



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**HEADLINER**

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## Staff

**Timothy J. Power**  
CEO

**Judy Barten**  
CFO

**Mike Olberding**  
Operations Manager

**Derrick Rutherford**  
Communications Manager

## 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

 [facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative](https://www.facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative)

 @DSOElectricCoop

# Control Your Controlled Burn

BY MIKE J. OLBERDING, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Don't let your controlled burn get away from you

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn and keep it under check, it can quickly spread, putting life in danger and utility and other equipment at risk.

If you are considering implementing a controlled burn (also known as a prescribed fire) to address vegetation or weed management, be sure to follow several precautions to stay safe:

- ▶ Don't start without planning.
- ▶ Certain groups should be notified, including your town office, local fire department, and neighbors.
- ▶ Obtain all necessary permits.
- ▶ Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, and humidity. As a general rule, relative humidity should be 40% or higher.
- ▶ If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least 4 feet around the base of the pole.
- ▶ Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

Even with the best-laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn; however, planning can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious



**Before burning your field, check the property for electrical equipment and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages and notify all necessary parties such as the local fire department.**

problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

Take the time to plan or your controlled burn could get expensive. The person who causes damage to a utility pole is responsible for the fees associated with replacing it.

There are many other safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before setting fire to your land.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact Mike Olberding at 800-376-3533.

# FARM SAFETY EQUIPMENT REACH

Make sure everyone is trained in safe practices around electricity. Use these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- ▶ Know the dimensions of any far-reaching equipment, such as chemical sprayers, tillage equipment, other extensions or augers.
- ▶ Machinery extension dimensions include the length when extended horizontally and upright for transport.
- ▶ Always use the lowest (shortest) setting for extensions when moving loads.
- ▶ These power line safety principles also apply to arms, booms, truck beds, ladders and other items or mechanisms that extend or are far-reaching.

If your equipment hits a power line, pole or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



## DSO Allocates 2019 Margins to Members

The annual capital credit allocation letter mailed in August showed the amount of DSO's 2019 margins that were allocated to your account. As a cooperative member, you share in the margins of DSO. After meeting the cooperative's financial obligations, margins are allocated to members in the form of capital credits. This allocation is based on the revenue collected from each member. In general, the longer you are on DSO's service and the more electricity you use, the more capital credits you accumulate.

Please understand that an allocation is different from a retirement. Each year, usually in December, the DSO Board of Directors approves the portion of capital credits to be retired, i.e.

payable in cash. Because all members and former members are eligible to receive capital credit retirements, it is necessary to properly budget for this expense. By retiring a portion at a time, the cooperative can maintain financial stability, while demonstrating a key benefit of cooperative ownership to its members. As of December 2019, DSO has retired more than \$8.9 million in capital credits to its members since the cooperative was formed in 1936.

If you have any questions concerning capital credits, please do not hesitate to contact the DSO office at 800-376-3533 to speak with a member service representative or email DSO at [membercontact@dsoelectric.com](mailto:membercontact@dsoelectric.com).

## Find Help Paying Your Utility Bills

The following agencies have been known to assist people who may need help paying utility bills. DSO is not affiliated with any of these organizations. Contact information is provided as a courtesy to you, our members.

### ABILENE AREA FOOD AND CLOTHING

- ▶ Abilene 785-263-1221  
(Food and clothing only)

### AMERICAN RED CROSS

- ▶ Abilene 785-263-2341
- ▶ Junction City 785-238-3163
- ▶ Salina 785-827-3644

### CHRISTMAS FUND

- ▶ Salina 888-887-9124

### CHURCHES UNITED IN MINISTRY

- ▶ McPherson County Only 620-241-8331  
(Utilities and rent)

### GEARY COUNTY FOOD BANK

- ▶ Junction City 785-762-8830

### HOPE CENTER

- ▶ Dickinson County Only 785-263-4673

### KANSAS KIDS IN CRISIS

- ▶ Abilene 785-263-3747 (Must have children living in the home)

