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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES: KEM ELECTRIC PARTNERS TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Linton Public School, Kidder County swimming pool and Napoleon FFA Alumni received funds for community projects.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES:

KEM Electric invests in community projects

Supporting and empowering communities is at the core of the cooperative principles guiding KEM Electric Cooperative. KEM Electric continually looks for opportunities to support local communities through sponsorships, grants, event participation and more. This year KEM Electric partnered with Basin Electric Power Cooperative's charitable giving program and CoBank's Sharing Success program to match funds for community projects.

In May, KEM Electric's board of directors approved grant funding totaling \$10,000 to three nonprofit organizations in the area. These organizations include the Kidder County swimming pool, Napoleon FFA Alumni and Linton Public School.

"We are excited to be able to support such deserving projects in our communities," Manager of Member Relations Marcy Sanders says.

Kidder County swimming pool

With the population of children growing in Kidder County, there is a need to upgrade space for children and families to swim. The Kidder County swimming pool board of directors has been working to create an inclusive, family-friendly pool experience by raising funds for a new swimming pool.

For a small town, a community pool provides a central hub for recreation, social gatherings and youth development, and the board wants to be sure this is accessible to all. The new pool will offer an inclusive zero-entry, allowing for easier access for elderly and people with disabilities.

In addition, the new construction will also include a baby pool, five swimming lanes and a large waterslide. A bathhouse with showers, restrooms, concession stand and shelter are also planned for the Kidder County swimming pool.

"This project allows us to offer pool facilities to a wider range of our community as well as offer additional activities that (community members) would otherwise have to go to Bismarck or Jamestown to participate," says Abbey Messer, Kidder County swimming pool board member.

Napoleon FFA Alumni

The Napoleon FFA Alumni have been working over the past year to secure funds to build a larger, more diverse facility to provide training opportunities for Napoleon Public School students. The new facility will include expanded curriculum areas, such as a meat cutting lab, food science lab and greenhouse. It will also allow for space to expand current curriculum

areas, including welding and carpentry.

"We expect to better serve the students of Napoleon by providing them with a state-of-the-art facility, which will allow the agriculture department to expand new and continuing curriculum," says Napoleon FFA advisor, Brian Schneider.

Linton Public School

Linton Public School has attained funding to enhance its outdoor facilities for students. The new outdoor space features a variety of play equipment, including swings and a zipline. There will also be an inclusive, ADA-compliant play structure to ensure all children can access and participate in the new upgraded equipment. The upgrade also includes installing concrete slabs for basketball, volleyball and pickleball courts.

"There has been overwhelming local support for this project which underscores the importance and positive impact this project will have on our community," says Erin Huber, Linton Public School PreK-6 Principal. "This collective effort demonstrates a strong community spirit and a shared dedication to fostering a safe, inclusive and enriching space for our children to play and grow." ⚡



EMPOWERING 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 more information, visit: <https://kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month>. 



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Electricity provides powerful value



Travis Kupper
Co-General Manager/
CEO

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 coffeeshop 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. ⚡



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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.

TRAVIS KUPPER,
CO-GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



WAPA remains committed to securing the grid

BY LLOYD LINKE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION



Linke

Each day, tens of thousands of megawatts flow throughout the Upper Great Plains region through transmission lines, many of which are maintained by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). From Minnesota to Montana and from the Canadian border into Iowa, the lifeblood of power meets the demands of millions of Americans every day.

Throughout our numerous communities, most residents will never blink an eye at the incredible feat that takes place daily to ensure their world remains electrified.

These things don't happen by accident. Scattered throughout WAPA's Upper Great Plains region, my teams defend and protect the grid 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We defend our vital power networks from Mother Nature, as the geography of our communities lends itself to severe blizzards and ice storms in the winter, as well as severe weather in the summer that spawns deadly tornadoes. And then there are the invisible threats we can't see with our eyes, such as geomagnetic disturbances from our sun that can disrupt and potentially put our grid offline. With more than 7,800 miles of transmission lines crisscrossing the Upper Great Plains, we always remain vigilant to keep power flowing.

As recently as late May, crews dispatched from Hinton, Iowa, made their way to the Greenfield community, located about 45 minutes west of Des Moines. These crews were responding to downed WAPA lines as the result of a weather system that spawned more than 15 tornadoes, ravaging the local area. These crews did the job expected of them. They responded, assessed and reconstituted our poles and lines, and ensured reliable power flowed through the area once again. What truly showed WAPA's incredible commitment was the fact these crews had just finished being on the road the previous three weeks doing maintenance and upkeep in the field. Believing they would be heading home for the Memorial Day weekend to be with family and friends, they each diverted, ensuring their expertise and commitment made its way to the damaged communities of southwestern Iowa.

The same goes for the dead of winter. Many may recall the strong winter storm that pummeled North

Dakota's I-94 corridor on Christmas Day last year. From Bismarck to Grand Forks, 20,000 residents and businesses lost power from severe ice that befell the region. This resulted in a number of large, 230-kilovolt lines being brought down. To get the system back into service swiftly, crews from three states responded, reconstructing lattice steel towers, broken wood structures and downed static lines. Later, WAPA's helicopter crews performed aerial surveys, ensuring all damage to the grid had been adequately and properly repaired.

While storms on Earth can be tracked and plotted, storms from outer space are more of a challenge. But WAPA has the tools in place to stave off potentially catastrophic outcomes.

