



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box 790, 509 E. Carthage, Meade, KS 67864
 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353
 www.cmselectric.com

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
- R. Gary Warden**
Trustee

Trustee Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee's terms will expire in 2023 and their positions are open for election.

▶ District 1, Position C

GARY WARDEN

▶ District 2, Position C

LINDA TOMLINSON

▶ District 3, Position C

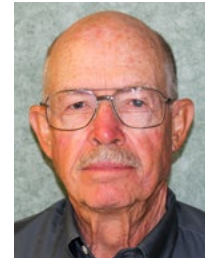
KEITH RANDALL



Gary Warden



Linda Tomlinson



Keith Randall

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent.

Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. Completed petitions are due to the CMS office by April 4, 2023.

If you need additional information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353.

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Tom Burtzloff
- ▶ Ronald Clifton
- ▶ Laural Ediger
- ▶ Lance Feikert
- ▶ Steven Cobb
- ▶ Clark Cronin

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. 77th Annual Meeting of the Members will be on Thursday, May 4, at South Central Elementary/Middle School in Protection, Kansas.



Look for more information next month!

TO THE MEMBERS OF CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Notice of Special Open Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. will meet on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the cooperative's offices located at 509 E. Carthage, Meade, Kansas, to discuss and vote upon changes to the Rules and Regulations.

The proposal is to add a section on planned or prescribed burns affecting property of the cooperative, update the fees section, define procedures for remote meter connections and disconnections, and

update delinquent notice forms. The proposed Rules and Regulations are available at www.cmselectric.com under About Us.

This meeting is open to any CMS member that wishes to attend. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any Rules and Regulations change. Any member with questions may contact CMS Electric Cooperative during business hours at 620-873-2184.

Keep Your Information UP TO DATE



Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date.

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

We appreciate your help in gathering this information.

Get Your Home Ready for Spring

After months spent largely indoors while harsh elements battered your home's exterior, many homeowners are throwing open the windows and embracing spring's arrival. This checklist can help you create a comfortable home setting for enjoying the warmer months.

CHECK GUTTERS. During the colder months, debris can accumulate in the gutters, which can be problematic when spring rains arrive. Clogged gutters prevent water from flowing efficiently away from the roof and house causing water damage in a short amount of time. Faulty guttering can also cause slow leaks that lead to damage you may not discover until major repair work is needed. Properly functioning gutters are clear of debris, flow freely and are securely attached to the home.

INSPECT THE ROOF. Making it a common practice to carefully inspect the roof with the change of seasons can help you identify potential problems while they're still in early stages, before a big storm hits and major damage occurs. Some roof issues can be addressed with simple repairs you can do yourself while others may require a professional. A roofing expert can help you determine whether any trouble areas can be patched or if a more complete restoration is in order.

REPLACE THE DRYER VENT. Upgrading your dryer vent conserves energy and prevents flammable lint build-up in your dryer. One option for updating the

exhaust system is a paintable version of InoVate's Prime DryerWallVent. Engineered for both vent replacement and new construction, the vent includes features such as a gravity-assist damper, integrated magnets and a drip edge to provide extra protection from the elements as well as pests. A large, clean opening and lightweight angled damper promote exceptional airflow efficiency.

SERVICE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS. Your heating and cooling system works hard to keep your indoor climate comfortable when extreme temperatures make the outdoors unbearable. That's why it's important to have your systems serviced by a professional, and spring is a smart time to do so before they're hard at work throughout the warmer months. Service can correct problems and ensure everything is operating efficiently, which can lead to money savings as well.

REPAIR WINDOW SCREENS. Throughout the winter, your home's window screens can accumulate a layer of dirt and grime that isn't just unsightly; it blows indoors when you open the windows to welcome a fresh breeze. What's more, if your screens have rips and tears, pesky bugs and other critters can make their way into your home more easily. Cleaning and repairing your screens can make your home more secure and help protect your indoor air quality.



Apps to Help You Save Energy

There are a number of reasons why people are interested in cutting back on energy consumption — some are primarily motivated to save on their monthly energy bills while others may be more concerned about reducing their personal carbon footprint.

