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Electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Making Thoughtful Decisions Takes Time

As I mentioned in the July issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine, Victory Electric has been undergoing a comprehensive cost-of-service study (COSS) with an independent consulting firm. Power Systems Engineering (PSE) has thoroughly evaluated the cooperative's financial information. They have determined that changes to Victory's rate structure are necessary to ensure that energy costs are distributed fairly and that the cooperative is financially healthy and prepared for the future.

Using standard methods developed by regulatory authorities across the country, a COSS identifies the cost of serving different rate classes (e.g., residential users, farms, irrigators, businesses). It also reviews the costs of purchasing or generating electricity, maintaining power lines and substations, and serving each member class. The consultants look at who uses electricity, how much they use and when they use it. The

COSS also determines the revenue needed to meet the cooperative's current and future needs.

The COSS and recommendations have been presented to the Victory Electric Board of Trustees and management team. They will continue working with PSE to fine-tune the recommendations and make any necessary changes, then decide whether to move forward with a new rate structure. Rate design is both a science and an art, and the process takes time and requires careful analysis and discussion.

Unlike an investor-owned utility, which has an incentive to raise rates to increase profits for shareholders, Victory Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative and aims to operate as close to cost as possible. Any new rate design will help us stay financially healthy, pre-



Shane Laws

Continued on page 12B ►

HAPPY LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Making Thoughtful Decisions Takes Time *Continued from page 12A* ▶

pare for future growth and industry challenges, and provide reliable service at fair rates.

Victory Electric's mission guides the management of our cooperative: "To provide safe, reliable service at a competitive rate, provide economic development opportunities and services for our members, and ensure the financial stability of the cooperative through the use of prudent business practices and the latest technology."

Trustees make decisions based on that mission in accordance with their fiduciary duty to protect the assets of the cooperative. They review the co-op's financials at each monthly board meeting as well as an annual financial audit and other reports. Trustees also fulfill a regulatory role for setting reasonable, equitable rates and establishing fair policies, rules and regulations.

Because of the trustees' careful financial oversight and advocacy for the member-owners they serve, Victory Electric members have not had an energy rate increase for nearly 10 years. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administra-

tion's data for 2024, Victory Electric's residential rates are lower than the state and national average and among the lowest in Kansas compared with other rural electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities.

OTHER POSITIVE TRENDS TO NOTE:

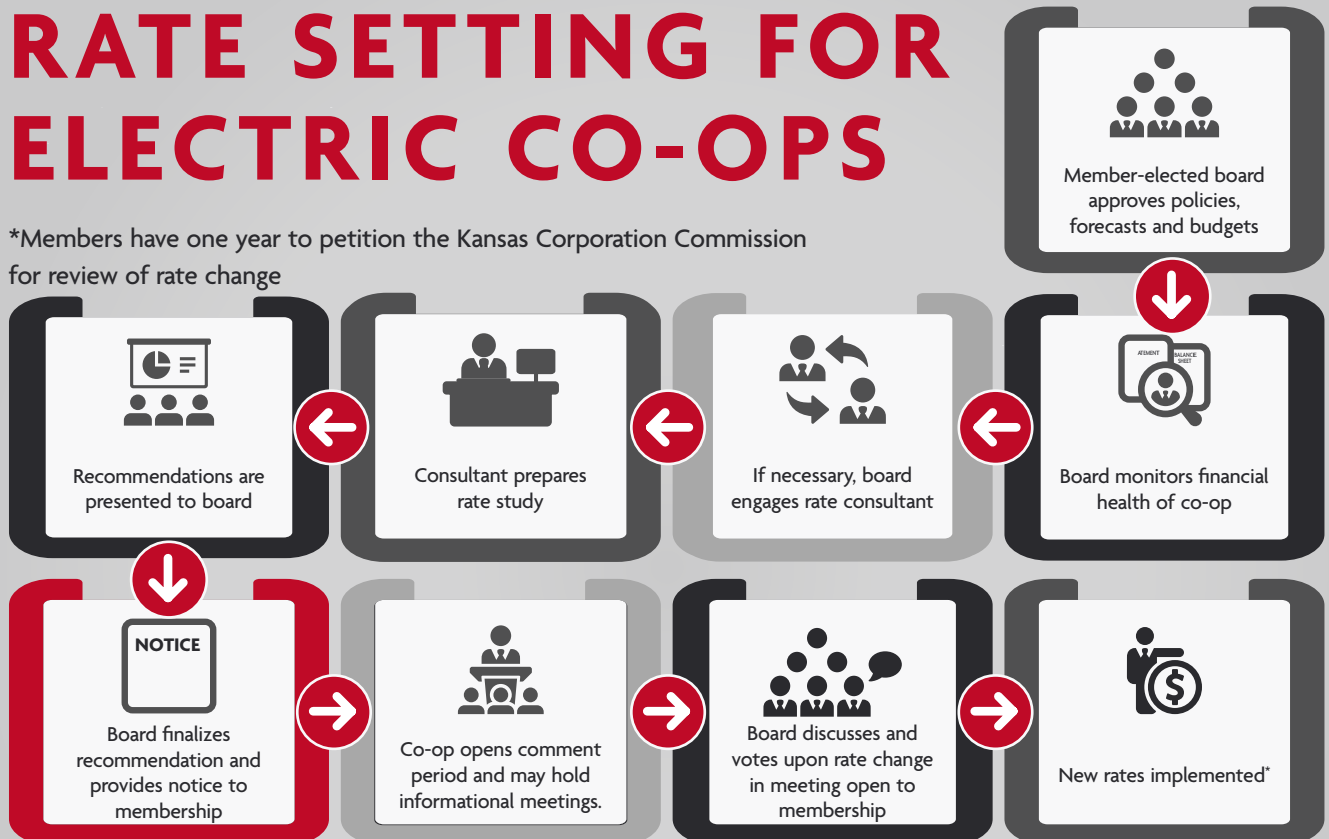
- ▶ Victory Electric has retired more than \$9 million in capital credits to our members since 2019.
- ▶ Since October 2022, we have been able to pass through an Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) as a credit on members' bills.
- ▶ Economic growth continues in our service area, which helps us spread fixed costs over more kilowatt-hours sold.