In November 2022, our employees at the White Substation in South Dakota energized WAPA's first-ever neutral blocking device. Known as an NBD, the device was installed in a large power transformer that aims to block geomagnetically induced currents, or GICs, generated during a solar storm. This NBD is the first commercially developed NBD installed anywhere in the United States and only the second device of its type to become operational.

This is important for power users to know, because GICs are the result of severe geomagnetic disturbances that can saturate power transformers. This saturation can cause negative impacts, such as reactive power absorption and voltage drops, either decreasing power flow to homes and businesses or stopping it all together.

The NBD program is our version of an "early warning system" that, on average, gives us 45 minutes to an hour alert before we receive updates from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This provides our dispatchers and maintenance personnel crucial time to prepare to protect the grid and respond more precisely to GIC incidents, which ensures our system is safe from overloads.

As you can see, WAPA is keenly aware of the threats our grid faces from a multitude of situations. Fortunately, those concerned about the power grid and hydroelectric power alike can rest easy as our experts and dedicated staff throughout the Upper Great Plains remain at the ready.

Whether it's storms here or from the expanse of space, or any other crisis that arises, WAPA stands ready to fulfill its core mission of keeping the lights on. ⚡

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

How to report an outage



Dale Nagel
Chief of Staff/
Line Superintendent

Part of KEM Electric Cooperative's core values and mission are to provide our members with a reliable transmission and distribution system. However, there are times when a power interruption may occur. Although we cannot control the weather or other factors that may disrupt the power, members can rest assured KEM Electric is ready to serve you quickly and efficiently in the event of a power outage.

When you encounter an outage, we urge you to call

as soon as possible, so we can begin assessing the situation and restore power in a timely manner.

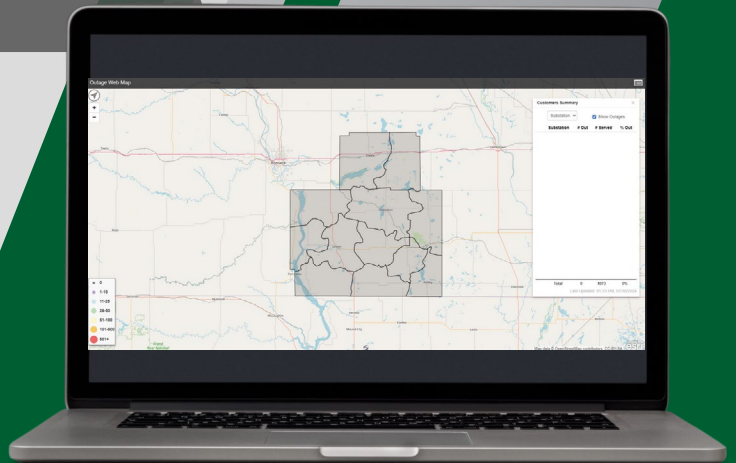
When reporting an outage, please follow these instructions:

- Check your fuses. If some of your lights work, the trouble may be in your fuses.

- If you determine the problem is in your own wiring, call an electrician.
- Check the circuit breakers on your yard pole below the meter. In the off position, these breakers disconnect all the wiring you own.
- If all your lights are off, call your neighbor to see if their power is also off.
- If you determine your electrical service is interrupted, call us at 701-254-4666.
- You will be asked to provide your name and account number.
- Please don't wait for someone else to report the outage, as you may be the only member on your line without power. When you call the office, we can help determine where the problem is on our lines.
- View our outage map on our website, <https://kemelectric.ebill.coop/maps/OutageWebMap>.

Taking these steps will help our team at KEM Electric continue to provide reliable services to you, our valued members. ⚡

View KEM Electric's outage map by visiting kemelectric.com.



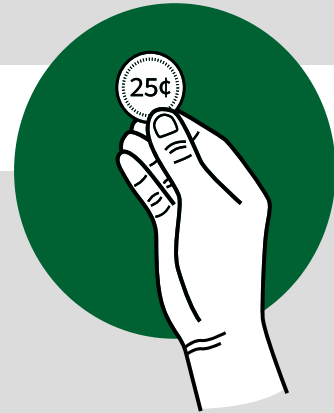
OPERATION ROUND UP

TURN YOUR

COINS *into* CHANGE

Operation Round Up is a program of voluntary contributions through rounding up electric bills to the next dollar.

Funds are disbursed in the general service area of KEM Electric to nonprofit organizations for charitable causes.



HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications can be completed by individuals, non-profit organizations or charity groups. If you know of someone in need, have them apply by visiting kemelectric.com. The next deadline is September 30.



Receive an application
by calling KEM Electric
701-254-4666



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

National Preparedness Month



MARCY
MANAGER OF MEMBER RELATIONS

As temperatures begin to drop and high winds and winter storms start to creep onto the radar, it is important to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature brings. During a power outage, KEM Electric Cooperative crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few steps you can do to prepare yourself. Preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event.

“September is recognized as National Preparedness Month,” says Marcy Sanders, manager of member

relations. “Being prepared for all types of situations, including extended outages, can help you feel more calm and ready in such situations.”

Here is what YOU can do to be more prepared:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm’s effects.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check KEM Electric’s Facebook page and website for power restoration updates. KEM Electric cares about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future. Act now, because there is power in planning. ⚡

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, Chairman Napoleon
 Carmen Essig, Vice Chairman Lehr
 Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
 Dean Dewald, Director Dawson
 John R. Beck, Director Linton
 Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland
 Vacancy, Director-at-large

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MANAGEMENT:

Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
 Jason Bentz Co-GM/CEO

Report outages to the following toll-free number: 800-472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: kemelectric.com

Email address: info@kemelectric.com

FIND US ON:

