



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# HEADLINER

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<b>David Butler</b> Junction City, Director	

## Staff

<b>Timothy J. Power</b> CEO	<b>Judy Barten</b> CFO
<b>Mike Olberding</b> Operations Manager	<b>Derrick Rutherford</b> 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  
 @DSOElectricCoop

# DSO Welcomes New CFO

DSO is pleased to announce the hiring of **MARLA MARSHALL**. Marshall will serve as the cooperative's CFO, succeeding Judy Barten who is retiring in late spring.

Marshall brings 28 years of utility accounting and management experience to the position.

"I am thrilled to be joining the DSO team; I have received a very warm welcome," Marshall said. "It is exciting to be able to bring my experience to DSO and contribute what I can to an already strong organization."

She is a K-State graduate and a CPA. She will work closely with CEO Tim Power and department managers to oversee the accounting functions and financial reporting. She will also serve as the cooperative's human resources director. Her interests include reading, volunteering, portraiture, watching her daughter compete in dance and enjoying free time with her family.



**Marla Marshall**

*It is exciting to be able to bring my experience to DSO and contribute what I can to an already strong organization.*

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**



## What Happens Behind the Scenes During a Power Outage?

Here in the U.S., we are fortunate to have an advanced power grid in place. Power transmission and distribution is reliable in our country, and we are proud to deliver the electricity you depend on. Excluding outage times attributed to major weather or other catastrophic events, electricity consumers in our country typically experience only about two hours of total power interruptions per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. When outages due to major events are taken into consideration, the EIA reports the total outage time at six hours a year.

What happens on our end when your power goes out? We swing into action in a safe and efficient manner to ensure your power is restored. How long that takes depends on several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access the storm-damaged areas.

We are careful to follow standard restoration procedures to ensure safety and to get the job done right by:

- ▶ Assessing damage to utility equipment.
- ▶ Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.
- ▶ Ensuring that essential public health and safety facilities are operational.
- ▶ Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first.
- ▶ Evaluating power plants for damage and restoring them to working order.
- ▶ Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas.
- ▶ Assessing and repairing (in this order) substations, distribution lines, and service lines to properties.

Thank you for your patience. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore power as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

## Cooperatives Join Forces on Solar Project



Representatives of 10 of the 12 Kansas cooperatives participating in the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program take a meeting break for a photo.

Utility scale solar is a cost-effective way to provide members of a cooperative with year-round renewable energy and reduce peak demand during the summer months. Recently, 12 Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) member cooperatives, including DSO, banded together to provide their members with solar energy, under the newly created banner of the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program.

The Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program is a series of solar farms to be developed by Today's Power, Inc. (TPI) to harvest solar energy in the state. The 12 cooperatives, in turn, will purchase from TPI the energy generated from the

solar farms. TPI was formed in 2014 by Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. to serve Arkansas' electric cooperatives and has since expanded to providing services in other states. TPI was chosen to be the developer and energy partner for the venture through extensive research by the 12 cooperatives and a comprehensive Request For Proposal (RFP) process administered by GDS & Associates.

The solar farms will be 20 MW in aggregate and will span more than 800 miles across rural Kansas. A number of the projects are scheduled to be completed and in service for the 2021 peak season, with the remainder to be completed in 2022.



### STAY COMFORTABLE

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.



# Please Move Over for Roadside Crews

It's polite, and it's the law.

Every year, workers along the sides of roads are injured or killed when a car crashes into the crew's site, even though it's marked with bright cones and warning signs.

There's an easy way to reduce those incidents that harm police officers and other first responders, road construction workers and utility crews. There's a slogan to help remind drivers. There's even a law.

The slogan is "slow down or move over." It's good advice and a decent thing to do to keep people safe. It's also a requirement in all 50 states.

Legislatures first started passing Move Over laws about 25 years ago to reduce the year-after-year statistics of harm to roadside emergency workers. In the past five years, states have started to specifically add electric and other utility projects to their Move Over or Slow Down laws.

It's an addition that's welcomed by your local electric cooperative because we were part of the effort to expand the law to help protect line crews.

Protecting line crews is a top priority for DSO, and it's a safety measure everyone can help with, says Mike Olberding, Operations Manager.

"Move Over is not only a good law, it's also the courteous thing to do," says Olberding. "Our crews already perform dangerous work to keep the lights on every day. They deserve a work environment that's as safe as possible."

There are slight differences in each state's Move Over laws, but not so much that you can't figure out the right thing to do, even if you're traveling from state to state. Here are the basic requirements:

► **WITHIN 200 FEET BEFORE AND AFTER A WORK ZONE**, which will be marked with bright signs, marker cones and often flashing lights, change lanes if there's more than one lane on your side of the road so that there is an empty lane between your vehicle and the roadside crew.

► **IF IT'S NOT POSSIBLE OR SAFE TO CHANGE LANES, SLOW DOWN.** Many states specify slowing down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit if it's 25 mph or more. Yes, that means if the posted speed limit is 25 mph, slow down to 5 mph.

► **DRIVERS MUST** obey all traffic directions posted as part of the worksite.

► **KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR CAR** — yes, that's a requirement in many Move Over laws. And yes, it is more of a general guide than a rule for a specific speed. It means you need to pay attention and respond to weather conditions — heavy rain or a slick road might mean you're required to slow down even more than 20 mph. And no texting, fiddling with the radio or other distractions.

► **PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING** those requirements range from \$100 to \$2,000, or loss of your driver's license. The AAA Digest of Motor Laws says

that Kansas state law requires drivers approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights, including towing and recovery vehicles, traveling in the same direction, to vacate the lane closest if safe and possible to do so, or slow to a speed safe for road, weather, and traffic conditions. The law also applies to waste collection vehicles. Electric utility

crews are special cases to watch out for. A study of utility worksite accidents found that the relatively temporary nature of power line repairs could surprise motorists. A roadside construction operation might close a lane for days or weeks, giving time for people familiar with the area to anticipate the changed traffic pattern. Utility work, however, can start and finish in a few hours, possibly raising risks with drivers who might think they know the road ahead.

Another risk to watch for is when worksites are being put up or taken down. Roadside accidents can happen as crews are setting up signs and traffic cones.

Don't drive distracted. Drive according to the conditions of the road. Be courteous to roadside work crews. Watch the signs and obey them. And certainly, follow laws like Move Over or Slow Down. It's good advice that could save a life.



## PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR ROADSIDE CREWS.

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.

# WINTER ENERGY-SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

This winter, you can pitch in at home to help save energy! Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the **orange** bolded words in the puzzle.



## WORD BANK

- ▶ Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- ▶ Instead of turning up the thermostat, add more layers of **clothing** to keep your body warm.
- ▶ If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.
- ▶ Unplug **chargers** when they're not in use. They consume energy even when they're not charging phones and other devices.
- ▶ Ask an adult to check the **air filter** for your home's heating and cooling system. Filters should be replaced regularly to help the system run more efficiently.
- ▶ Always turn off **lights** when you leave a room.

