



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

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OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4 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

DSO Electric to Add Automatic Reclosers to Help Prevent Fires

DSO Electric (DSO) has received just over \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and \$618,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to enhance wildfire protection and resilience in the communities it serves by making critical upgrades to its electric system.

For the DOE grant, DSO is a member of a consortium of 38 electric co-ops and other rural utilities selected to receive federal funding through the Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks project (WARN.) Led by Holy Cross Energy in coordination with NRECA Research, WARN will provide more than \$145 million in wildfire mitigation funding to co-ops across 16 states in central and western United States to drive energy resilience in high-risk rural areas.

The FEMA grant was awarded through the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

Dry conditions and high winds are common in central Kansas. At times, winds can blow hard enough to bring down trees and power lines. When a power line goes down, but is still energized, there is a danger of fire, especially in dry conditions. Once started, high winds can cause the fire to rapidly spread to homes, businesses and farms.

With these grants, DSO will be adding automatic reclosers to many of its power lines. These reclosers can be remotely set to a “one shot” state, which means power to the line will be stopped as soon as a fault (e.g., a tree branch hitting a line) is detected. Normally, a recloser doesn’t stop power until multiple faults are detected over a short period (one to three seconds), but with high wind conditions it is best to have power stopped immediately before the line can hit the ground and start a fire. Preventing fires from starting will save lives, livestock, crops and buildings.

DSO plans to start installing the reclosers in late 2024 and expects to be completed by the end of 2026.

For more information on the project, please contact contactus@dsoelectric.com or call 800-376-3533.

Note: WARN funding comes from DOE’s Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

READY YOUR HOME FOR WINTER



Prepare your home for winter with the checklist below to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort.

INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked for efficient heat distribution.

MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of the water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Stay Safe and Warm: Your Winter Home Readiness Guide

Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency and warmth. Here are top tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

INSPECT YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

- ▶ Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- ▶ Replace air filters if needed.
- ▶ Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked to ensure efficient heat distribution.

MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- ▶ Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ▶ Test detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- ▶ Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- ▶ Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- ▶ Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- ▶ Clear gutters and downspouts

of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.

- ▶ Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- ▶ Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- ▶ Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- ▶ Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- ▶ Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- ▶ Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- ▶ Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- ▶ Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

STOCK EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing 1 gallon of water per person per day.

INCLUDE THESE ESSENTIALS IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT:

- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Flashlights and batteries
- ▶ Warm clothing



- ▶ Check all outdoor decorations and cords before using them.
- ▶ Keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Ensure all extension cords are rated for outdoor use.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

WHAT TO DO IF THE POWER GOES OUT

Winter weather is unpredictable, with high winds, whiteouts and ice storms. These conditions can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, contact your electrical utility as soon as you can so they know you have lost power.

Other actions you can take to stay safe are:

- ▶ Avoid travel. Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- ▶ Place a draft block at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- ▶ When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- ▶ Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- ▶ Use a tarp and portable canopy when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- ▶ Move fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- ▶ Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Fall back on Nov. 3

On Sunday, Nov. 3, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.

VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON NOV. 11.

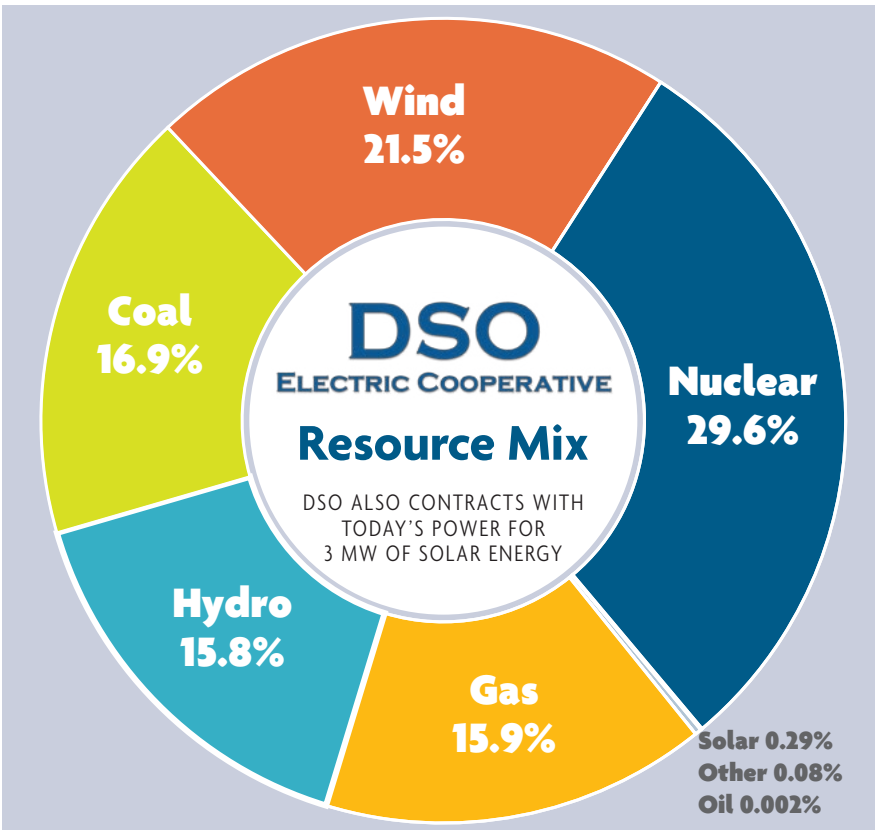
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our office will be closed on Nov. 28 and 29 for the holiday.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Save energy while away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation setting, or you can simply lower the temperature manually. Small actions stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

SOURCE: NRECA



BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Do you have what it takes to be the energy efficiency MVP (most valuable player) in your home? When you take proactive steps to save energy at home, you can help your family save on monthly energy bills *and* help the environment — that's a win-win!

Read the sentences below and unscramble the bolded letters to complete the energy efficiency tips.

Check your work in the answer key.



1. Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room.

2. Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you're not using them.

3. Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

4. Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

5. Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home's heating/cooling system is running.

6. When it's cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgncil** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.

Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing