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Electronews

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FROM THE CEO

Increased Demand Outlook Requires Reasonable Policy

Reliable electricity powers our daily lives — and it is the foundation of the American economy. As more of our economy becomes electrified, the demand for power is growing rapidly.

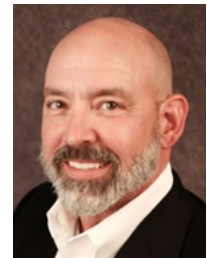
Artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and e-commerce have led to the rapid expansion of data centers. By 2050, the electric load for data centers is projected to increase by 65%. Economic development, industrial and home heating electrification, electric vehicle adoption and manufacturing growth will also increase the demand for electricity in the next several years.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that electricity demand will increase by 2.5% in 2024 and by 3.2% in 2025. And peak demand is expected

to grow by 38 gigawatts through 2028. That's like adding another California to the grid!

Yet energy supply is decreasing as 24/7 coal and gas facilities are being retired prematurely. Making new renewable generation facilities operational and connecting them to the grid can take years because of extensive permitting requirements.

Even more concerning are federal regulations that further threaten energy reliability and will lead to higher energy costs for power providers, rural electric cooperatives like Victory Electric, and consumers.



Shane Laws

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Trip of a Lifetime

DEVELOPS YOUNG LEADERS

Area students **JOSIE ROBINSON** and **TANA MCDONALD** recently experienced civic engagement, saw history firsthand and learned how government works at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (Youth Tour) in Washington, D.C., June 14-20. Thirty-three students, representing rural electric cooperatives in Kansas and Hawaii, plus adult chaperones joined about 2,000 participants from 44 states at the annual gathering.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Victory Electric selected Robinson and McDonald to travel to our nation's capital, where they deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and honed their leadership abilities. We believe in developing the potential of today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders, and these two teens are well deserving of the opportunity.

Robinson, who will be a senior at Dodge City High School, grew up on a fifth-generation family farm and is a rodeo queen. She shares her love for horses as a volunteer helping children with special needs develop riding skills. She is an athlete who is active in school and community groups, holding leadership positions in the Richland Boosters 4-H Club and the Dodge City FFA.

McDonald, who will be a senior at Bucklin High School, earned the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) "True Blue Student of the Week" honor in 2023 for her team spirit and good attitude

while facing challenges. Despite breaking a foot twice in the same year, the volleyball team captain remained a dedicated supporter of her teammates off the court. She also served as vice president of Bucklin's chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and is involved in numerous school and community activities.

To be considered for the trip, each had to submit an application, résumé and short video about energy efficiency to Victory Electric. They also interviewed with the selection committee before winning the opportunity to attend Youth Tour and receive a \$500 scholarship following graduation.

YOUTH TOUR EXPERIENCE

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a dinner and a night tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by State Treasurer Steven Johnson and Kansas Rep. Kyle Hoffman, both Youth Tour alumni. While in Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, the White



Josie Robinson (left) and another Kansas delegate stand near the reflecting pool with the Washington Monument in the background.



Tana McDonald (right) snaps a selfie during a Washington Nationals baseball game.



Before leaving for Washington, D.C., the Kansas delegation took a private tour of the Kansas State Capitol.



Josie Robinson (left) and Tana McDonald (right) pose near the U.S. Capitol during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June.

House, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. They visited monuments, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Smithsonian museums to further enrich their appreciation for history and culture. Students also traded state pins with students from other state delegations and took a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

The Kansas delegation met with U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran during their visit to Capitol Hill to ask questions on a variety of topics important to them.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) National Youth Day on June 19, students were inspired by motivational speakers, including Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, representatives from the NRECA International Program, and Hayley Dorsey, the 2024 national youth spokesperson.

“This Youth Tour has been a trip of a lifetime,” McDonald said. “I’ve made and grown relationships I never imagined I’d be blessed with. I learned a lot of life skills and saw amazing sites at our

nation’s capital. I will always be thankful for this opportunity!”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Each year, Victory Electric invites juniors from its cooperative service area to apply for all-expenses-paid trips to Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Applications will open this fall for 2025 youth trips. Learn more at www.victoryelectric.net/youth-tour-cooperative-leadership-camp.



“The Holocaust Memorial Museum and just what really happened during that time was very impactful to me. Learning new things about our history and all the

different events inspired me. Trading pins with different people and also making friends from different states will be something I will always remember about this trip.”

JOSIE ROBINSON



“The Holocaust Memorial Museum was heart touching. It was difficult to see, but very meaningful. The museums inspired me by seeing all the amazing things

people accomplished once they put their minds to it. I’ll remember trading pins with people from all over our country. I got to form relationships with people I would have never otherwise met.”

