



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

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Marla Marshall
CFO

Tracy Turner
Operations Manager

Derrick Rutherford
Communications Manager

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Open over the lunch hour

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN
WALMART SUPERCENTER**
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

OUTAGE INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

FIND OUT MORE

facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative
 @DSOElectricCoop

FROM THE CFO

Setting Rates BY MARLA MARSHALL, CFO

One of the toughest responsibilities of your board is setting rates. The directors are tasked with determining a fair and reasonable approach that promotes efficiency while maintaining enough revenue to meet the cooperative's needs. It's a big job and a balancing act! Setting rates follows this three-step process:

1 REVENUE REQUIREMENT — DSO is a distribution cooperative, which means that it buys electricity wholesale and distributes it to you, the member. The cost of wholesale power purchased is about 50% of the total cost to serve you. The other 50% is made up of labor, materials, trucks and fuel, interest and taxes. DSO needs enough revenue to cover all those expenses and to generate the cash needed to cover principal and capital credit payments. The 2024 budget shows the total revenue required is just under \$23 million.

2 COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY — The cost-of-service study (COSS) works to identify the costs to serve each class (or type) of service. The COSS takes all the costs into consideration and then allocates those

costs to each rate class. Some costs will be the same across rate classes, but others will vary. It is easy to see how a large industrial plant takes more distribution equipment to get the energy it needs than does a residence. Other matters, such as when power is used (time of use), or how often/regularly the power is used (load factor), are also taken into consideration. Another important factor is how much power is needed at the time of highest use (demand).

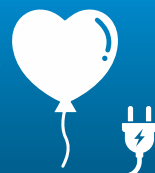
3 RATE DESIGN — Once the COSS is complete, a decision is made as to how to charge each rate class for its share of the costs. Rates are then set to ensure costs will be appropriately covered.

DSO recently conducted a COSS through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a third-party consulting/financial firm. We can happily report the COSS showed DSO is bringing in an appropriate amount of revenue!

The board is now considering the number and types of rates, electric vehicle charging rates, and various ancillary issues identified in the COSS.

SAFETY TIP

Did you know mylar balloons can damage the power grid and cause power outages? When balloons are released outside, they eventually fall back to earth and their remnants can cause harm to wildlife. To stay safe, consider alternatives to balloon releases and enjoy balloons indoors. SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM



How Severe Winter Weather Impacts Reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. We're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid.

DSO Electric takes proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts, and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family, and your neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- ▶ Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat and outdoor temperatures.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.
- ▶ Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply.

use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

- ▶ Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed. Experts recommend replacing your furnace filter at least every three months or every two months if you have pets or allergies.
- ▶ When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
- ▶ Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.
- ▶ **PRO TIP:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.

What is **Backfeed?**

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

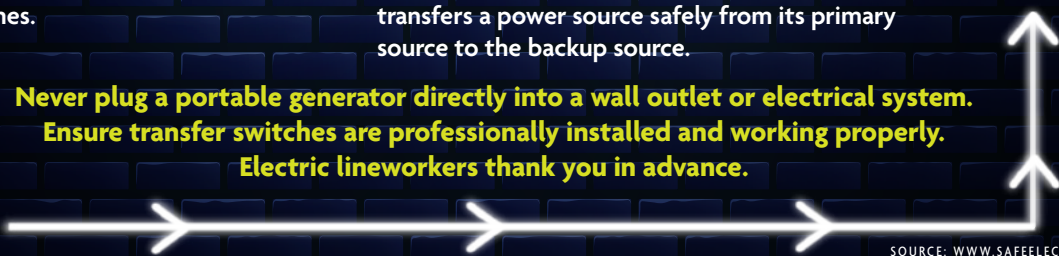
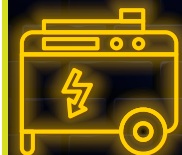
Backfeed is when power flows in reverse. An alternate power source, usually a portable or permanent generator, feeds energy back through a home's electrical system, meter and into the power lines.

Permanent generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician and have an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. A transfer switch transfers a power source safely from its primary source to the backup source.

Never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system.

Ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly.

Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRIC.ORG

LIEAP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps low-income persons meet their home energy costs by paying a portion of their energy utility. To apply go to www.dcf.ks.gov, select the Services tab, scroll down and click on Energy Assistance (LIEAP). Applications can also be obtained from the DCF, your local health department or DSO Electric.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. ON MARCH 29, 2024.

For further assistance, call 888-369-4777.

LIEAP REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ An adult household member must be personally responsible for purchasing home energy incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor.
- ▶ The household must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward the purchase of their energy. Payments may be a combination of payments for natural gas, electricity, propane and firewood. The total of the payments must be at least \$80.
- ▶ The household must meet citizenship or lawful residency requirements.
- ▶ The household must meet application requirements.

INCOME GUIDELINES	
PERSONS LIVING AT ADDRESS	MAX. GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$1,823
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,108
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,393
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,678
8	\$6,320
9	\$6,963
10	\$7,605
11	\$8,248
12	\$8,890
13	\$9,533
14	\$10,175
+1 \$643 for each additional person	

NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?
Call 211 or visit www.211.org

Horses Gallop and so Can Power Lines

Gallop power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to begin bouncing.

They can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

A power company can't prevent galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. However, some power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line to minimize the motion. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ▶ When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or call 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.

- ▶ Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the types of lines — stay away from all lines.
- ▶ Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- ▶ Deenergized lines can become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- ▶ Never drive over a downed line. Doing so could cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- ▶ If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and wait the utility crew deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- ▶ Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

How Do I Love Thee?

**LET ME COUNT THE WAYS,
I MEAN DOLLARS.**

According to the National Retail Association, more than half of U.S. consumers celebrate Valentine's Day.



It is the third largest spending holiday in America, behind Christmas and Halloween.



The average household spent \$192.80 in 2023.



Individuals spent \$25.9 billion in 2023 on gifts for the holiday.



Close to 67% expect their partners to get them something.



About 36% expect their sweetie to spend at least \$50.



Valentine's Day flower sales account for 30% of total annual flower sales.



Many people, especially millennials, buy gifts for their pets.

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GIVERS SPEND \$26B



Top Gifts

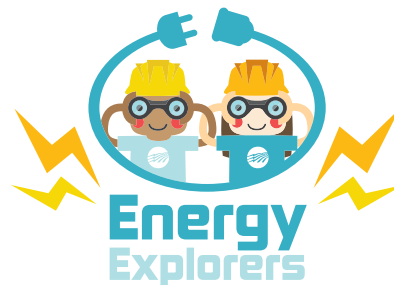


SOURCES: NRF, WALLETHUB, VESTED

WINTER Safety Word Search

Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **BOLD BLUE** words in the puzzle.



- ▶ Never overload electrical outlets with too many **ELECTRONICS**.
- ▶ Test smoke and carbon monoxide **ALARMS** every month.
- ▶ Never leave a **CANDLE** burning in an empty room.
- ▶ Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from a **SPACE HEATER**.
- ▶ **EXTENSION CORDS** should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.