



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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.

Find Out More

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FROM THE CFO

A Potpourri of Topics BY MARLA MARSHALL

Why Did My Bill Go Up?

The average DSO residential account uses just under 1,100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month, but we all have those months when our usage goes up substantially.

We wonder why our bill went up, but tend to forget that we ran space heaters for a day or two or sat in the hot tub a few times. DSO personnel handle multiple calls each month from members experiencing higher-than-normal bills but often can't recall doing anything differently. And in truth, they may not have done anything differently; it may be simply because it was hotter or colder than "normal" and the AC or furnace ran more often. Just be aware that, if you add a hot tub, your electric bill will go up. If you run space heaters for additional warmth, your electric bill will go (way) up.

Below is a list of the top five most common appliances, listed in order of typical monthly energy consumption:

- ▶ Central Air Conditioner (1,450 kWh)
- ▶ Water Heater (310 kWh)
- ▶ Refrigerator (205 kWh)
- ▶ Dryer (75 kWh)
- ▶ Oven Range (58 kWh)

SOURCE: WWW.INSPIRECLEANENERGY.COM

Have You Considered Prepay?

In case you didn't already know, DSO offers a unique payment option you

might want to consider. Rather than waiting for your bill to arrive **AFTER** you used electricity, you can pay for the electricity **BEFORE** you use it; we call this our Prepay service. With Prepay, you "fill up" your electricity account with the amount of electricity you want. This can work well, especially if you have a tight budget.

SmartHub

Whether you pay for your electricity the traditional way or switch to Prepay, you can always monitor your usage daily by using the SmartHub app* to see the effect a space heater (or whatever new electronic device) has on your electric bill. DSO encourages its members to think about how they use energy and conserve where they can.

SmartHub is available to all DSO

Continued on page 12C ▶

LOCAL EVENT CALENDAR

FEB. 6 Ground Hog Supper, Junction City. Enjoy pancakes and waffles or homemade ice cream, as well as wonderful music. Event is from 3:30-8 p.m. with entertainment starting at 5 p.m. *Lyona United Methodist Church, 1850 Wolf Road, 785-257-3474, lwumcs@gmail.com.*

Electric Co-ops Go the Extra Mile for You

Kansas electric co-ops serve an average of **3 consumer-members** per mile of power line. Other electric utilities serve **32 consumers** per mile. Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members, who we're proud to serve.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



Healthy Winter Habits to Maintain Health

Another cough and cold season calls for healthy preparation, and while there may not be a foolproof plan for escaping pesky germs, taking preventive steps and practicing self-care can help protect your health.

“As much as we all would love a quick cure for the common cold, unfortunately, that doesn't exist,” said Ian K. Smith, MD. “However, there are many options one can try to relieve cold and flu symptoms, including over-the-counter medications. These medications can provide fast and much-needed relief.”

Reduce the chances you'll contract a serious illness this cold season by following these tips from the experts at Mucinex:

MAKE HANDWASHING A PRIORITY.

Preventive measures like washing your hands often can significantly lower your odds of getting sick. In fact, handwashing is such a powerful tool against germs that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compared it to a “do-it-yourself vaccine.” Wash regularly with soap and water for about 20 seconds, especially when handling food, caring for someone sick or after using the restroom.

MAKE OVERALL WELLNESS A WAY OF LIFE. Adopting healthy everyday habits means your body is in better condition to fight off potential attacks by germs and combat an illness more effectively if you do get sick. A well-balanced diet that includes moderate portions from each of the major food groups can help ensure you're getting the nutrition and nutrients your body needs. Staying physically active can help promote a stronger immune system. Getting enough sleep and making sure you're drinking enough water can also ensure your body is ready for whatever the season brings.

When you're under the weather, treating your symptoms gives you a reprieve and lets your body rest so you can get back to feeling better.

STOCK UP ON NECESSARY SUPPLIES.

If you do get sick, the best place for you is at home, where you can nurse yourself back to health. That means having the essentials on hand, like over-the-counter medications to treat uncomfortable cold and flu symptoms. Be sure to check last year's leftover meds, as some may have expired. A shopping list to fight the common cold and flu symptoms should include pain relievers, fever reducers, decongestants, antihistamines, throat lozenges, and cough suppressants, as well as plenty of facial tissue, a working thermometer and humidifier. Also, update your supply of hand sanitizer and disinfecting cleaners and sprays to protect family members in your home.

RELIEVE BOTHERSOME SYMPTOMS.

When you're under the weather, treating your symptoms gives you a reprieve and lets your body rest so you can get back to feeling better. A cough is a common cold symptom, and relieving chest congestion that causes you to cough frequently can make a big difference. If symptoms persist, contact your health care professional.

DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE SPREADING GERMS. If you do get sick, take steps to protect those around you. Simple acts like covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and using your elbow if you don't have a tissue can be effective in preventing the spread of germs. It's also important to wash your hands well and keep a distance from others to help prevent the spread of your illness.



Be Prepared: 5 Tips To Make Your Home More Secure

These days, soaking in daily news can make the world feel like a scary place. We use home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks; all help protect our homes. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:

1 ASSESS ENTRY POINTS. Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door can lock and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

2 LOCK SECOND-FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS. "Second-story men" are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). Be sure to lock them before you leave. In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

3 LOCK THE DOOR TO THE GARAGE. Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

4 UPDATE YOUR GARAGE CODE. Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

5 DO NOT FORGET SLIDING DOORS. A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and checking your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.

A Potpourri of Topics

Continued from page 12A ▶

members. Go to www.dsoelectric.com to sign up. It is under My Home> SmartHub Signup Instructions.

Energy-Saving Tips

- ▶ Cover drafty windows.
- ▶ Adjust the temperature when no one is home (get a programmable thermostat).
- ▶ Insulate properly and seal any air and water leaks.
- ▶ Schedule regular service for your heating and cooling systems.
- ▶ Use less hot water.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans.
- ▶ Unplug devices when not in use (or shut off with the use of a power strip).
- ▶ Buy energy-efficient appliances.

If you have questions on anything in this article, please give us a call or send us an email.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!

MIND THE THERMOSTAT. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

GET COZY. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

DON'T BLOCK THE HEAT. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

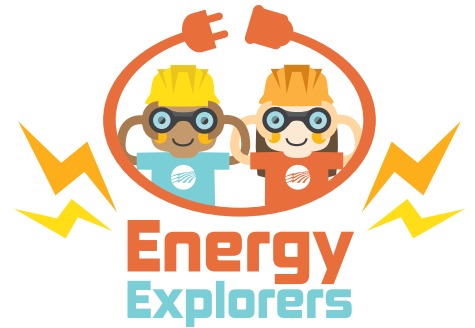
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

BLOCK AIR LEAKS. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the **BOLDED** text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.



- ▶ Never place extension **RDSOC** under rugs or carpet.

- ▶ Make sure electrical cords are not **YRAFDE** or broken.

- ▶ Smoke **MAALSR** should be tested every month.

- ▶ Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **ITPR** on them.

- ▶ Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **SHETEAR**.

- ▶ Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

Answer key: 1. cords 2. frayed 3. alarms 4. trip 5. heaters 6. water