Because Victory Electric is a cooperative, our members are also owners of the cooperative. Your trust matters, and we will continue working to earn it by transparently keeping you informed. Our board is committed to taking the time needed to thoughtfully design fair rates and make decisions that help the cooperative remain strong and reliable.

THANKS, SHANE

RATE SETTING FOR ELECTRIC CO-OPS

*Members have one year to petition the Kansas Corporation Commission for review of rate change



Pogue, Ratts Graduate from Leadership Dodge

DANNA POGUE, project manager, and **DYLAN RATTTS**, key accounts coordinator, were among 18 members of the 2026 Leadership Dodge class graduating from the program June 24. Dr. Karen Ackerman and Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce (DCAC) President and CEO Karla Lees facilitate the annual leadership program, which aims to cultivate local workforce leaders and educate them about civic involvement. Through role-playing scenarios, team activities and classroom sessions, class members have the opportunity to develop real-world leadership skills they can apply in their workplaces, organizations and communities.

Lees praised Pogue's natural leadership presence and Ratts' positive attitude, willingness to learn and openness to new ideas.

"Both Danna and Dylan were absolutely amazing. They often set the tone for our class based on professionalism and experience. Each year Victory Electric sends us their very best, and we cannot thank them enough!" she said.

Leadership Dodge participants spend six months learning about leadership, community engagement and ways to make a positive impact in Dodge City. Every other week from January through June, Leadership Dodge members toured facilities and attended sessions with Dodge City Municipal Services, Dodge City Public Schools, Dodge City Community College, Ford County Jail and Sheriff's Office, Compass Behavioral Health, Dodge City Police Department, Ford County government, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation, Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau, CommonSpirit — St. Catherine Hospital — Dodge City, and panels of other area organizations and businesses.

The class also had the opportunity to spend a day at the Kansas State Capitol with Rep. Jason Goetz to discuss legislative priorities for Dodge City and western Kansas before attending Dodge City Night in Topeka.



Dylan Ratts (left), key accounts coordinator, and Danna Pogue, project manager, were among 18 members of the 2026 Leadership Dodge class.

"Leadership Dodge has given me something really special — not just knowledge, but perspective," Pogue said. "Being able to step inside businesses across Dodge City and hear directly from the people making decisions that shape our community has changed the way I see leadership. It made it real. It showed me the impact one leader can have — not just on an organization, but on an entire community."

