

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ron Oliver
President

Michael Johnson
Vice President

Linda Tomlinson
Secretary-Treasurer

Wes McKinney
Trustee

Chad McMillin
Trustee

Don Nighswonger
Trustee

Keith Randall
Trustee

Vanessa Reeve
Trustee

CJ Skinner
Trustee

LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Bradley Rachow
- ▶ Artemio Olivas
- ▶ Peter Peters
- ▶ Simon Robert Olvera
- ▶ Donald Sawyers
- ▶ Kent Sanders

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

YOU HAVE A VOICE AT YOUR

CO-OP

79th Annual Meeting

The 2025 CMS Annual Meeting of the Members will be on Thursday, May 1, at the Meade County Fairgrounds in Meade, Kansas. There will be a delicious meal catered by John Ross for all cooperative members and their immediate family starting at 5:30 p.m.

The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Business will include reports on cooperative activities and the election of trustees. Valuable prizes and many Energy Credit Certificates will be given away at the conclusion of the meeting. You must be present at the drawings to win.

Please don't miss your annual meeting. Your participation is important!

**JOIN US MAY 1
MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.
MEADE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time. **SOURCE: NRECA**



TOP 10

Reasons We Appreciate Lineworkers

1. They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
2. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
3. They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
4. They conquer heights without hesitation.
5. They prioritize safety every second of every day.
6. They answer the call — day or night — to restore power.
7. They work in extreme weather conditions.
8. They go when and where they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
9. They have each other's backs and work together like family.
10. They power our lives and energize our communities!



Lineworkers Are Wired for Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

CMS crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their

unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

CMS lineworkers also answer the call for mutual aid beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

CMS would like to thank our lineman past, current and future for their service to our communities.

- ▶ Andy Alexander
- ▶ Blaise Saucedo
- ▶ Jared Weber
- ▶ Clint Monroe
- ▶ Erubel Duron
- ▶ Joe Ceballos
- ▶ Ethan Fast
- ▶ Dylan Bolton
- ▶ Mike Gillen
- ▶ Justin Ellis
- ▶ Shane Kitson
- ▶ Logan Adams
- ▶ Kevin Wiens
- ▶ Gabe Shireman



The Growing Demand on the Power Grid and What We Can Do About It

An Earth Day call to action

With Earth Day around the corner, it's time to reflect on the systems that sustain us. This includes the power grid that keeps our homes comfortable and our modern world running. As climate patterns shift and extreme weather events increase, the grid faces new pressures to meet our growing energy demands. From heatwaves to hurricanes, today's changing conditions test the limits of an infrastructure first built in the late 1800s.

The first power grid, developed in 1882 in New York City, laid the foundation for the modern grid that powers our world. The systems we depend on today were built for past and current weather conditions. However, these conditions are changing. Extreme weather is now the No. 1 cause of blackouts in the U.S., accounting for 80% of major power outages.

HOW DOES EXTREME WEATHER IMPACT THE GRID?

Regions across the U.S. face extreme weather that strains infrastructure not built for extreme conditions. In Texas, limited winterization led to power outages and frozen pipes during the 2021 winter storm, often referred to as Winter Storm Uri. The Pacific Northwest's record heat dome in 2021 increased electricity demand to record highs, causing grid equipment to overheat. In California, utilities routinely implement public safety shutoffs during dry, windy conditions to prevent wildfires.

Extreme weather impacts the grid in several ways. Sometimes, power is still being produced, but it can't reach homes because power lines are down or damaged by fallen trees and debris during storms. During hurricanes or heavy rainstorms, substations — facilities that control and distribute

electricity — can flood, causing widespread outages. Other times, when demand spikes during heatwaves or winter storms, the grid can become overwhelmed, leading to rolling blackouts or outages as supply struggles to meet increased energy demands.

WHAT IS CAUSING THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY?

While extreme weather is one source of growing energy demand, development and technology are increasing the demand for energy. This demand is projected to rise 15-20% in the U.S. over the next decade, according to the Department of Energy.

Significant factors impacting this growth are the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its expanding data centers, cloud storage, communication tools and much more.

The grid faces two significant opportunities for growth: adapting to extreme weather conditions and meeting the rising energy demand. The energy industry is working tirelessly to ensure the power grid meets these ever-growing challenges and provides a more resilient and sustainable energy system that supports affordability and reliability.

Utility companies, government agencies, regulators and other stakeholders are working to increase grid resilience. Efforts include raising substations that are vulnerable to flooding, deploying battery storage to supplement the grid, expanding renewable energy sources, and connecting regional grids to improve overall stability.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

While the challenges facing the power grid are significant, there are steps we

can all take to reduce strain and contribute to a more reliable energy system.

- ▶ Simple actions like running high-energy appliances during off-peak hours can ease pressure on the grid, especially peak demand times.
- ▶ Conducting a home energy audit can identify ways to improve your home's efficiency, reducing both your energy consumption and utility bills.
- ▶ Many utilities offer incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Contacting your provider could open the door to helpful resources and savings.
- ▶ Investing in battery storage can provide peace of mind by allowing you to store energy when demand is low to use during peak times. Most importantly, it can be used during power outages. This can help ensure you have electricity when the grid is most vulnerable.

REFLECTING ON EARTH DAY

Earth Day reminds us of the essential systems that sustain us, including the power grid that powers our homes and businesses. By recognizing challenges like extreme weather, increasing energy demand and aging infrastructure, we can take action to make the power grid more sustainable. Every action, from reducing energy consumption to supporting new technologies, contributes to a more resilient future.





SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are several ways to save energy during spring months?

Read the energy-saving tips below to learn more, then find the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.

E	S	W	Z	S	V	M	P	A	S	M	M	E	Z	R
Y	C	T	Z	I	T	I	B	S	R	D	N	O	L	A
F	K	J	H	Y	N	X	S	U	E	X	U	N	P	I
P	R	K	N	G	R	E	N	F	G	Q	L	J	T	Z
G	Z	I	K	D	I	M	P	E	R	E	X	W	A	S
Q	L	X	L	F	Y	L	P	I	A	Z	Q	C	E	D
F	V	Z	N	X	S	F	D	G	H	U	Z	E	G	X
E	N	E	R	G	Y	M	I	E	C	K	R	N	F	G
B	H	V	J	E	O	F	E	I	L	T	I	C	Q	S
K	P	T	Q	J	J	C	D	L	E	H	G	C	V	I
Q	Z	N	N	C	S	V	Q	D	D	W	P	N	E	M
T	P	T	T	V	L	I	A	U	P	W	X	P	I	F
L	D	R	O	J	A	H	H	I	Q	B	F	F	U	F
C	T	G	B	G	S	P	P	T	G	I	W	K	M	Y
S	W	O	D	N	I	W	R	S	K	M	W	Y	U	K

- ▶ Use **LED lights** around your home. LEDs use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs.
- ▶ Plant **shade trees** around your home to block unwanted heat from the sun.
- ▶ Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy when they're not in use, like phone **chargers**.
- ▶ Seal air leaks around exterior doors and **windows** to save energy and keep your home comfortable.
- ▶ Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. To save **energy**, turn them off when you leave the room.