



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

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Wilhelm Krahn
- ▶ Bertha Lopez
- ▶ Jim Keltner
- ▶ Alyson Lumry
- ▶ Gayla Redger
- ▶ Ron Sawyers

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Enter to Win a Willie Wiredhand Holiday Ornament

The 2021 Willie Wiredhand Commemorative Holiday Ornaments have arrived! CMS will hold a drawing for **FIVE ORNAMENTS**.

To be eligible for the drawing, please complete and return the entry form to the CMS office in Meade, either in person or mail to:

CMS Electric Cooperative Inc.
P.O. Box 790
Meade, KS 67864

Entries must be received by **5 P.M. ON DEC. 20, 2021**. Winners will receive the ornament in the mail.

Willie Wiredhand Ornament Drawing

Clip and return to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864, by 5 p.m. on Dec. 20, 2021.



Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email



Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 25, and
Friday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.

*We hope you have a safe
and happy holiday.*

Cold Weather Rule

Effective Nov. 15 to March 1

CMS Electric Cooperative shall not disconnect a member's residential service between Nov. 15 and March 1 when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 32 degrees in the 24-hour period following the time of disconnection.

It will be the responsibility of the cooperative during the cold weather period to send one written notice to the member. The member will receive a second written notice 24-hours prior to any scheduled disconnect at their address or at their meter location that they are to be disconnected. The member can avoid disconnection by bringing the member's electric bill current prior to the scheduled disconnect time.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

For more information concerning bill assistance, please contact CMS Electric at 800-794-2353.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Your CMS Payment Options

CMS Electric has six convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. We realize one method of payment does not fit every members' needs, so we have several payment options available for your convenience. All our payment options are free.



Auto Payment/Bank Draft

Members have the option to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. Sign-up is available through our online bill pay system or through the office. Auto payments are drawn automatically each month on the due date of the bill. A form is also available on our website cmselectric.com.



SmartHub/Online Bill Pay

Online bill pay is also available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Click the "Pay Online" button on the left side of CMS Electric's website or follow cmselectric.smarthub.coop/login.html. Members can also download the "Smart Hub" app from the Apple or Android marketplaces on any mobile device.



CMS Electric Offices

You may pay by check, cash or credit/debit card at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Our offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for select holidays.



Night Deposit Boxes

There are night deposit boxes located at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Payments dropped off after 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, will be posted the next business day. Please pay inside to avoid broken payment arrangements or disconnection.



Mail*

CMS Electric's monthly bill comes with a return envelope to mail your check back to us at P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864 or P.O. Box 738, Coldwater, KS 67029

**Please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payments must be received in our office on or prior to due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*



IVR

CMS Electric has an automated pay-by-phone option. Members can use a check or credit/debit card by calling 888-395-5281.



Watt' to Know about Appliance Electricity Use

Become 'watt' savvy before purchasing appliances, using generator

Determining how much electricity your appliances and home electronics use can help you understand how much money you are spending to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and one watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second.

The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while the power use of larger devices is measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use. Becoming watt savvy is also helpful if you are considering purchasing a generator.

There are several ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and home electronics use.

See the Data Plate

Appliances usually have data plates located on the back or inside the door. They tell you how many amps, watts

and volts are needed to power the appliance. If your appliance does not list watts for some reason but does list the number of volts and amps, you can multiply volts times amps to get the number of necessary watts.

Review the EnergyGuide Label

The EnergyGuide label, a yellow-colored sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and cost to operate the specific model of the appliance you are considering. The FTC requires the label, and the dollar amount is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Use a Monitor or Meter

Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts. To put it to work, just plug the monitor into the electrical outlet and then plug the device into the monitor. The monitor will display how many watts

the device uses. If you want to know how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a device uses over a length of time, just leave everything set up and read the display later. Some monitors even allow you to plug in your utility's cost per kWh rate to determine how much that specific appliance costs you over a certain length of time.

