

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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District Offices

Garden City
2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-0261

Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-4223

Harper
302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090

Leoti
N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632

Scott City—Main
101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885

Syracuse
206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
620-384-5171

Tribune
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879
620-376-4231

In Case of an Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
1-800-ON AGAIN.

FROM THE MANAGER

Comeback for Energy Tax Credits

Ready to boost your home's energy efficiency without breaking the bank? The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2013 revived energy efficiency tax credits to the tune of \$500.

The credit offsets the cost of upgrades such as super-efficient water heaters and furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, central air conditioners, building insulation, windows, and roofs.

This marks the third extension of the incentive initiated by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. The last round expired in 2011; the new legislation covers 2013 upgrades along with projects undertaken in 2013. If you've already received an energy tax credit, you're out of luck—there's a lifetime cap of \$500.

Full details on qualifying upgrades and individual caps are at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Here are a few ways to lower your electric bill and save at tax time.

Insulating Factors

Recoup up to 10 percent of the cost of upgrading a home's envelope. The tax credit is capped at \$500 for all improvements; labor costs are not covered. Eligible upgrades are:

- ▶ Insulation materials
- ▶ Systems designed to reduce a home's heat loss/gain
- ▶ Exterior doors
- ▶ Skylights and windows (\$200 maximum for upgrades between 2006-2013)
- ▶ Qualifying metal or asphalt roofs

Heating and Cooling

Replacing your home's heating or cooling system? You could qualify for a tax credit ranging from \$50 to \$500 for units put in place between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013. Eligible improvements are:

- ▶ High-efficiency water heaters (energy factor of at least



Bruce Mueller

Take
advantage
of efficiency
tax credits
and save!

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Local Event Calendar



Racers line up before the 2012 ElectroRally race in Scott City.

APRIL 10—SCOTT CITY

Western Kansas ElectroRally: Spring brings more than flowers and songs of birds. The 2013 spring racing schedule begins April 10, in Scott City at the airport.

These races have four classes (novice, standard, solar and open) that compete. The electric cars have to be built to exact standards in certain things. Otherwise, the sky is the limit.

The day of the race, inspections are held for the driver and car. Safety regulations are strictly followed, as are weight and other approved rules. Kansas high school teams design, build, raise funds, and race their vehicles. They, and their sponsors, must read and follow all the rules. The contest is not just about speed. The team and driver need to calculate how much speed a battery can sustain and still last the entire heat/race. It takes strategy, teamwork, and a desire to learn and share their talents. If you've never watched any of the ElectroRally races, come to Scott City on April 10. Wheatland Electric has been involved with this community event for many years.

The next Western Kansas ElectroRally will be in Beloit on April 23. For more information (rules, sponsors, registration form, guidelines and contacts) visit www.kansaselectrorally.org.

APRIL 20—LEOTI

The First Wind and Wheels Festival: This new annual festival will be held in Leoti. It starts at 9 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. at the Wichita County High School Track and West Field.

Some of the features include a car show, presentation of wind energy by Westar Energy and Vestas, live music, RC Flyer take-off, helicopter landing, and kid's kite fly. The car show award ceremony and parade will end the day. Wheatland Electric is also sponsoring this event.

This community event was proposed by 21st Century Equipment and a committee was elected to contend with all the details such an undertaking involves.

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- 0.82 or thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent; \$300 cap)
- ▶ Electric heat pump water heaters with an energy factor of at least 2.0 (\$300 cap)
- ▶ Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50 cap)
- ▶ Qualifying central air conditioner (\$300 cap)
- ▶ Biomass stove (select fuels; \$300 cap)