### LOVE INC. – LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

- ▶ Minneapolis 785-392-3474

### LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP) (Available January-March)

- ▶ 800-432-0043

### MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

- ▶ McPherson 620-241-4040

### OPEN DOOR

- ▶ Junction City 785-238-3599
- ▶ Food Pantry 785-762-8830

### SALINA CATHOLIC CHARITIES

- ▶ Salina 785-825-0208

### SALINA EMERGENCY AID

- ▶ Salina 785-827-7111

### SALVATION ARMY

- ▶ Salina 785-823-2251

### SRS

- ▶ McPherson 620-241-3802
- ▶ Salina 785-826-8000
- ▶ Topeka 785-296-3271

### ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES (COMMUNITY OUTREACH)

- ▶ Salina 785-823-0001



# How Much Does it Cost to Use Your Household Appliances?

Appliance	Typical Wattage	Avg. Hrs. per Month	Estimated *kWh Usage	*Cost Per Month
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## Heating/Cooling

AC (Window).	1,200	240	288	\$36
AC (Central)	3,920	240	940	\$118
Heater (Portable)	1,500	120	180	\$23
Water Heater	4,500	90	405	\$51
Furnace (Fan)	700	300	200	\$25
Furnace (3-ton air source heat pump)	2,860	240	686	\$86

## Kitchen

Coffee Maker	900	30	27	\$3
Dishwasher	1,200	25	30	\$4
Freezer (15 cu ft)	340	360	122	\$15
Freezer (chest)	500	360	180	\$23
Microwave	1,000	10	10	\$1
Range/Oven	12,500	8	100	\$13
Refrigerator/Freezer	720	262	189	\$24

## Laundry

+Washing Machine	500	20	10	\$1
Clothes Dryer	5,000	18	90	\$11

## Family Room

Television (19")	70	180	13	\$2
Television (50" plasma)	340	180	61	\$8

## Home Office

Desktop Computer	250	240	60	\$8
Laptop Computer	60	240	14	\$2
Printer (inkjet)	80	60	5	\$1

\*For use as a guide only. Wattages and hours of use vary widely.

\*\*DSO's average residential rate, including the PCA, is \$0.124 per kWh. The average does not include Red Zone hours.

+The washing machine data is for washing with no hot water.

## Saving Money in the Laundry Room

A washer and dryer inside the home is a luxury many enjoy. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out a wet load from the washer if you aren't there when the cycle ends.

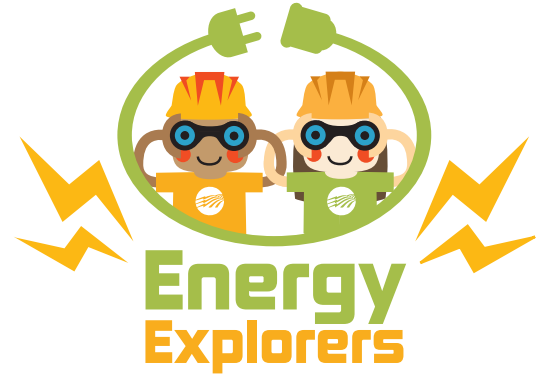
Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, try these suggestions:

- ▶ When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load — that is, don't select the "extra-large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water. Use cold water to save the money you would spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
  - ▶ Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov. Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
  - ▶ Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
  - ▶ Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
  - ▶ Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
  - ▶ Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
  - ▶ Take a clue from your teenage son and wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
  - ▶ When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star® version, which uses 20% less energy than a conventional model.
  - ▶ Energy Star-certified washers use about 33% less water than regular clothes washers.
  - ▶ Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.
- To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH

The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources, like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related words in the puzzle below?



## WORD BANK:

- ▶ hydropower
- ▶ wind turbine
- ▶ renewable
- ▶ solar panels
- ▶ wind energy
- ▶ geothermal
- ▶ biomass
- ▶ generation
- ▶ solar energy