As part of the program, each class develops and executes a community project that they believe will leave a legacy. The 2026 class hosted a fundraiser for the Dodge City Area Women's Chamber of Commerce to support the group's efforts to bring a bronze statue of Miss Kitty to Dodge City. Amanda Blake portrayed Kitty Russell in the "Gunsmoke" TV series, and the beloved fictional character and her can-can dancers are featured in Boot Hill Museum's Long Branch Variety Show.

Leadership Dodge hosted Miss Kitty's Can-Cans Raffle, an event in June during Final Friday activities in downtown Dodge City. The hamburger feed and raffle included performances by local Miss Kitty performers as well as her can-can dancers. Pogue and Ratts helped host the event.

"Leadership Dodge was a great experience for me," Ratts said. "Not only did I learn valuable leadership skills, but I also learned a great deal about our community. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from businesses, organizations and local governments that work to keep Dodge City and our surrounding area successful."

Pogue added, "This experience has grown me in ways that will not only shape who I am, but how I show up as a leader for our organization and our community."

CONGRATULATIONS, DANNA AND DYLAN!



The 2026 Class of Leadership Dodge



Adeline Robinson (left) and Eva Sharma recently represented Victory at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Victory Sponsors Local Students on a Trip to the Nation's Capital

Two Dodge City students, **ADELINE ROBINSON**, Dodge City High School, and **EVA SHARMA**, Rocket Online Schools (ROCS), recently represented Victory Electric at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 13-19. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and developed their leadership skills while connecting with peers from across the cooperative network.

This year, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative joined with the Kansas-Hawaii delegation. These 32 standout student representatives, 27 from Kansas, four from Hawaii, and one from Maine, were hand-selected through an application process. A panel of judges chose Robinson and Sharma as Victory Electric's delegates earlier this year based on their applications, academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, electrical safety video submissions and in-person interviews.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a speech from Trooper Ben, a welcome from other notable Youth Tour Alumni, and dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. The tour was led by Sen. Brenda Dietrich and Rep. Tobias Schlingensiepen, along with Peter Barstad, director of policy in Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft's office. After returning to the hotel, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better with icebreaker activities.

In Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and The People's House — A

White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

On June 18, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, and Brynn Lee Hirata, the 2026 National Youth Leadership Council Spokesperson. This year's NRECA Youth Tour brought together around 2,100 delegates and chaperones across 44 states to Washington, D.C. This attendance represents a record of almost 700 cooperatives, bringing attendance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Students had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Sens. Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. Additionally, delegates met with Chief of Staff Krisann Pearce from Congressman Derek Schmidt's office; Legislative Assistant Rylee Rosamond and intern Hayden Napierala (a 2023 Youth Tour alumna) from Congressman Tracey Mann's office; and intern Cappi Hoeting (a 2022 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp alumna) from Moran's office. During these discussions, they asked thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed opportunities to bond with peers from across the

"I will forever cherish the people I met and the memories shared."

ADELINE ROBINSON
2026 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
YOUTH TOUR
DELEGATE

country — trading pins with other state delegations and taking in the sights during a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

Reflecting on her experience, Robinson said, “Getting to see the history of our nation and how our founding fathers built the nation we know today was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. To be reminded of the values and foundations our country was built on makes me excited to come back to my community and show what it means to be a leader without a title.”

Sharma also embraced the opportunity to build on her leadership

skills during Youth Tour. “The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour inspired me to become more involved in my community and showed me how leadership can make a positive impact on others,” she said.

Students who participated in the 2026 Youth Tour are also eligible to apply for the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship. For more information about Youth Tour and other KEC youth programs, please contact Chanda Schulte, director of communications, at 620-227-2139 or visit www.victoryelectric.net/youth-tour-leadership-camp.

“The experience that impacted me the most was learning about new cultures and growing more confidence in myself.”

EVA SHARMA, 2026 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE



Eva Sharma (left) and Arielle Lindeen, representing Nemaha-Marshall Electric, enjoy the view of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon.



2026 Youth Tour delegates at the FDR Memorial.



Delegates display handmade cards created during the trip.



Adeline Robinson sits in the “oval office” at The People’s House — A White House Experience.



Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Delegate Adeline Robinson meets Sen. Jerry Moran while visiting Washington, D.C.



