.

New LED bulbs use less energy

and last much longer. LEDs come in a variety of options and prices, making them great replacements for older, inefficient bulbs.

Encourage employees to turn off lights when they're not being used. You can also install light switches with sensors so lights automatically turn off when no one is in the room.

Equipment and Appliances

Turning off office equipment and appliances can help save energy and money. Computer monitors can add up to \$30 to an office's energy bill if left on during evenings and weekends.

Restaurants typically use up to 10 times more energy per square foot than other commercial buildings. To save money, it is important to have energy efficient food service equipment.

Additionally, kitchens in many other kinds of small businesses use microwaves, coffee makers and refrigerators, which should be considered when reviewing overall energy use.

Heating and Cooling Systems

Heating and cooling account for a large portion of a small business's energy bills.

Tracking energy use and maintaining the heating and cooling system can help small business owners save on energy bills. The system should be inspected annually, and filters should be replaced regularly. If the system needs replacing, consider alternative options

like a heat pump with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of 13 or higher.

Air Leaks and Insulation

Just like our homes, small businesses have windows, walls, a roof and insulation as part of their building envelope. Air leaks can lead to higher bills. Leaks typically are found around windows, doors, walls and the roof. Seal these areas for additional energy savings.

Water

Efficient use of energy and water go hand in hand. In most cases, gas or electricity is used to heat water, which costs money. The more heated water your business uses, the more you can save by determining how to use water most efficiently. Lowering the water temperature between 110 and 120 degrees is an easy way to save on water heating.

Transportation

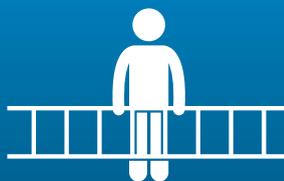
Many businesses may recognize fuel savings and lower the total cost of fleet ownership and transportation networks by switching to electric vehicles (EVs).

EVs have lower maintenance costs because they are more reliable than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. This is because EVs have fewer mechanical parts that can break, and they often provide better data to allow for more proactive maintenance. Depending on your business's transportation needs, EVs may be able to provide better energy savings for the long-term.

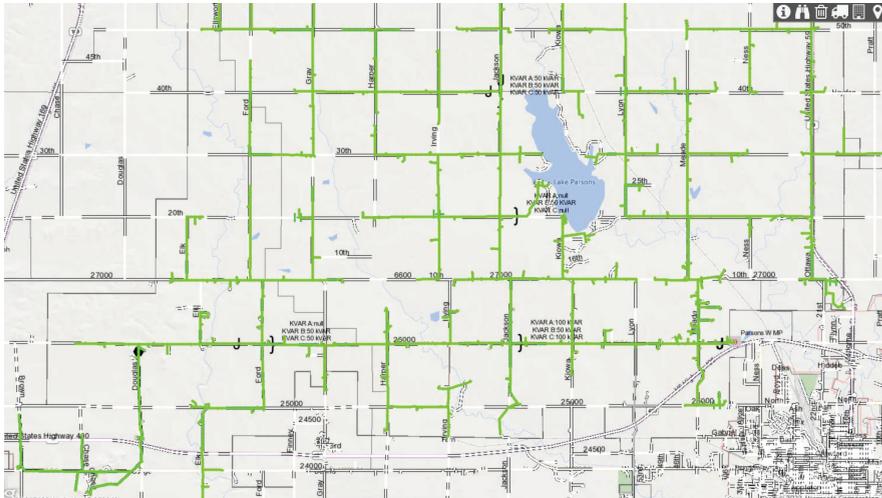
We all can relate to the increasing costs of just about everything these days. All of us, including small businesses, can take simple steps to better control how much energy we use and how we use it. Not sure where to start? Call Twin Valley Electric Cooperative at 866-784-5500 and we can help you identify areas to save the most energy.

SAFETY TIP

Before beginning an outdoor project, always look up and look out for overhead power lines. Use extra caution when carrying a ladder or removing debris from gutters.



Notice to Twin Valley Members



Apex ROW crews will begin work northwest of Parsons as highlighted above. Their trucks and UTVs will be marked with the Twin Valley logo.

Twin Valley has hired Apex ROW to apply herbicide treatment to unwanted vegetation in our electric rights-of-way. Proper maintenance of vegetation growth under and near our power lines is necessary to provide reliable electric service to our members.

APEX WILL BEGIN WORK SOON IN THE AREA DEPICTED NORTHWEST OF PARSONS. Their trucks and UTVs will be marked with the Twin Valley logo. The product that will be applied is safe to humans, pets and livestock. It is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture. They will not spray in any yards or gardens, and will take precautions around crop fields.

If you have bee hives, organic gardens/crops, or vineyards, etc., and prefer no spraying on your property, please let us know. Also, if you wish to be placed on a national registry used by pesticide/herbicide applicators, you may register at the following registration sites: www.driftwatch.org or www.fieldwatch.com.

May is Military Appreciation Month

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veterans experience in the military. Veterans are trustworthy and goal oriented, wanting to do right for their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at Twin Valley Electric, we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, cooperatives demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

Nationally, electric co-ops support the “Vets Power Us” program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

This month I hope you’ll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!



STORM SAFETY KIT

Severe weather can strike at any time, causing destruction and power outages. To keep your family safe, have an emergency kit on hand and an evacuation plan in place.

A Safe, Happy House

4 Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home



DON'T overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.



DO ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



DON'T place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



DO keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Protect Your Community: Prevent Grass and Brush Fires

Grass and brush are excellent fuels for fire, making fires involving ground cover and foliage extremely dangerous and destructive. Grass and brush fires, which are often referred to or generalized as wildfires in the U.S., can travel up to 15.5 miles per hour and can spread to tens of thousands of acres within a few hours of ignition. In North America, the peak season for grass and brush fires is between June and August, but they can occur year-round. While they are most common in areas experiencing prolonged drought, grass and brush fires can occur anywhere weather conditions are dry and winds are high.

Grass and brush fires can occur naturally when lightning strikes the ground or when high winds bring down power lines, both of which can cause a spark and ignite a fire. However, 85% of wildfires are caused by humans burning debris, using hot equipment on grass, improperly discarding cigarettes, leaving campfires unattended or intentionally setting a fire.

To keep your family safe from grass and brush fires, follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Be aware of any Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches issued by the National Weather Service.
- ▶ Never build a campfire, shoot fireworks, burn debris, use a barbecue pit or initiate a controlled burn when warnings are in effect. Before engaging in any of these activities, check local ordinances.
- ▶ If engaging in these activities, never leave the area unattended and keep a shovel, bucket of water, fire extinguisher or other fire suppression tools on hand.
- ▶ If you see a downed power line or other damaged electrical equipment, notify Twin Valley Electric Cooperative at 866-784-5500 immediately. Never approach a downed power line or try to move one; stay at least 50 feet away from the area and warn others to do the same.
- ▶ Do not park cars, trucks, boats or recreational vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Always keep vehicles properly maintained to avoid sparking and overheating.
- ▶ Use an approved spark arrester on all internal combustion engine-powered equipment on your property, such as lawn mowers, chain saws, tractors and trimmers. Check and replace spark arresters periodically.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

GRASS AND BRUSH FIRES

can travel up to **15.5 MILES PER HOUR** and can spread to tens of thousands of acres within a few hours of ignition.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