Install a Whole-House System

Whole-house energy monitoring systems provide more detailed data on your home's energy use (as well as the ability to measure the energy use of 240-volt appliances). The features of these systems vary, and the cost and complexity depend on the number of circuits you want to monitor, how detailed the feedback is and the type of features available. The monitors are often installed directly into the main breaker panel of the home, and some require an electrician to install. Some monitors must be connected to your home's wireless network, with data being viewed on a computer or smartphone, while others come with a dedicated display. In addition to providing information on the energy consumption of your appliances, this type of monitoring system helps you understand where and when you use the most energy, allowing you to develop strategies to reduce your energy use and costs.

Rural communities depend on co-op voters.

- ✓ Learn about the issues.
- ✓ Talk to your family and friends.
- ✓ Cast your vote.

Election Day is Nov. 2, 2021

Be an active participant in our democracy.
Be a co-op voter. | www.vote.coop

★★★★★
VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Thank you to all of our veterans
for their sacrifice.



Is Your Home's Envelope Well Sealed?

Energy audits can save you money

When we think of the word “envelope,” we think of the outer covering our mail comes in or we might push the envelope when attempting something radical or risky.

The term also refers to your home's outer walls, windows, doors and other openings. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can reduce your energy use — and, in turn, your utility bills. According to EnergyStar.gov, a whopping 9 out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated. Homeowners can save an average of 15% on heating and cooling costs (or an average of 11% on total energy costs) by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors, crawl spaces and basements.

To determine if your home's envelope is in good shape, CMS Electric and Safe Electricity recommend having a home audit conducted to pinpoint the leaks that allow energy to escape your home — air-conditioned air in the summer and heated air in the winter. A qualified energy auditor will include an insulation check as part of a whole-house energy assessment and will identify areas of your home that need air sealing or insulation repairs. To help you create a more energy-efficient home, CMS Electric offers home energy audits. Contact us 800-794-2353 for more information.

DIY Home Energy Audit

If you would like to complete your own audit, find out the following:

- ▶ The type of insulation in your home.
- ▶ The R-value (rate of thermal resistance) of your insulation. Typically, the higher the R-value, the more effective it is at insulating. Depending on where you live, you do not necessarily need the highest value; it depends on your local climate.
- ▶ The thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation you have.

In a newer home, the builder can help identify the type of insulation used and where it is located. In an older home, you will need to perform the inspection yourself. To complete a DIY energy assessment, you will need to check the following items.

In the Attic

- ▶ A general rule of thumb when inspecting the attic insulation is that if the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.
- ▶ If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough, and adding more insulation may not be cost-effective.
- ▶ Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots; be sure to check throughout the attic to determine if there are any thin spots.
- ▶ Make sure the insulation in your attic has the appropriate R-value for where you live. Check the value printed on your existing insulation. If you cannot find the value, measure the depth of the insulation in inches. Multiply the depth by the insulation type. Then check EnergyStar.gov's recommended R-values. If your calculated value is less than the recommended levels for your region, you should consider adding more insulation to your attic. Insulation types include:
 - ▶ 3.2 for fiberglass batting,
 - ▶ 2.5 for loose fiberglass,
 - ▶ 2.8 for rock wool and
 - ▶ 3.7 for cellulose.

Behind the Walls

- ▶ Turn off the power to the outlet before beginning this check. Then use a voltmeter or voltage tester to confirm there is no power at the socket before beginning work.
- ▶ Remove the outlet cover and shine a flashlight into the crack around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
- ▶ Pull out a small amount of insulation if needed to help determine the type of insulation.
- ▶ Check outlets on all floors, as well as old and new parts of your home. Just because you find insulation in one wall does not mean it is uniform throughout your home.



Share your holiday and winter photos with Kansas Country Living by emailing photos@kansascountryliving.com.

Submit your photo **BY NOV. 10 AT 5 P.M.** and, if your photo is published in the December issue, you will receive a From the Land of Kansas holiday gift box. Include the photographer's name, name of subjects (if you want them identified), name of your electric co-op, and where in Kansas the photo was taken. (Photos must be at least 300 pixels per inch)