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Delegate Eva Sharma shows off the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Thank You, Victory Members!

Victory Electric's member appreciation events continue throughout our service area this summer! We enjoy seeing members and their families at these events and hope to see you at one soon.

On June 15, Victory Electric hosted Spark at the Park at Cavalier Field in Dodge City. Fans cheered on the Dodge City A's baseball team while Victory provided free meal vouchers, Cracker Jack, baseball cards and other giveaways to those attending the game. Several lucky community members also won prizes.

Victory Electric kicked off Spark the Celebration June 26 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence. While counting down to Independence Day, members visiting the Victory Electric office were treated with bomb pops, popcorn, miniature American flags, Victory Electric cups and cookies, and vintage Victory swag. Drawings were also held for a grill and barbecue set and two \$250 bill credits.



Victory Electric Director of Communications Chanda Schulte (left) and Key Accounts Coordinator Dylan Ratts give away Victory swag at the Dodge City A's game.



Three baseball fans pose with the prizes they won in Victory Electric's drawing at Spark at the Park. Victory also provided vouchers for free meals from the concession stand, Cracker Jack, baseball cards and other giveaways.



Victory Electric gave away a grill and barbecue set on July 2.



Chanda Schulte (right) hands out bomb pops during Victory Electric's Spark the Celebration member appreciation event.

Tiemeyer Joins Victory Electric

Ingalls native **KAISHA TIEMEYER** recently joined Victory Electric as a communications/design coordinator. In her new role, she will be handling video production and editing, communications campaigns, event planning and other responsibilities as part of the marketing and communications team.

"We're happy to have Kaisha on our team," Director of Communications Chanda Schulte said. "Her background in multimedia and teaching will add value to Victory Electric's member communications and youth program development."

For the past five years, Tiemeyer served as an audio and video production teacher at Dodge City High School (DCHS). Before teaching, she worked for KSN TV as a field reporter and multimedia journalist. She said she was essentially a "one-man band" while writing, shooting video and audio, and editing news stories across the western Kansas region.

Tiemeyer attended Wichita State University and received a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in journalism. While teaching students full time at DCHS, she completed a master's degree in education through Fort Hays State University's Transition to Teaching program.

"I absolutely loved my students, and it was one of the best jobs I've ever had," Tiemeyer said.

After five years of teaching, she decided to join Victory Electric for a new challenge and the opportunity to do more creative work.

"I'm super excited to be here!" she said.

She and her two brothers grew up on her family's farm south of Ingalls. Tiemeyer still helps her dad with harvest, moving cattle and other farmwork. She and her husband, Austin, live in Dodge City with their dog and three cats.

Tiemeyer loves staying active in her free time. She is an avid runner and has completed a marathon and several half marathons. She enjoys going to the lake with her husband to jet ski, water ski and wakeboard. She also likes listening to music and cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas State Wildcats.

Welcome to Victory, Kaisha!



Kaisha Tiemeyer

VICTORY EMPLOYEES RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Two Victory Electric employees recently received professional certifications. These certifications help strengthen the cooperative, and members benefit from knowledgeable, well-trained staff.

Geographic Information Systems Analyst **CORBAN GARCIA** received a GIS Professional (GISP) license. He started at Victory Electric in September 2024 and previously worked as GIS coordinator for the City of Liberal. Garcia has a bachelor's degree in geosciences with a GIS emphasis from Fort Hays State University.



Corban Garcia



Dayton Denton

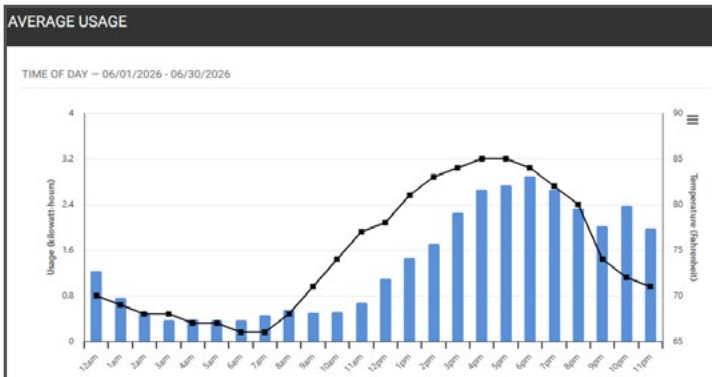
Lineman **DAYTON DENTON** has earned the journeyman certification. He started at Victory Electric as an intern, then joined the company as a groundman in August 2022. The Jetmore native previously attended Pratt Community College's electrical and power transmission program. As linemen progress through the ranks from groundman to journeyman at Victory Electric, their training helps them become well-versed in electrical system knowledge, technical skills and safety standards. Victory's on-the-job lineman education program also includes additional coursework and testing. Congratulations, Corban and Dayton!