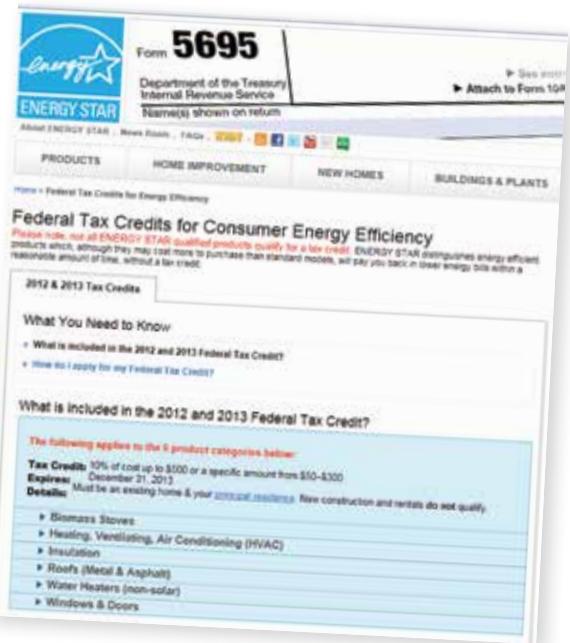
Tax Credit Basics

Energy tax credits are non-refundable—they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce taxes in following years. You don't get a separate check for the credit amount.

File for energy tax credits with IRS Form 5695. Be sure to keep a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Eligible upgrades must be made to a taxpayer's primary residence by Dec. 31, 2013.

Rebate Locator

Some states offer further subsidies or rebates for efficiency projects. For a complete list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency assistance, visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, a project



Full details on qualifying upgrades and individual caps are at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.

funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at www.dsireusa.org.

Join us April 3 at Annual Meeting

If you are reading this article before or on April 3, 2013, you still have time to attend Wheatland Electric Cooperatives' 65th Annual meeting of the members on April 3, 2013, at the Caldwell Community Center in Caldwell. Please make plans to attend as we go over the accomplishments of the cooperative both community wise and organizationally at the meeting. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will convene at 12:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Until next time, take care.

Parks Promoted to Fourth Year Apprentice

WAYNE PARKS, Syracuse District, has been promoted to fourth-year apprentice lineman.

He has completed his studies and passed the written and oral questions successfully to reach this level. The next step to earn is journeyman lineman.

Congratulations for attaining fourth-year apprentice lineman!



Wayne Parks

SHARING SUCCESS

Sharing Success Fund Awards Harper Hospital \$1,000

On February 21, Wheatland Electric announced that its Sharing Success Fund, managed by the Scott Community Foundation, awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Harper Hospital in Harper.

The hospital submitted their request for the \$1,000 grant, which would help them to purchase a low bed, which will be used by the nursing department to help reduce falls and slipping out of bed.

Currently, the nursing department shares the hospital's one low bed with the physical therapy department. Occasionally, both departments need to use the bed and the hospital staff is forced to use a regular bed which increases the risk of falls for those patients.

With the help of the grant from the Sharing Success fund, the nursing department will be able to purchase their own bed. The request was submitted by Loretta Kerschen, a grant writer at the hospital.

Harper Hospital is located in Harper, a rural community located about 47 miles southwest of Wichita. The area includes approximately 4,248 residents.

The hospital's primary mission is to provide high quality health care services utilizing responsible stewardship of resources to those they serve. Harper Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities that they serve.



Wheatland Electric donated \$1,000 through Sharing Success Fund to the Harper Hospital. Shawn Powelson (left), Wheatland's member services representative, presents the hospital staff with a check. From left: Powelson, Bret Mathes, Harper Area Mental Health Foundation Member; Pat Kerschen, Hospital Board President; Karen Aldis, Director of Nursing; Kim Cinelli, CEO; Loretta Kerschen, Grant Writer; Jeri Patterson, Board Member; and Sandra Owen, CFO.

The hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital with acute, skilled and long-term beds, assisted living facility and three rural health clinics located in Harper, Attica and Conway Springs.

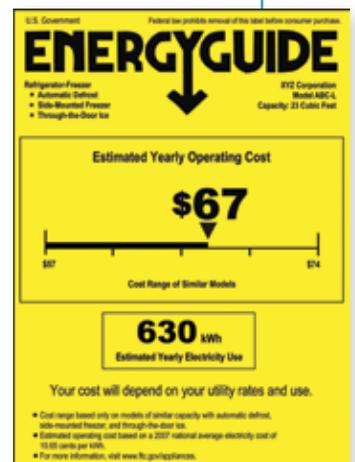
The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on December 1, 2013. The program will run until the funds are exhausted. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 for further details.

