



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ John Lebosquet
- ▶ Meghan Mast
- ▶ Nathan Jackson
- ▶ Zane Kay
- ▶ David Hubbard
- ▶ Winter Jackson

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Use Energy Wisely

We hear a lot about peak energy demand, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to the need to heat and cool indoor spaces.

Although it depends on where you live, summertime energy demand increases when outdoor temperatures soar. In Kansas, peak demand is generally on weekdays between 3-7 p.m., when most individuals are returning home, cooking dinner and preparing for evening activities. In the winter, there are two high-use times of day: early morning and late afternoon/evening. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off peak.

Changing the time of day you use energy can help lower your energy bills and avoid interruptions or service glitches that can occur during peak

demand times. To do this, consider running major appliances during off-peak times; smart devices or appliances that have delay starts can help achieve this goal.

Do your part to use energy wisely when temperatures are high. In the summer months, help decrease demand by doing the following:

- ▶ Turn your thermostat temperature up by 2 degrees or more and program your thermostat to a higher temperature when no one is home.
- ▶ If you do not have one, consider purchasing a smart thermostat.
- ▶ Make sure your HVAC system is in good working order. Remember to keep your unit and the area around it clean and clear.
- ▶ Use bathroom and kitchen fans temporarily to remove heat and humidity. Remember: Fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off before you leave the room.

Continued on page 12C ▶



HAPPY
★
4TH OF JULY
★★★
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for the holiday and will reopen Wednesday, July 5.

Get Smart About Home Lighting

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart lightbulbs use LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart lightbulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green — whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white lightbulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart lightbulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart lightbulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart lightbulbs. If you want to control your smart lightbulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches



Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa.

that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart lightbulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart lightbulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart lightbulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!

SAFETY TIP

Plug appliances directly into wall sockets instead of power strips. Make sure outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter protection.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. (Check out Page 20 in the magazine for no bake recipes this month.) **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Use Energy Wisely *Continued from page 12A* ▶

- ▶ Use your countertop toaster, air fryer and/or convection oven instead of your oven. Even better, keep the heat outside by cooking food on the grill.
- ▶ Use major appliances in the early morning or late evening. Delay turning on your dishwasher or clothes washer until you're heading to bed.
- ▶ Program smart devices to run appliances at off-peak times.
- ▶ Close window coverings during the hottest part of the day.
- ▶ Use minimal lighting and try using LED lighting instead of traditional incandescent bulbs.
- ▶ Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- ▶ Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers.

Making small changes to conserve energy can help even out energy use, save money on your utility bill and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

Be on the

LOOKOUT

We will be starting remote disconnects in August. Please watch our Facebook page and website www.cmselectric.com for more information.



2023 SCHOLARSHIP Winners

District 1

KACEN ANTHONY, Satanta, graduated from Satanta High School. He is the son of Kelly and Teresa Anthony. Kacen plans to attend Wayland Baptist University to study physical education with an emphasis in coaching and minor in business.

ERYN APSLEY, Liberal, graduated from Liberal High School. She is the daughter of Travis and Donna Apsley. Eryn plans to attend Hutchinson Community College to study computer drafting technology.



KACEN ANTHONY
Satanta High School



ERYN APSLEY
Liberal High School

District 2

MADISON DENISON, Minneola, graduated from Minneola High School. She is the daughter of Marty and Jennifer Denison. Madison plans to attend Hutchinson Community College to study agriculture.

GRAYDEN STAPLETON, Meade, graduated from Meade High School. He is the son of Ryan and Kristen Stapleton. Grayden plans to attend Barton Community College followed by Kansas State University to study agronomy business.



MADISON DENISON
Minneola High School

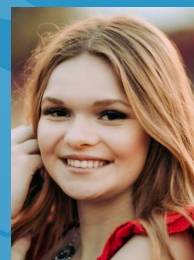


GRAYDEN STAPLETON
Meade High School

District 3

TORY MARIS, Protection, graduated from South Central High School. She is the daughter of Clint and Chelsie Monroe. Tory plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study radiology and ultrasound technology.

KARLEY MOORE, Coldwater, graduated from South Central High School. She is the daughter of Merlin and Heather Moore. Karley plans to attend Kansas State University in an undecided course of study.



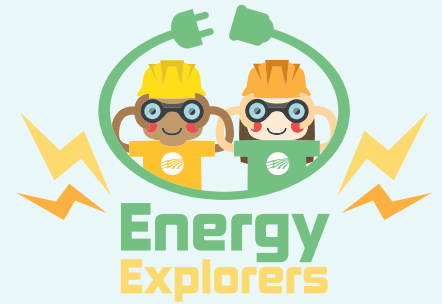
TORY MARIS
Ashland High School



KARLEY MOORE
South Central High School

HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK WORD SEARCH

Did you know energy from the sun can be used to create electricity? Read the following information about how solar panels work, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



- ▶ Solar panels contain **photovoltaic** cells that convert sunlight into electricity.
- ▶ **Sunlight** hits the **solar** panels and generates a direct current.
- ▶ The direct **current** flows to an inverter, which converts it to an alternating current. (This is the kind of electricity we use in our homes.)
- ▶ The alternating current flows from the **inverter** to the home's breaker box, where it's used to **power** appliances and electrical devices in your home.
- ▶ If the solar **panels** generate more **electricity** than the home needs, the unused electricity is sent back to the power lines.

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