SmartHub Tools Give Members More Control

Victory Electric's SmartHub webpage and app give members the power to track energy usage. SmartHub's secure usage management tools let you see your monthly, daily or hourly energy usage and look for trends, which helps you make smart choices about using electricity. Taking more control of your electrical use can ultimately help you save money.



Log in to your SmartHub account to get started. If you don't have an account, click "Don't have an account? Register now." at the top of www.victoryelectric.smarthub.coop and follow the prompts. You will need your account number, which can be found on your monthly bill. Learn more about the available digital tools below.

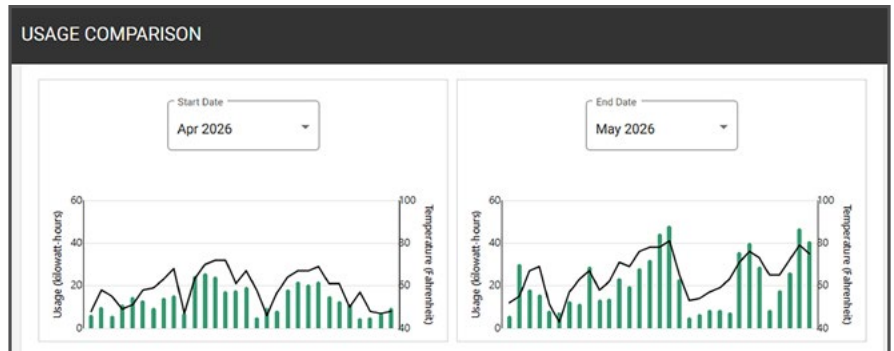


AVERAGE USAGE

The Average Usage tool shows you what your typical or average usage is for the time period you select. For example, see your average usage for each month or each day of the week over an entire year. Or view your typical usage for each hour of the day over the course of two weeks. This tool helps you discover what times of day you use the most energy and where making changes to your habits will make the biggest difference.

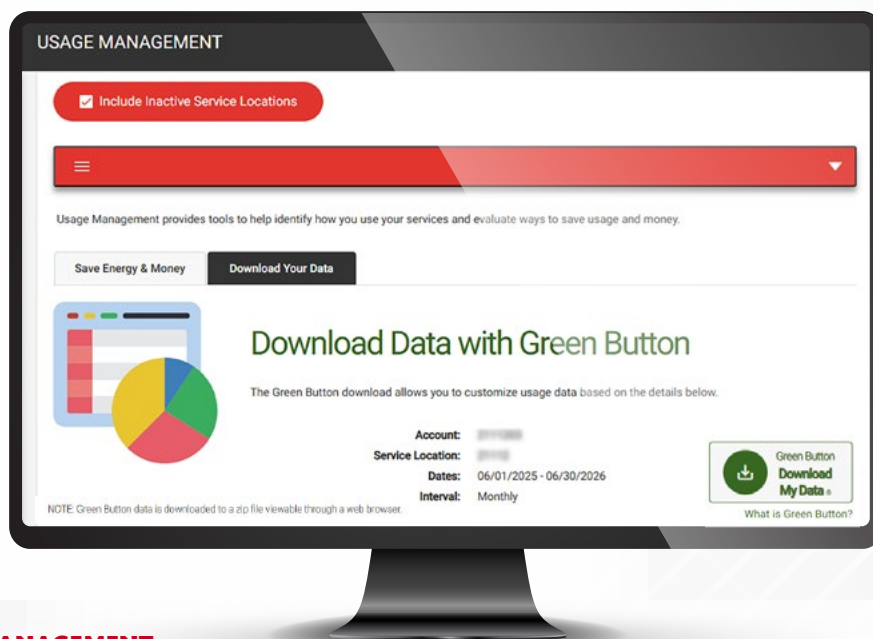
USAGE COMPARISON

The Usage Comparison tool lets you select any two months and compare the usage history side by side. View the differences between this month and the same month last year, or select other combinations to see how your bill varies each month and in different seasons.