Tips for Energy-Efficient Appliance Shopping

- ▶ **Select the size and style.** Measure the space the appliance will occupy to be sure your new purchase will fit. Make sure that you'll have enough room to open the door or lid fully and enough clearance for ventilation.
- ▶ **Know where to shop.** Appliance outlets, electronics stores and local retailers carry different brands and models. Dealers also sell appliances through catalogs and the Internet.
- ▶ **Estimate how much the appliance will cost to operate.** The more energy an appliance uses, the more it will cost to run. Consult the EnergyGuide label to compare the energy use of

different models. The difference on your monthly electric bill can be significant when considered over the 10-to-20-year life of the appliance. You could save money by choosing a model that's more energy efficient, even if the purchase price is higher.

- ▶ **Compare the performance of different brands and models.** Ask to see the manufacturer's product literature. Decide which features are important to you. Ask questions about how the different models operate: Are they noisy? What safety features do they have? What about repair histories? How much water do they use? How energy efficient are they?



Payment Options

Wheatland Electric Offers Members Several Ways to Pay

The following are the authorized bill payment options available to Wheatland Electric members. Payments by cash, credit card (for residential members only), money order, personal check, certified check or bank draft will be accepted. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged for every credit card transaction. All payments must be in a Wheatland Electric office before 5 p.m. on the Delinquent After Date printed on your billing to avoid late payment penalties.

Drop box: Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order, in the payment drop box at any of the locations listed below or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th in Scott City.

In person: Pay your bill at any of our offices in:

- ▶ Caldwell—City Offices, 14 W. Central
- ▶ Crystal's DVDs—111 W. Spring St, Suite B
(Open Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Fri. from 3-9 p.m., Sat. from 2-9 p.m.)
- ▶ Deerfield—City Hall, 622 Main Street
- ▶ Garden City—2005 W. Fulton
- ▶ Great Bend—2300 Broadway
- ▶ Harper—302 W. 6th Street
- ▶ Leoti—N. Highway 25
- ▶ Scott City—101 Main
- ▶ Syracuse—206 ½ Main
- ▶ Tribune—310 Broadway

Mail: Enclose your bill payment stub along with a check or money order and mail in the envelope provided with your bill. Please allow three to five days for delivery.

Online: Visit www.weci.net and click on Online Bill Pay. Sign up for service and enter an e-mail address for receipts. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file for your electric or internet account.

Phone: Call any Wheatland office to pay by phone.

All other payment options are considered "unauthorized pay agents." Unauthorized pay agents have no contractual requirement with Wheatland Electric to operate under rules approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Wheatland Electric provides no assurance as to the timeliness or accuracy of payments made via unauthorized agents.

Wheatland Electric Official Proxy for the Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday April 3, 2013

Know All Men By These Presents: That I, the undersigned member of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., do hereby constitute and appoint

Carrier's Name (please print)

to be my lawful attorney, substitute and proxy for me in my name, place and stead, to vote and represent me at the annual meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held at Scott City, KS, on the third day of April 2013, and to any adjournment or adjournments, and I hereby grant my proxy full power and authority to act in my stead and with the same effect as I might or could do were I present at such meeting in person; and I will hereby ratify and confirm all that my said attorney or proxy may lawfully do at such meeting in my place and stead. It is understood by me that this proxy shall not be valid unless it is filed with the secretary of the cooperative before, or at the time of the meeting at which the proxy is to be used; and further, that if I am personally present at such meeting, then the proxy shall be void. In witness of, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ 2013.

Member (print)

Witness (print)

Member (signature)

Witness (signature)

Proxy invalid after 60 days from execution

Looking for Reliable Internet at a Fair Price?

Wheatland Broadband is locally-owned and operated. We are committed to promoting community growth and providing our members with the best service and support.

Residential

Basic (1.5mg/512kb)\$39.95
Preferred (3mg/1mg)\$49.95
Premium (4mg/1mg)\$64.95

Business

Basic (2mg/512kb)\$49.95
Preferred (3.5mg/1mg)\$64.95
Premium (5mg/1mg)\$79.95



We're here when you need us!

For more information visit www.wbsnet.org

Call to get your installation scheduled today!

866-872-0006

Wheatland Broadband & Wheatland Electric Bills Can be Paid with One Check

You may have noticed the broadband bill now is printed with the name, Wheatland Broadband on the top. Even though the bills are printed separately, they may still be paid in the same manner as before. If you paid with one check, please feel free to mail them together and use only one check. The Wheatland Electric and Wheatland Broadband do not need to be paid separately. Thank you.