TANA McDONALD

VICTORY ELECTRIC

Appreciates Our Members

Victory Electric is holding member appreciation events throughout our service area this year to thank our member-owners for their support.

On June 7, Victory Electric cheered on the Dodge City A's baseball team at Spark at the Park. Employees gave away meal vouchers, mini baseballs and bats, and other goodies to those attending the game.

On July 12, Victory hosted a hamburger and hot dog feed in the park at the Spearville City of Windmills Festival.



Interested in Solar?



Victory Electric's Community Solar program gives eligible member-owners an opportunity to take advantage of the benefits of solar energy without the significant initial investment, maintenance costs and ownership hassles of a rooftop solar system.

Purchasing shares in the energy

produced at the Johnson Corner solar farm doesn't require a long-term commitment, doesn't involve any installation on your property, and costs only \$5 per share per month. Learn more about the program and how to apply at www.victoryelectric.net/community-solar.

VICTORY ANNOUNCES JOB CHANGES

Congratulations to **JASON GUILLEN**, who was recently promoted to manager of warehouse and facilities. He will oversee daily warehouse operations and maintenance.

TJ ACKERMAN, human resources coordinator, has added the role of executive administrative assistant to his position.



Jason Guillen



TJ Ackerman

VICTORY SUPPORTS AREA 4-H CLUBS

Victory Electric provided T-shirts for 4-H members to wear at the **HODGEMAN, GRAY AND FORD COUNTY FAIRS**.

We appreciate the 4-H youth, parents, leaders and extension agents in our service area and hope you had a great fair!



WHERE DO YOU FIND Value?



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE DAILY COST OF ELECTRICITY IS \$4.57,* OR ABOUT \$140 PER MONTH?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases.

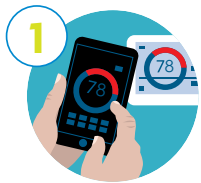
That's real value.

SOURCES: ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (*BASED ON 2022 NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 907 kWh), MONEYGEEK AND CNET

Tips to BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

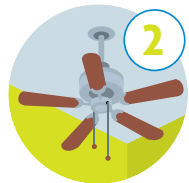
When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves.

Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.



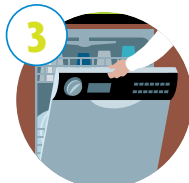
1

Raise the thermostat a few degrees.



2

Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.



3

Avoid using major appliances.



4

Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.



5

Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.

Watch the Clock to Lock in Energy Savings

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Victory Electric member-owners stay cool and connected.

August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, Victory Electric must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production — whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources — and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and rebalance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy — just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. Victory Electric's peak hours during

summer months are 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, everyone in our community saves. Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity.

HOW TO LOWER ENERGY USE

Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- ▶ **SET YOUR THERMOSTAT A FEW DEGREES HIGHER.** If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.
 - ▶ **DID YOU KNOW CEILING FANS CAN MAKE YOU FEEL 4 DEGREES COOLER?** Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to boost your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. For summer operation, set your fan to rotate counterclockwise to push cooler air down, which creates a "wind chill" effect. Remember that fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.
 - ▶ **PLAN ENERGY-INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES LIKE LAUNDRY AND RUNNING THE DISHWASHER FOR OFF-PEAK HOURS.** Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
 - ▶ **UNPLUG ELECTRONICS WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN USE** or use power strips to manage devices.
 - ▶ **CLOSE DRAPES AND BLINDS** during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.
- When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

Stay Safe When Going Back to School

It may feel like summer started only a few weeks ago, but kids will soon be heading back to school. August is Back to School Safety Month — a great time to review safe habits with your family members. Here are some helpful tips to help keep kids safe while going to and coming from school, courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

DRIVE SAFELY

If you are driving, remember these simple rules:

- ▶ Watch carefully for children, especially in the morning or mid-afternoon at school arrival and dismissal times.
- ▶ Be alert as you back out of a driveway or drive through a neighborhood, school zone or bus stop.
- ▶ Follow school speed limits and stay alert for other drivers who may be entering or exiting from school drop-off zones.
- ▶ If you see a school bus, yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle.
- ▶ Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. All vehicles, regardless of which lane they are in or which direction they are traveling, **MUST** stop and wait until the red lights stop

TALK TO YOUR TEEN DRIVERS

Remind your teen drivers to slow down and pay attention when kids are present — especially before and after school.



flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

STAY SAFE ON THE SCHOOL BUS

Many students rely on school buses to get them to and from school safely.

Teach your bus-riding kids to play it **SAFE**:

STAY at least 10 feet — five giant steps — away from the curb.

ALWAYS wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to approach the bus.

FACE forward after finding a seat on the bus.

EXIT the bus after it stops and look left-right-left for cars before crossing a street.

