



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# HEADLINER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>David Mueller</b> Tampa, President	<b>James Christopher</b> Falun, Director
<b>Sheila Hummel</b> Hope, Vice President	<b>Randy Cooper</b> Gypsum, Director
<b>Bruce Spare</b> Assaria, Secretary	<b>Ken Hedberg</b> Marquette, Director
<b>Kenneth Berry</b> Minneapolis, Director	<b>Mike Richards</b> Solomon, Director
<b>David Butler</b> Junction City, Director	

## STAFF

<b>Timothy J. Power</b> CEO	<b>Marla Marshall</b> CFO
<b>Tracy Turner</b> Operations Manager	<b>Derrick Rutherford</b> Communications Manager

## OFFICE HOURS

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

**EFFECTIVE  
OCT. 1, 2024,  
office hours are  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.**


## 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

## Are You a Co-op Voter?

DSO has again joined America's electric cooperatives to help get out the vote in our community by being a part of the Co-ops Vote program. This collaborative effort provides us the opportunity to educate lawmakers, build awareness about our issues and concerns, and advocate for policies that are important to our co-op and our community.

Federal, state and local elections offer opportunities to vote for leaders who support energy policies that promote safe, reliable and affordable energy. In particular, they allow us to elect public officials who understand and appreciate America's electric cooperatives and will serve as our champion during policy discussions.

Now is the perfect time to confirm that you are registered to vote and encourage new voters to get registered. For voter resources and to learn the five simple steps to being a co-op voter, visit the Co-ops Vote website at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan



program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Co-op voters across 48 states work together to ensure that electric co-ops have a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

Co-ops are a trusted voice in Washington, D.C. The more our community members turn out to vote, the greater the opportunity we have to elect leaders who understand co-ops and the issues we face.

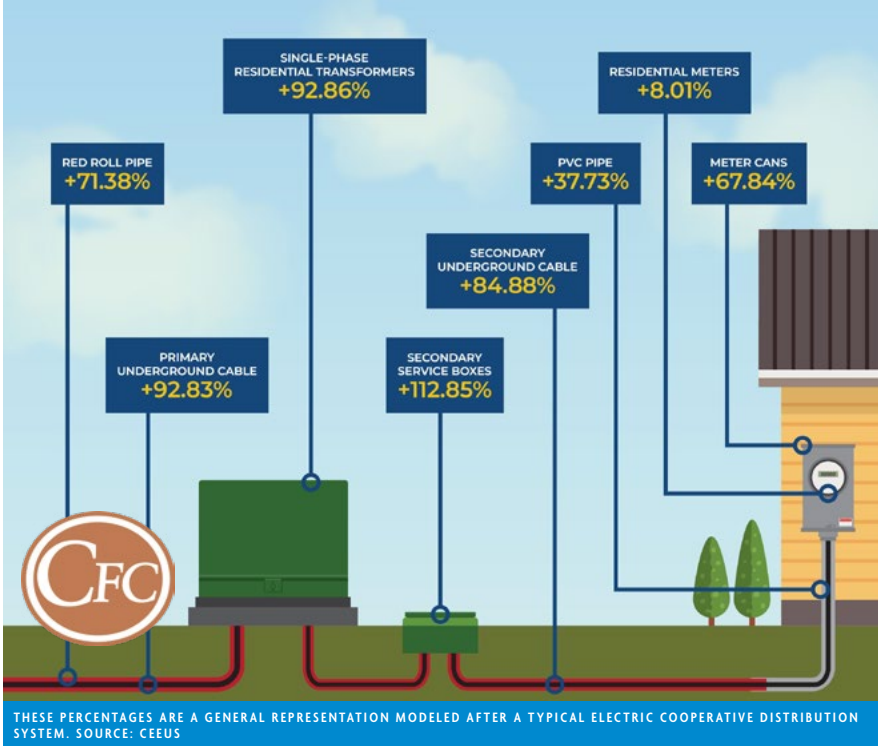
The co-op voice is powerful, and it starts with you!