USAGE EXPLORER

Usage Explorer gives you a detailed look at your past and current usage, all in one place. View your monthly, daily and hourly usage and see how weather trends affect it. Select a date range and see graphs for your current bill, previous bill, the year to date or your past 13 bills. You also have the ability to see your demand.

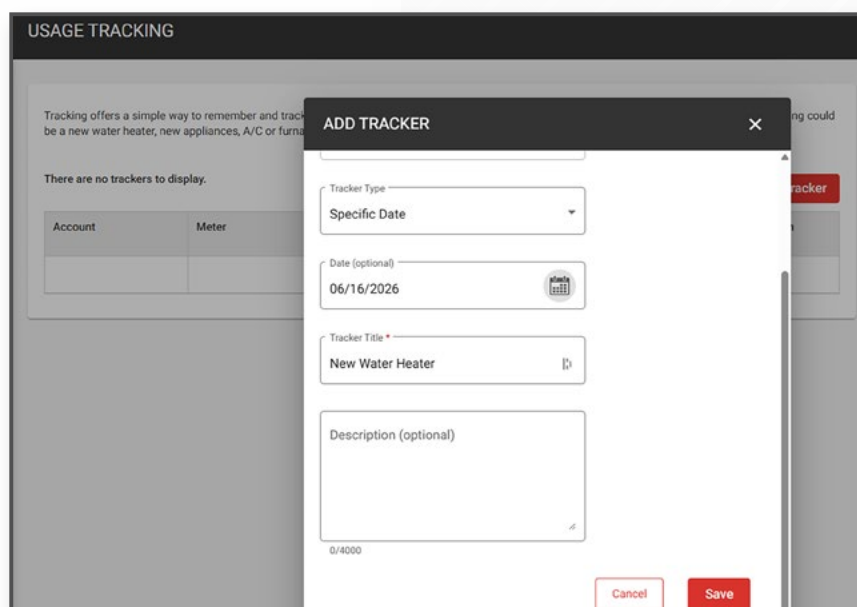


USAGE MANAGEMENT

SmartHub's Usage Management section lets you easily download your Victory Electric account usage data to an XML or CSV file. Green Button is a national, government-led initiative that gives utility customers easy and secure access to their personal energy use data. After downloading your usage data, you can view it in your web browser or upload it to any third-party site that supports Green Button data analysis. View a summary of your electricity usage over the time frame you specify when downloading your usage — up to 14 months.

USAGE TRACKING

The Usage Planning tool lets you create markers to help you keep track of differences in your energy usage. For example, set a point-in-time marker if you install a new energy-efficient air conditioner, water heater or large appliance. Use a range marker to call attention to energy usage during a particular date range you set, such as when you go on vacation, guests come to stay for the holidays, or your college student returns home for the summer.



For more tips, visit www.victoryelectric.net/smarthub. Monitoring your energy data regularly on SmartHub helps you make informed decisions and prevent surprises on your monthly electric bill. Call 620-227-2139 if you have questions or need help setting up your online account.

Touch-a-Truck and Tasty Traditions

Victory joins the City of Windmills Festival celebration

On July 10, Victory Electric participated in the Touch-a-Truck event and our annual hamburger and hot dog feed on the opening day of the Spearville City of Windmills (COW) Festival at the city park.

