



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Road, 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.

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### STAFF

**Angie Erickson**  
CEO

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## CONTACT US

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## SunPowered Student Challenge

For the second consecutive year, Twin Valley Electric sponsored local student participation in the SunPowered Student Challenge. The Solar Grizzlies, a team from Labette County High School, was one of nine teams sponsored by various electric cooperatives in Kansas.

The challenge is centered around a residential, rooftop solar installation. The students started preparing for the competition months prior to the April competition held at Wichita State University. Once in Wichita, the teams used their knowledge gained through their preparation to show off their technical expertise, and also demonstrated creativity, collaboration and professionalism.

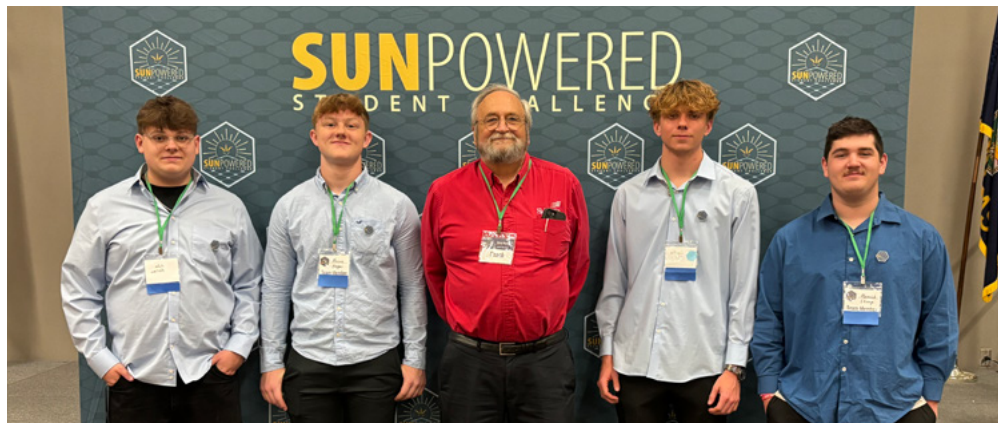
The competition consisted of several categories including: prebuild, skills, presentations, curb appeal, team brand, collaborative and logbook.

The Solar Grizzlies placed second in both the skills and the presentations categories, and finished the competition fourth overall.

Twin Valley is proud to help facilitate this learning opportunity that focuses on science, technology, math and data analytics.



Twin Valley was proud to sponsor the Labette County High School Solar Grizzlies. Team members were: Aiden Martinez, Mason Hoppes, Instructor/Coach Marty Warren, Layton Vail and Maverick Sharp.



# Who Owns What?

## Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Twin Valley Electric is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Twin Valley Electric is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your meter, including utility poles, distribution power lines and transformers.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative

members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before Twin Valley Electric crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride

in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Twin Valley Electric regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these cases, please call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

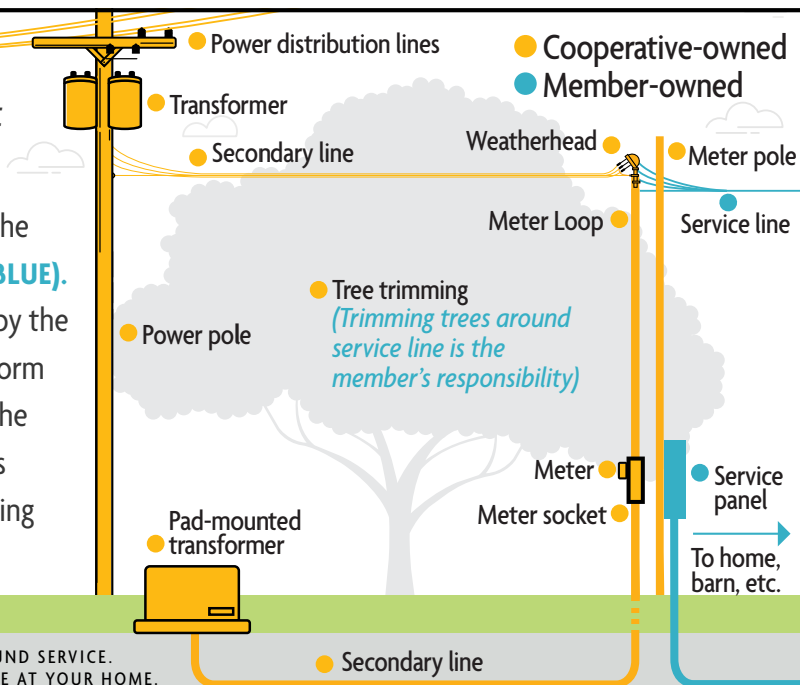
If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact Twin Valley Electric at 866-784-5500.