# REMINDER:

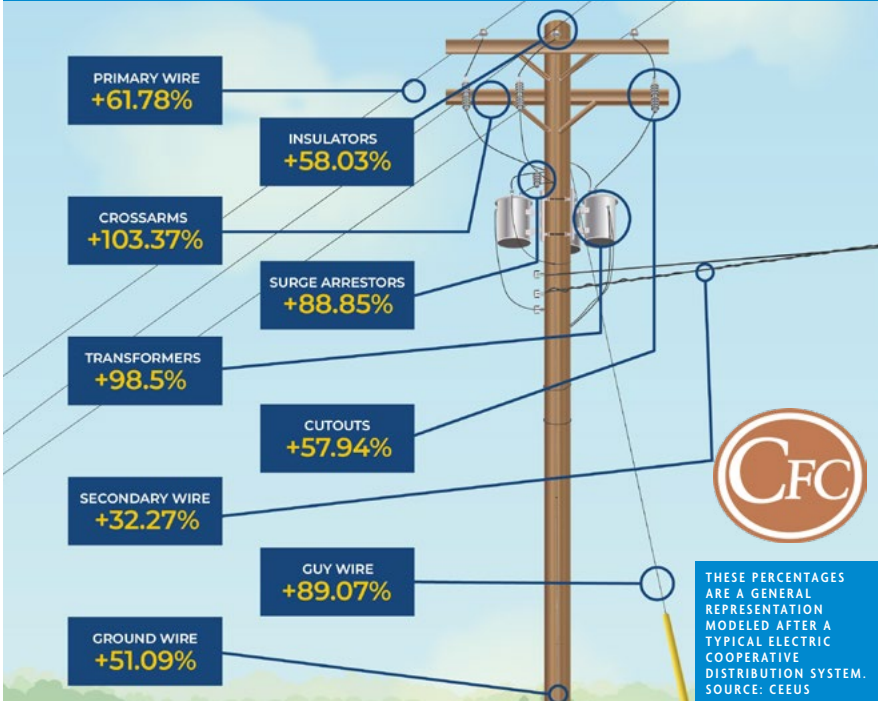
**UPDATED ELECTRIC RATES TAKE EFFECT OCT. 1, 2024**

Visit our webpage at [www.dsoelectric.com](http://www.dsoelectric.com) for more information.

BREAKING DOWN THE RISING COSTS FOR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**UNDERGROUND EQUIPMENT PRICE CHANGES**  
 JANUARY 2020-MAY 2024



BREAKING DOWN THE RISING COSTS FOR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**OVERHEAD EQUIPMENT PRICE CHANGES**  
 JANUARY 2020-MAY 2024



FROM THE CEO

# Inflation in Electric Utilities

We've probably all had discussions about the high cost of everything. Groceries that used to cost a family \$90 a couple years ago are now selling for \$170. Rent is up. Mortgage rates are up. Insurance is up. And so on and so on.

Well, it's no different in the electric utility world. Everything is more expensive. As shown to the left, every pole, bolt and crossarm has experienced extreme inflation.

As costs have risen, DSO has delayed purchases, reduced staff through attrition and more. I think it's safe to say that we all need inflation to come back to earth!

**TIM POWER, CEO**

*October is National*



Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most.

*That's the power of co-op membership.*



# Teen Driver Safety

## As a parent, you're in the driver's seat

Parenting teens is challenging. While some battles aren't worth fighting, protecting your teen behind the wheel is. This year, take part in National Teen Driver Safety Week between Oct. 20-26, and talk to your teen about safe driving.

Although no one wants to think about teens being in car accidents, it happens. Car accidents are a leading cause of death for teens in the U.S., with the highest risk in the first year of driving. Their inexperience makes them more susceptible to crashes. Common hazards include additional passengers, speeding, drowsy driving and using phones.

Distracted driving is a major issue, with 3,308 people killed in distracted-affected crashes in 2022, including 2,613 teens, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. That's approximately seven teens per day.

Teen drivers often lack the skills and experience needed to avoid fatal crashes, and distractions such as texting can be particularly dangerous. For example, reading a text at 55 mph is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed. For this reason, many states have laws against texting, talking on the phone and engaging in other distractions while driving.

