



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# HEADLINER

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## OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

## 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

## Learning About Demand From *Green Acres*

*Green Acres* was such a fun show! There was even an episode about electricity that might help explain demand.

In that episode, Lisa plugs in too many appliances and the rickety generator blew up. Oliver goes on to instruct Lisa that each appliance was assigned a number and that she could plug in any number of appliances as long as the numbers assigned did not total more than seven. “You can’t plug in a two with a six,” he tells her. If you don’t remember or just want a good old-fashioned laugh, search for “Green Acres, Season 1, Episode 9” or scan the QR code to watch it.

Oliver’s instructions were all about electricity demand. All electrical devices use power at a certain rate. Think of the transformer on the pole as the equivalent of Lisa and Oliver’s generator, only it isn’t rickety! The transformer is sized for your service needs. If you decide to add heating to your garage workshop already equipped with a welder and other power tools, the transformer might not be big enough for everything!

Electric utilities, including DSO, must make sure there is power available when you need it. Demand for more



*Green Acres* mostly showed us how not to do things, but in Season 1, Episode 9 there’s an important lesson that helps explain demand. Check it out at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpPWIMiYVmw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpPWIMiYVmw).

power has increased steadily through the years. When demand is high, it can be tricky to make sure every electric utility has the power needed to serve its members. Generally, we see the highest demand in the summer, but it can happen in the winter, too. Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 is an example.

DSO asks all members to manage their demand from 3-6 p.m. during the summer months. Simply shifting a load of laundry from afternoon to morning helps. If it works for your schedule, consider DSO’s interruptible rate. DSO

*Continued on page 12C ▶*

Visit [www.dsoelectric.com](http://www.dsoelectric.com) for details on rate changes.

# STEER CLEAR OF OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND POWER LINES



- ▶ Look up and look out for overhead power lines.
- ▶ Keep a 20-foot minimum clearance between you or an object you are holding and a power line.
- ▶ Remember, power lines can be buried too. Call 811 or visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) before digging to get underground public utilities marked.

## BE MINDFUL OF POWER LINES WHEN COMPLETING THESE TASKS:

- ▶ **HOME MAINTENANCE** Cleaning gutters, being on the roof or using extended tools to wash windows or skim a pool.
- ▶ **YARD WORK** Trimming trees, carrying ladders and digging.
- ▶ **TRANSPORTING TALL OBJECTS** Ladders are not the only extended objects people use outdoors. Be careful anytime you are moving a tall object or tool.
- ▶ **CONTRACTED AND DIY PROJECTS** If you are planning any project that requires digging, ensure underground utilities are marked.

Look up and out for overhead power lines. **CONTACT CAN HAPPEN IN AN INSTANT.** If there is a damaged/downed power line or pad-mounted transformer (green box), do not go within 50 feet.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

## Do Not Overlook Overhead Power Lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 20 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

### HOME MAINTENANCE

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- ▶ Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- ▶ Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- ▶ Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

### YARDWORK

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 20 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- ▶ Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- ▶ Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

### FARMING

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

### AT WORK

- ▶ Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

### OTHER REMINDERS

- ▶ Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 911 to report it.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch. Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant.



# Learning About Demand From Green Acres Continued from page 12A

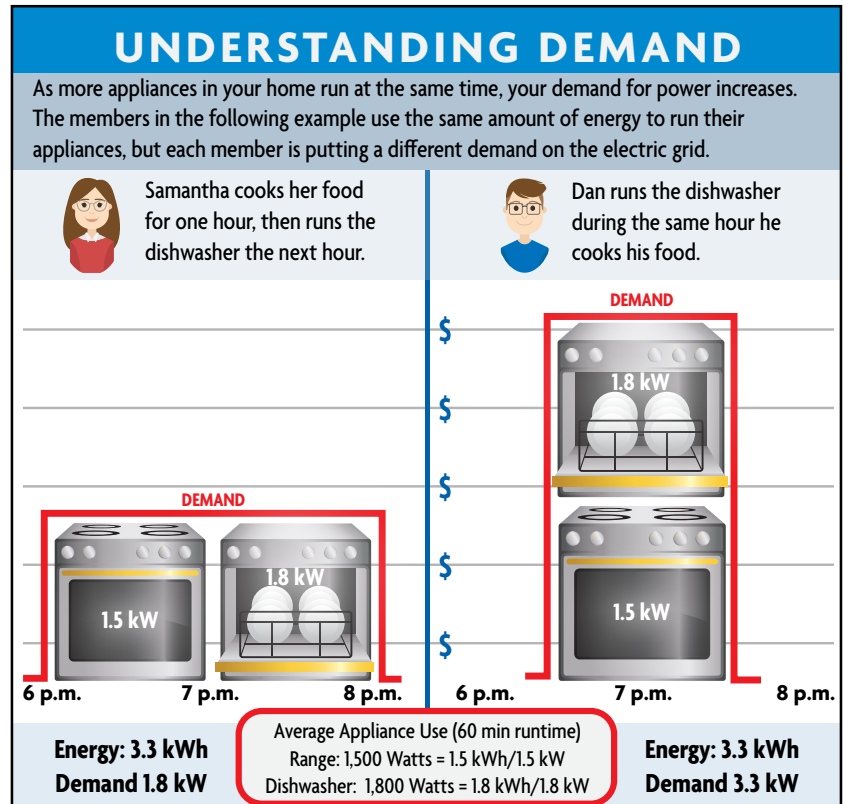
Your highest demand for each month can be found on your bill. Beginning Oct. 1, you will see a charge associated with this demand. Don't panic.

will pay you for shutting down for a few hours here and there.

Your highest demand for each month can be found on your bill. Beginning Oct. 1, you will see a charge associated with this demand. Don't panic. The rates were designed to introduce the demand charge only. The kilowatt-hour rates have been adjusted down to offset the demand charge.

Because providing adequate power supply is so critical, it makes sense to base rates off demand. Many co-ops, including DSO, are shifting to a demand-based rate. How and when you use electricity affects demand.

And, if need be, take Oliver's advice and number your appliances and "don't plug in a two with a six!"



## GROW YOUR SUMMER ENERGY SAVINGS

### DSO can help you save money

One of our favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty.

When we think about energy efficiency, we think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water — just like you don't have to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read our publications regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. But why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

But we'd also like to share a few ways we're here to help you save — not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

One of the great things about being part of DSO is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet.

### SAVE MONEY WITH THESE EASY INCENTIVES:

- **REBATES** — We offers two ways to give you money back for efficient equipment you purchase, like heat pumps and water heaters. Many of our rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of all our rebates at [www.dsoelectric.com](http://www.dsoelectric.com)
- **TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR USE** — Use our SmartHub App to track your energy use. You can even get alerts when your use spikes so you can make changes in real time.
- **WAYS TO PAY** — If you're having a difficult time paying the higher bills that come with increased use in the summer, contact us to learn about our budget or levelized billing or prepaid electric program.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you.

# Safety Ambassador Checklist



Practicing safety near electricity can save lives, and we want you to spread the important message of safety.

With the help of an adult, complete the checklist below then cut out the badge to show you care about electrical safety.

TASK	COMPLETED
Electrical outlets are not overloaded with multiple power strips and devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical cords are not causing a trip hazard or placed under rugs or carpet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are working.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>
All light switches are working properly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE _____	