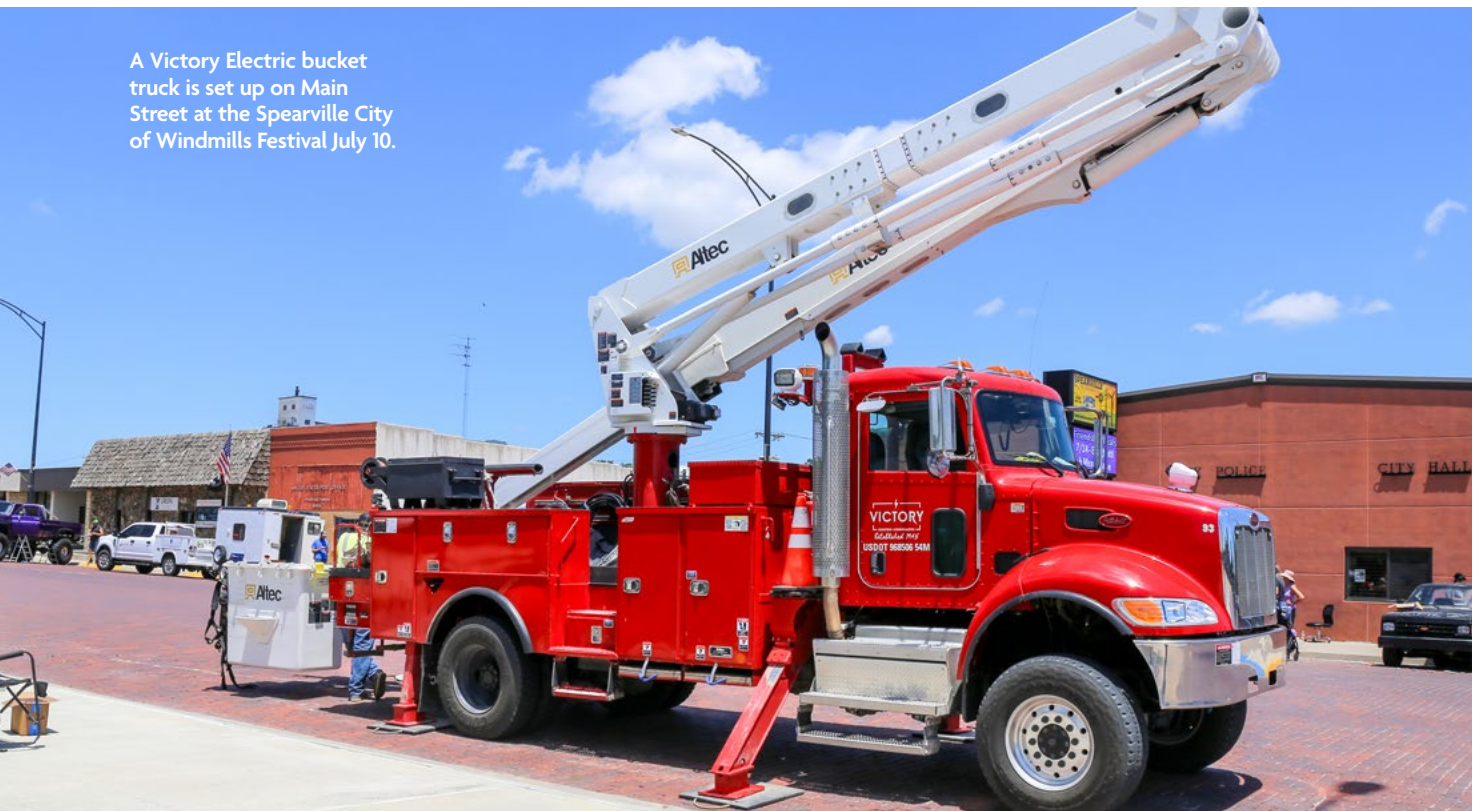


Chris Konrade (left) and Cory Edmunds assist young Touch-a-Truck visitors on Main Street in Spearville.



A young festival goer takes the opportunity to see a classic red Victory Electric bucket truck up close.

A Victory Electric bucket truck is set up on Main Street at the Spearville City of Windmills Festival July 10.





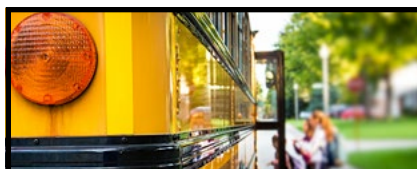
ABOVE: Victory Electric District 3 Trustee Ken Schulte grills burgers for the members he represents on the board. His wife, Gwen, also helped during the event.



LEFT: Kirk Konrade (front) and Brad Ackerman cook hamburgers for Victory Electric's hamburger and hot dog feed at the Spearville COW Festival July 10.

RIGHT: An assembly line of Victory employees prepares hamburger and hot dog meals for several hundred people the evening of July 10.

BELOW: Spearville-area members sign up for Victory Electric bill credits and get free pickleballs and cooling towels while waiting in line for the meal. Spearville's new sports complex at the park includes a pickleball court.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road — but the greatest risk comes when children are getting on or off the bus. Whether you're a driver, parent or student, knowing these safety tips will help keep everyone safe.

