



DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

HEADLINER

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Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Open over the lunch hour

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

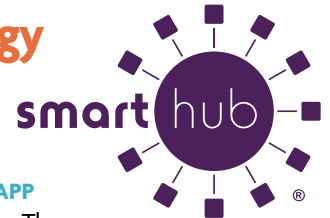
**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be
answered by dispatch and forwarded to
standby personnel.

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Revolutionize Your Home Energy Management with SmartHub



SmartHub is an online platform that provides members with a variety of benefits. Here are some reasons why members should consider signing up for SmartHub:

1 EASY ACCESS TO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

— SmartHub provides members with easy access to their account information, including their billing history, payment history and usage data. This information can be accessed from anywhere, at any time, making it easier for members to manage their accounts.

2 CONVENIENT BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

— SmartHub also provides members with convenient bill payment options. Members can pay their bills online, set up automatic payments, and view their bills and payment history all in one place. This saves time and eliminates the need to write and mail checks or visit the cooperative's office to pay a bill.

3 ENERGY USAGE TRACKING AND ANALYSIS

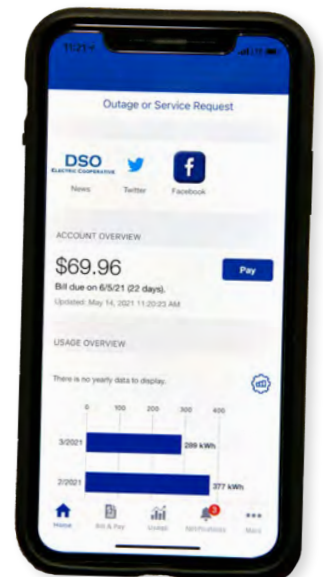
— One of the most significant benefits of SmartHub is the ability to track and analyze energy usage. SmartHub provides members with detailed information about their energy consumption, including usage patterns and trends. This information can be used to identify ways to save energy and reduce costs.

4 MOBILE APP ACCESS

— The SmartHub mobile app allows members to access their account information and manage their accounts from their mobile devices. This makes it even easier to stay on top of energy usage and billing information while on the go.

5 COMMUNICATION WITH THE COOPERATIVE

— You can leverage the power of SmartHub to communicate directly with DSO. You can send messages, report power outages, and receive important alerts and notifications through this platform. SmartHub is an incredibly helpful tool that offers easy access to your account information, various payment options, energy usage tracking and analysis, and mobile app access. By signing up for SmartHub, you can take control of your energy usage and stay informed about your account status.



Energy Efficiency in Your Home



Energy Efficiency continues to be a major factor in home design, and will continue to be, experts say.

Energy efficiency has so many benefits that go beyond just paying the bills,” explained Todd Abercrombie, owner of Midwest Building Performance in Peoria, Illinois. “It helps make the house more comfortable, provides more even temperatures and has a lot of societal benefits as well.”

To accomplish energy conservation, contractors and consumers take a variety of approaches.

“We are all looking for higher efficiency appliances, using LED lighting throughout homes and implementing water-saving features as well as tankless water heaters so that homeowners don’t have to pay to keep a big tank of water hot all of the time,” said Andrew Brindley, a home builder from Indianapolis.

“People want better windows, better insulation, better roofs. We are doing two-by-six walls all of the time now. They want very efficient furnaces and air conditioner systems and even want zone systems on their units to control the temperature in different rooms, so that a room that may not be used all of the time is not heated or cooled as much as rooms which are utilized more often,” added Donna Youngquist of R&D Custom Homes in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Often, especially in remodels, the goal is not necessarily about saving money, said Carl Kuchar of Woodchukar Carpentry in Payette, Idaho. “Sometimes, residents will just want to get their homes tightened up so that they are easier to heat and cool. It’s a comfort thing, not always something they approach from a return-on-investment angle,” he said.

Abercrombie said energy efficiency is multifaceted. “Energy efficiency upgrades go beyond just what you would see on your utility bills,” he said. “There are a lot of beneficial unintended consequences that can happen when you improve the efficiency of a home. For instance, moisture management, prevention

of mold, improvement of indoor air quality and more.”

To make any residence — new construction or existing home — more energy-efficient, he suggests a full energy audit which looks at a variety of factors that unnecessarily cost consumers money. “It looks at the big picture and analyzes things such as insulation in the attic and walls to pinpoint all of the various gaps and cracks that might need to be sealed,” Abercrombie explained. “It’s helpful to have diagnostic equipment such as a blower door and infrared cameras.”

Additionally, an audit will look at heating and cooling systems as well as other systems including lighting, appliances and electronics.

He added that energy efficiency needs to be kept in mind even during new construction. “I’ve done blower door tests even before insulation is installed to make sure we’re getting things right; there are certain things you just cannot get to after the house is buttoned up with drywall, windows and doors.”