## Who Owns What?

### Electric Cooperative-Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the **CO-OP (IN YELLOW)** and the **MEMBER (IN BLUE)**. If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

NOTE: THIS GRAPHIC DEPICTS OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND SERVICE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF WHICH TYPE OF SERVICE YOU RECEIVE AT YOUR HOME.



# Recent Review of EPA Rules Signals Reliability Wins

Electric cooperatives are applauding a recent series of actions announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These actions would alleviate reliability and cost challenges for electric co-ops across the U.S.

The EPA said it will review and reconsider the Biden administration's power plant greenhouse gas rule. The agency also plans to reconsider other rules hindering America's energy dominance, including the mercury and air rule, ozone transport rule, and power plant wastewater rule. The agency will also address a number of fundamental problems with the coal ash program and take other actions to unleash American energy while protecting the environment.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents electric cooperatives in D.C., flagged concerns with these rules in a letter to EPA Administrator Lee

Zeldin in January. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson met with Zeldin at EPA's headquarters to discuss these issues. The letter served as a policy road map recommending ways the EPA could address harmful regulations for electric co-ops while ensuring reliable and affordable power and promoting a healthy environment.

The recent EPA announcements are another critical step that puts our nation on a path toward a more reliable and resilient electric grid — and not a moment too soon. The demand for electricity is skyrocketing, yet unrealistic public policy decisions are forcing always-available generation resources to retire faster than they can be reliably replaced.

Electric cooperatives appreciate the EPA's recent actions that could bolster American energy dominance with sound policies that protect our environment — without leaving American families in the dark.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

SOURCE: [WWW.ENERGY.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGY.GOV)

## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Always be cautious of unsolicited calls (or in-person visits) to your home from companies claiming to conduct energy audits. These are typically telemarketing firms that claim to be a third-party company or pose as a representative from your electric utility to gain access to homes and sell services with the promise of government rebates. Many electric utilities provide energy audit services, but they are typically scheduled at the customer's request.

SOURCE: [BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU](http://BETTERBUSINESSBUREAU)





## FREE AND EASY Ways to Save Energy

Here are **10** easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer.

- 1** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day.



- 2** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher.



- 3** Take cooler showers (this is better in the summer anyway!)



- 4** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of an oven.



- 5** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors.



- 6** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage).



- 7** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them).



- 8** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weatherstripping if needed).



- 9** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house.



- 10** Shut the front door (don't air-condition the outdoors).



# How to Save Energy in Your Home Office

Are you looking to lower your energy bills while creating a more efficient workspace? These simple tips can help you power up your home office — without powering up your utility bill.

## BRIGHT IDEAS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING

- ▶ Replace old bulbs with energy-saving LEDs to reduce energy use.
- ▶ Use task lighting to brighten only the areas you need.
- ▶ Install dimmers, motion sensors, or occupancy sensors to automatically control lighting.
- ▶ Turn off lights when leaving a room and keep them off during the day when the sun is shining.

## CUTTING ENERGY WASTE WITH SMART MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Unplug devices like phone chargers, fans, coffee makers and desktop printers when not in use — they continue to draw power.
- ▶ Use a power strip to control multiple devices and reduce standby energy loss, which accounts for up to 10% of energy waste.
- ▶ Turn off your monitor if you're stepping away for more than 10 minutes. For longer breaks, set equipment, such as computers, printers and scanners, to sleep mode or power down completely.

Making a few simple changes can boost your home office's efficiency, comfort and cost savings. A smarter space starts with smarter energy use.

- ▶ Plug accessories into your computer's USB ports instead of wall outlets so they power down when your computer does.

## CHOOSE ENERGY-SAVING TECH

- ▶ Consider a laptop, which uses about one-third the energy of a typical desktop.
- ▶ Look for the Energy Star label on computers, monitors and printers. Energy Star-rated appliances use 30-65% less energy than those that aren't certified.

## OPTIMIZE YOUR OFFICE CLIMATE

- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat to efficiently control heating and cooling.
- ▶ Keep windows closed when heating or air conditioning is on.
- ▶ Replace HVAC air filters regularly to maintain system efficiency.

Making a few simple changes can boost your home office's efficiency, comfort and cost savings. A smarter space starts with smarter energy use.

## KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

Fireworks stress out pets. Help keep them calm and safe this Fourth of July:

- ▶ Never leave them unattended outside. Keep them indoors in a quiet space.
- ▶ Play soft music or white noise.
- ▶ Make sure ID tags and microchips are up to date.