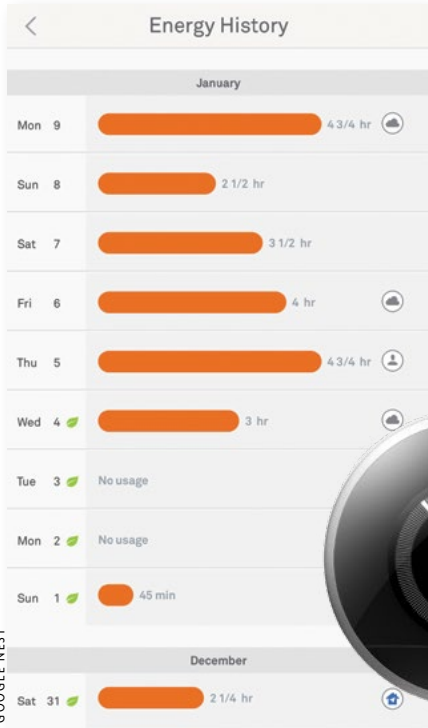
Actively practicing energy efficiency and conservation provides multiple benefits. For parents, being more conscious about energy use can be used as a tool to teach children about sustainable habits for the future; conserving energy also means fewer carbon emissions, which results in better air quality and a healthier environment; and we can all agree that saving money on our monthly utility bills is a great reason to monitor home energy use.

Regardless of why you're interested in using less energy, there are several smart phone apps that can help you do just that. Here are a few apps that can help you achieve meaningful energy savings:

Smart Thermostat Apps

Heating and cooling make up a large portion of the average home's energy consumption (and cost!), so saving on heating and cooling can make a big impact on bills. Smart thermostats and their accompanying apps are handy and promote energy-efficient behavior — and these devices have become much more affordable over the years. You can purchase an Energy

Star®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, or about \$50 per year. The device will quickly pay for



A smart thermostat paired with a smart phone app can help you manage energy used to heat or cool your home, which can help you save energy and money. The app screen shown above can break down user history for better analysis.

Whether you use an app or not, saving energy is always a smart idea that can help you save money on your monthly bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home. Plus, the ability to control the thermostat from anywhere can equate to real savings. We recommend trusted brands and devices, like Google's Nest Learning Thermostat and Ecobee's Smart Thermostat.

Energy Cost Calculators

If you're wanting to reduce energy use at home, it's important to know where your consumption is going. Energy cost calculators can help pinpoint your energy use with a few simple steps and identify areas to save. The concept is pretty simple; just plug in the wattage of your various appliances and how often you use them to see which are using the most energy. Most energy cost calculator apps are free and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android device. Be sure to read app reviews and download the one that best aligns with your energy efficiency goals.

Joulebug App

If you're competitive and enjoy gamifying — the JouleBug app is right up your alley. JouleBug makes energy conservation simple and fun through personal tasks and badges earned within the app, group challenges you can tackle with friends, and communities you can join to learn about local sustainability efforts. The JouleBug app is free and can be downloaded to Apple or Android devices, and it's an easy tool to make saving energy fun.

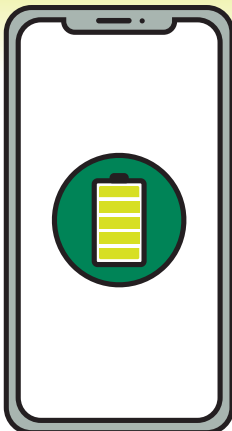
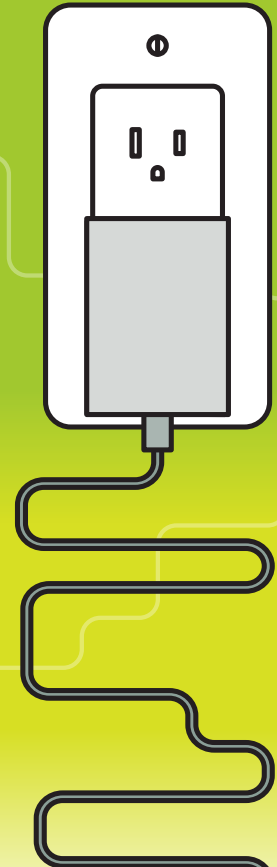
These are just a few apps that can help you find new ways to save energy. Smart lightbulbs are typically paired with apps for convenient control of home lighting; smart plugs also come with apps to help you control how you power everyday devices and electronics.

Whether you use an app or not, saving energy is always a smart idea that can help you save money on your monthly bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



- ▶ Use a **power strip** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- ▶ For devices that require **batteries**, use **rechargeable** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- ▶ **Unplug** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **phone chargers**.
- ▶ Use the sleep or **power management** mode on your **computer** to save on energy costs.