Abercrombie said energy efficiency is all about paying attention to details. “We’re not looking at adding products that would not already be in the scope of the new construction,” he explained. “While sometimes it is about product selection, it is more about how things are installed and not missing other factors which often get missed during the rush to construct a home.”

One place that often gets overlooked when it comes to efficiency is insulation in the ceiling of the home. “Leaky ceiling syndrome,” he calls it. “Often when builders think of building an efficient house, they think about what they can do to make the walls more airtight, whether it is with house wrap or weather resistant barriers or spray foam, but they often ignore the ceiling plane — the area between the ceiling and the attic that doesn’t get sealed as well as it should. It’s the most important boundary in the home and we have more leakage there than we do in the walls,” he said.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load’s energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.





GET PAID TO SAVE
EARN \$160 THIS SUMMER!*

BEAT THE PEAK
Summer SAVINGS!

Get paid to save by switching to our **INTERRUPTIBLE RATE**

\$20 BILL CREDIT for signing up.

\$10 BILL CREDIT for each Peak Alert issued by DSO in July and August.

DSO
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Empowering members to improve their quality of life

SIGN-UP BY JUNE 23!
FIND OUT MORE
DSOELECTRIC.COM | 800-376-3533

*\$160 CREDIT AMOUNT BASED ON HISTORICAL AVERAGE OF 14 ANTICIPATED PEAK ALERTS IN JULY AND AUGUST AT \$10 EACH, PLUS \$20 SIGNING BONUS.

Check the WEATHER Before You Go

More than 72% of lightning fatalities occur from June through August.

From 2006 through 2021

- ▶ 446 people were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S.
- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of the deaths happened while people were enjoying outdoor leisure activities such as fishing, camping and running.

June, July and August are the peak months for lightning across the U.S.

- ▶ More than 72% of lightning deaths occurred in these months.
- ▶ Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than any other day of the week.

Lightning often strikes away from heavy rain; it can happen up to 10 miles away from rainfall.
TO PREVENT LIGHTNING-RELATED TRAGEDIES, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS.

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY COUNCIL

3 Ideas for Creating a Summer of Unplugged Fun

Between school, work and entertainment, there are times when screens can seem like a pervasive part of modern life. For all the positive aspects of technology, there can also be a desire for children to have stretches of unplugged learning and participate in educational activities that do not require a screen.



Why Unplugged Learning Matters

“Unplugged learning is important to balance the screen time children may experience with other forms of learning; to promote physical activities, social interaction and creativity; and develop the essential skills that bolster them throughout their exploration and growth as individuals,” said Rurik Nackerud from KinderCare’s education team.

Summer can be an ideal time to focus on unplugged learning as it often brings a break from the traditional academic year and activities.

“We want summer to be a time when children can put down technology and connect with one another face-to-face, build important creativity skills and learn how to be social with one another without the buffer of screens,” said Khy Sline from KinderCare’s education team. “They can play, run, be immature and laugh with their friends, giggle at the silly things and find joys in those in-person interactions with one another.”

Tips for Creating Unplugged Fun as a Family

1 GET OUTDOORS. Make time as a family to get outside and explore, even if it’s simply a walk around the block after dinner. Help children notice the little things like a bug on the sidewalk or the way the sun filters through tree leaves to make patterns on the ground. Ask them about the

things they see and give your children the space to ask questions and work together to find the answers. This helps teach children collaborative learning skills: asking questions, sharing ideas and working together to reach an answer.

2 READ TOGETHER. This could mean going to the library to check out new books or exploring your family’s bookshelves for old favorites. Snuggle together for family story time. If children are old enough to read on their own, invite them to read to you or their younger siblings. Talk about the story or even act out favorite parts to help your children actively participate in story time, which may help them better understand the story’s concepts.

3 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE THINKING. Help children expand their ability to think creatively by working together to make a craft or project. For example, the next time a delivery box arrives at your home, encourage your children to turn it into something new using craft supplies on hand. A blanket could turn a box into a table for a pretend restaurant while some tape or glue could transform it into a rocket ship or train. When everyone’s done creating and playing, the box can be broken down for recycling. This activity can help children literally think outside of the box and apply their own unique ideas and creativity to create something new.

For more ideas to encourage unplugged learning this summer, visit www.kindercare.com.

AT THE MARINA

the water is NOT FINE.



Although the water may look inviting, marinas are not meant to be swimming areas. Docks and boats can carry sources of electricity. If this electricity seeps into the water due to faulty wiring, the water becomes energized.

If you are exposed to water charged with electrical current, you can be shocked and even drown — this is known as electric shock drowning. There are also other dangers of swimming near a marina.

Dangers of Swimming at a Marina

- ▶ Electric shock drowning.
- ▶ Carbon monoxide poisoning from boat exhaust.
- ▶ Contaminated water from a storm or spill.
- ▶ Impact from a boat or its propellers.



Ensure marinas have ground fault circuit interrupters installed and that they are tested often. Keep your boat’s electrical system well-maintained and have it inspected regularly.