There are three types of driving distractions to discuss with your teen:

- ▶ Visual, when you take your eyes off the road.
- ▶ Manual, when you take your hands off the wheel.
- ▶ Cognitive, when you take your mind off driving.

To prevent distracted driving, teach your teens (and emulate) these tips:

- ▶ Do not text while driving.
- ▶ Block texts and keep your phone out of sight.
- ▶ Avoid eating while driving.
- ▶ Use playlists instead of searching for music.
- ▶ Set up navigation before driving or have a passenger navigate.

Teen drivers report pressure from families and friends to use phones while driving. Many drivers continue to use phones even when they are aware of the crash risk. Technology can help avoid cell phone use while driving. Use built-in features on your smartphone or cell phone blocking apps to prevent distractions. For the greatest safety benefit, change your phone settings to block all calls and text messages — including hands-free communications.

### STAY SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

Ensure your teen knows what to do if they encounter downed power lines: remain in the vehicle, call 911, and stay at least 50 feet away from the scene if they witness an accident.

Make sure they realize that downed lines or other damaged utility equipment can look lifeless and harmless yet still be energized. They do not have to be sparking, moving or sizzling (like you often see in movies) to be energized.

For more safety tips, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) and consider downloading a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

# U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

## DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED.



For your safety and the safety of roadside crews, other drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists, do not drive distracted. Put all your attention on driving, and the rest can wait.

### DISTRACTED DRIVING CRASH STATISTICS ON U.S. ROADS:

- ▶ Nine people die each day in crashes that involve a distracted driver.
- ▶ Distracted driving claimed 3,522 lives in 2021.
- ▶ Texting diverts attention from driving for approximately 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.
- ▶ Many states have laws against texting, talking on the phone and other distractions while driving.

### THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF DRIVING DISTRACTIONS:

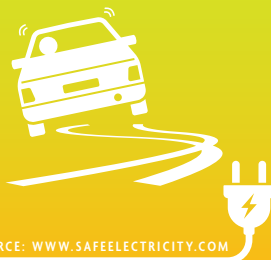
- ▶ **VISUAL** — when you take your eyes off the road.
- ▶ **MANUAL** — when you take your hands off the wheel.
- ▶ **COGNITIVE** — when you take your mind off driving.

Distracted driving is preventable. Set up apps before you get behind the wheel to help you avoid using your cellphone.

SOURCES: NHTSA, CDC, WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

## SAFETY TIP

In the U.S., nine people are killed each day in crashes involving a distracted driver. When you drive, just drive. Distracted driving not only puts you and other drivers at risk, but it also endangers roadside crews, bikers and pedestrians.

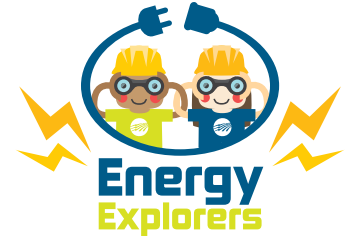


SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM

## 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Did you know electric co-ops are guided by a set of Seven Cooperative Principles? These principles ensure co-ops like ours remain focused on member needs, community impact and co-op values.

Complete the crossword below to learn more about the cooperative principles. Use the word bank to check your work.



### ACROSS

- 2. **COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES:** Co-ops \_\_\_\_\_ and learn from other co-ops.
- 5. **AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE:** Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ and can operate on their own.
- 6. **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION:** Members \_\_\_\_\_ money to ensure the co-op runs smoothly.
- 7. **OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP:** Co-op membership is open to \_\_\_\_\_ .

### DOWN

- 1. **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:** Co-ops give back to their local \_\_\_\_\_ to help them thrive and grow.
- 3. **EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION:** Co-ops focus on \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure employees and members have the info they need.
- 4. **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL:** Members get to make \_\_\_\_\_ about the co-op.

2 ACROSS: SHARE; 5 ACROSS: INDEPENDENT; 6 ACROSS: CONTRIBUTE; 7 ACROSS: EVERYONE; 1 DOWN: EVERYONE; 2 ACROSS: COOPERATION; 3 DOWN: EDUCATION; 4 DOWN: DECISIONS