Protect Your Family and Your Home From Lightning

Between 2007 and 2011, lightning caused an average of 22,600 fires, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. Lightning strikes also cause death for 30 people a year, per the National Weather Service.

You may be surprised to learn that one-third of lightning-related injuries occur indoors. Lightning can strike anywhere — not just the tallest object outdoors. It can also strike 10 miles from a thunderstorm. Stay away from corded phones, electronics and plumbing during summer storms.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

The Electrical Safety Foundation offers these valuable tips on staying safe from lightning:

- ▶ Lightning protection systems intercept lightning strikes

and provide a grounding path for dangerous electricity to discharge safely.

- ▶ Panel box surge protective devices (SPDs) protect your home from harmful electrical surges, limiting voltages by diverting currents at the electrical service entrance. Only qualified electricians should install SPDs.
- ▶ Point-of-use surge protectors help keep electronics plugged into the device safe from surges. These devices should be replaced over time or after a major surge event.
- ▶ Regular power strips **DO NOT** provide surge protection.
- ▶ No surge device can handle a direct lightning strike. Unplug sensitive electronics well before a storm to prevent damage.

Soaring Demand

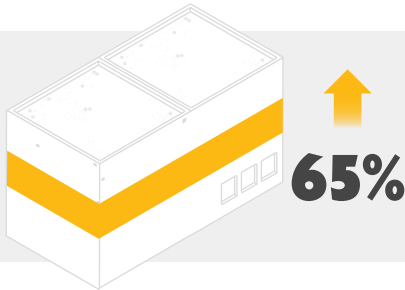
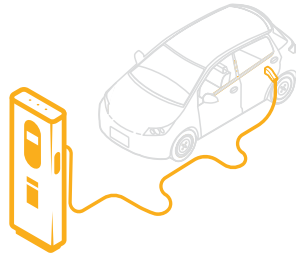
Second in a series

After decades of flat or declining electricity demand, the United States is in the midst of a boom in power use. Recent government data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts between now and 2028. This trend would ordinarily be great news for the power industry. But government policies aimed at shutting down fossil-fuel-based generation and years-long delays in permitting and siting for new transmission lines are turning this power boon into a capacity crisis.

Here are the primary demand drivers:

Electrification

Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are expected to increase overall U.S. energy consumption by 1% per year through 2026.

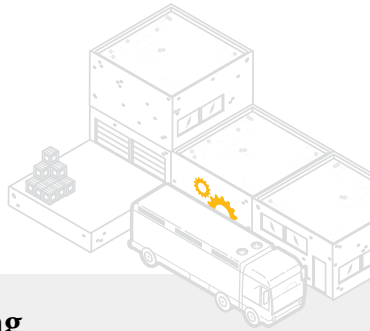
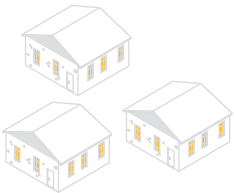


Data Centers

Driven by explosions in artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.

Economic Growth

Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.



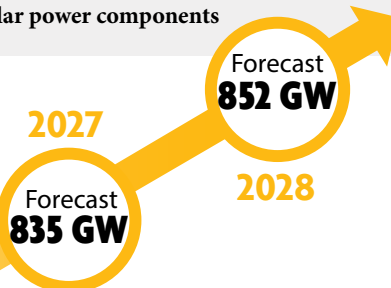
Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring

New, expanding and “onshored/reshored” manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.

Key products: EVs, batteries, semiconductors, solar power components

Total Demand

Analysts predicted in 2023 that U.S. peak demand will increase by at least 38 GW over the next five years, nearly double the growth rate predicted in 2022.



SOURCES: NRECA, EPRI, GRID STRATEGIES, U.S. EIA, INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY; DESIGN: JERRY MOSEMAK

Increased Demand Outlook Requires Reasonable Policy

Continued from page 12A ▶

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) final rule published in April overhauls the way baseload power plants operate. The rule could lead to more frequent blackouts, higher costs and uncertainty.

What's the issue with the new rule? National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jim Matheson summed it up like this: “EPA’s power plant rule is unlawful, unreasonable and unachievable. It exceeds EPA’s authority and poses an immediate threat to the American electric grid.”

The final rule states that by 2032, baseload coal and natural gas plants will need to capture 90% of carbon dioxide emissions using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. However, power plants already using CCS technology have not met the levels the new standard requires.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In May, the NRECA filed a lawsuit that challenges the EPA over its power plant final rule. Other affected organizations and 27 states, including Kansas, also challenged the EPA and requested to stay the rule. NRECA and our partners will continue to monitor these important issues and speak on behalf of our member-owners.

Protecting reliability is not a partisan issue, but energy policy has a significant effect on our ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. Smart energy policy helps keep the lights on affordably. Renewable energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid.

THANKS, SHANE