FOR DRIVERS

- ▶ **SLOW DOWN:** Reduce speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- ▶ **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE:** Stay back at least 10 feet from a school bus — this is the most dangerous area for children.
- ▶ **STAY ALERT:** Watch for kids who may unexpectedly enter the road, especially near bus stops.
- ▶ **RESPECT THE ZONE:** When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to look for children near playgrounds, parks and residential areas.

KNOW THE SIGNALS:

- ▶ **YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS:** Bus is preparing to stop. Slow down.
- ▶ **RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND STOP ARM:** Bus is loading/unloading — stop and wait until the bus moves again.
- ▶ **NEVER PASS A STOPPED BUS ON AN UNDIVIDED ROAD:** It's illegal in most states.

FOR PARENTS

Teach your child to arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early, and how to play it **SAFE**:

- ▶ Stay back at least 10 feet, or five giant steps, from the curb.
- ▶ Always wait for the bus to stop and the driver to signal before boarding.
- ▶ Face forward and buckle up if seat belts are available.
- ▶ Exit carefully, look both ways and cross in front of the bus — never behind. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Energy Efficient Irrigation Strategies

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Agriculture is the backbone of our state, and keeping farmland well irrigated is crucial for our agricultural producers. Farm irrigation methods and technologies can make a huge difference when it comes to maximizing productivity while minimizing costs.

Energy-efficient irrigation methods help farmers curtail unnecessary water use while growing the same produce, reducing their operating costs and increasing overall productivity. Above all, when choosing among irrigation methods and technologies, the most important considerations are overall cost, return on investment, convenience and risk minimization.

One of the easiest ways to maximize energy efficiency, as many farmers have already done, is to replace old, inefficient diesel irrigation motors with electric motors. Typically, electric motors are about 90% efficient, while diesel motors are much less efficient, at 30%-40%. This means cost savings in the long run for farmers. Electric motors also have lower maintenance needs and can make use of a variable frequency drive (VFD) irrigation system, which helps further reduce costs.

VFD systems allow farmers to pump water at different rates, which maximizes irrigation throughout the day. A VFD system can control the speed of an electric motor by adjusting the frequency of the electrical power supplied to the motor. Since electric irrigation motors offer many benefits, the majority of U.S. farmers have switched from diesel motors to electric ones, although pairing the motor with a VFD system is still a relatively new agricultural trend.

After several years, the efficiency of irrigation pumps tends to decline. After five years, irrigation pumps are typically evaluated for performance efficiency. The evaluation can help inform decisions on the most cost-effective solution, whether making improvements to the existing pump



LANCE CHEUNG, USDA

Replacing leaky sprinklers can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps reduce water use and save energy.

or replacing it entirely. Irrigation pump tests usually assess the pump's discharge pressure, lift, water flow and power input. Regular testing of irrigation pumps can help ensure they are working as efficiently as possible. Upgrading irrigation hardware can also improve irrigation system performance. Replacing leaky sprinklers, for example, can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps to reduce water use and save energy.

There are many new agricultural technologies that are part of the "precision agriculture" industry, including autonomous tractors, crop-monitoring drones, and robotic milking or weeding machines. Wi-Fi-connected crops use precision agriculture irrigation technology. After placing Wi-Fi-connected sensors throughout a crop field, farmers can monitor conditions by using their smartphones or computers. Data on light, humidity, temperature and moisture are captured by the sensors. That data is automatically sent to a server for analysis and then to a farmer's smartphone app. Using this technology also allows farmers to remotely set automatic timers for their watering systems. With Wi-Fi-connected crops, there are several factors to consider, such as cost, range,

bandwidth and power. One constraint of using Wi-Fi-connected crops is that the sensor range can be limited, which makes the technology only feasible for smaller farms. There are other network connectivity platforms that could be applied to irrigation management, such as cellular connection, satellites, LoRa and Sigfox, but Wi-Fi is the most commonly used.

As technology continues to improve, there will be new opportunities to support the agricultural sector. Replacing technology that uses on-site fossil fuels, such as propane and gasoline, with electricity-powered technology will improve energy efficiency and reduce local pollution.

Kansas' electric cooperatives are proud to support their agricultural members and will continue to help them determine opportunities to improve and meet their energy efficiency goals.

MARIA KANEVSKY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.