

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: ELECTRICITY PROVIDES A POWERFUL VALUE



If you're like me, certain aspects of your life become a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and sometimes drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. Occasionally at lunchtime, I drive to get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it

provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a burger, fries and a drink were setting me back \$10 and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 in addition to the cost of the Wi-Fi to stream it. All these daily expenses totaled over \$85 a week or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value? Short-term satisfaction. Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. Is this the best value for my money?

The national average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, the cost of electric service has also remained relatively stable, even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, KEM Electric Cooperative does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as several factors beyond inflation impact the price of electricity. Some are within our control, but most are beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, KEM Electric always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure your electric service remains the best value for your money. ⚡

Travis Kupper, Co-General Manager/ CEO

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TRAVIS KUPPER,
CO-GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



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Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz

EMPOWERING OUR SERVICE AREA: Operation Round Up application deadline approaching

Operation Round Up stands as a beacon of goodwill in the KEM Electric Cooperative service area. As part of this voluntary program, members can make a significant impact by simply rounding up their utility bills. Through this program, the KEM Electric Operation Round Up board receives vital support to enhance and uplift our local communities.

The board members, who are also KEM Electric members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants

to nonprofit corporations, organizations or agencies. All the money raised by members stays in our local area.

The next application deadline for Operation Round Up is September 30.

To complete an application or for more information, visit our website, kemelectric.com/operation-round-up or call the office at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. ⚡

INVESTING IN YOUTH: Touchstone Energy® Student of the Month

September marks the start of KEM Electric Cooperative's Touchstone Energy® Student of the Month program in partnership with Touchstone Energy. This program aims to recognize outstanding students in grades K-12 and provide monetary sponsorship to their school for a project or initiative chosen by the winning student.

"We firmly believe in supporting education and fostering the development of young individuals in our community," Manager of Member Relations Marcy Sanders says. "This program presents an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate and recognize students who excel in anything ranging from academics to leadership to community involvement or personal growth."

Application process

Students can be nominated by teachers, parents/guardians, school administrators or community members.

Nomination forms can be accessed online through the KEM Electric website. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Students are eligible to be nominated and chosen September through April.

The winning recipients will receive a monetary sponsorship to their school. The students will have the opportunity to choose a project or initiative within their school, for which the donation will be utilized.

"KEM Electric looks forward to celebrating the achievement of students in our service area," Sanders says.

For details and more information, scan the QR code or visit: <https://kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month>. ⚡



REPORT POWER OUTAGES



800-472-2673