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www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in

our community. So in 1939, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. We call on everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

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**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month!

Meter Exchange Project Underway

Ninnescah will be deploying the new meters to all of its 4,310 service locations.

As part of ongoing system improvements, Ninnescah Electric is in the process of installing new meters. This project began in December 2019 with the last meters expected to be installed by the end of June 2022. This project will invest in new technology that will help Ninnescah operate more efficiently and improve outage restoration.

The upgraded meter system will provide more accurate information about outages. Data from the new meters will be incorporated into the new Outage Management System (OMS). Ninnescah will be deploying the new meters to all of its 4,310 service locations.

Below is a brief FAQ regarding the Meter Exchange Project.

What is the Meter Exchange Project and why are we doing it?

As part of ongoing system improvements, Ninnescah is installing new meters. The new meters include new technology that will help Ninnescah operate more efficiently and improve outage restoration.

Do members have a choice in getting a new meter?

The cooperative is embarking on a system-wide meter replacement program that will change 100% of existing residential and commercial meters.

Who will be changing out the meters?

Ninnescah Electric's line crew is installing all of the new meters.

Will I lose electrical service during the installation?

Yes, for a few minutes. You will need to reset electronic clocks and other devices.

How much is this going to cost?

There is no rate increase anticipated in association with this project. Upgrading equipment on our system is part of our regularly scheduled system maintenance budget.

Does the meter compromise my privacy?

Ninnescah has taken, and will continue to take, reasonable and appropriate steps to protect sensitive member information.

- ▶ Meters cannot track and record individual appliance usage; instead, the meter records whole-house usage just like your existing meter.
- ▶ Meters do not transmit "personally identifiable information" over the network.

Can anyone other than Ninnescah electronically read the new meter?

No. The meter and associated communication system are equipped with security features to prevent unauthorized access. All the information and data is stored within the meter and requires special technology to access it. However, our new meter will still have a digital display so members can read their own meter on-site if they wish.

Benefits of the New Meters:

RELIABILITY – We are able to communicate with these new meters, which help us to identify and diagnose problems quickly and more efficiently, which improves our reliability.

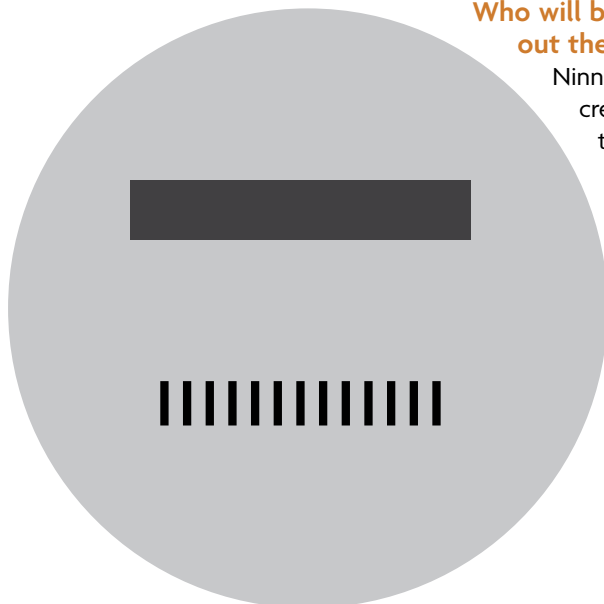
- ▶ Faster response time to outages by identifying the source of the outage.
- ▶ More precise information on outage details

EFFICIENCY – Keeping operational costs low will help Ninnescah to operate more efficiently

- ▶ More information will be available to Ninnescah on our load patterns for more efficient and effective planning.

IMPROVED OUTAGE INFORMATION – With more detailed outage information being provided by the new OMS, Ninnescah members are able to watch in real time as outages occur and are restored.

- ▶ An outage map is available on our website and through the SmartHub application.



It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

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Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as (high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.).

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. This sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which our cooperative routinely celebrates.

Welcome New Members

Larry M Blair – Pratt

Caitlin R &/or Luke Laha – Pratt

410 Holdings LLC – Tulsa, OK

Kelly Armstrong &/or Hallie Stofal – Marysville, CA

Hixson Lumber Sales, Inc. – Lake Dallas, TX

Matt &/or Amy C Brown – Grandview, MO

Todd Swingle &/or Nicole Morgan – Spivey

Brandon C Slyter – Pratt

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy-efficient model.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



TOP 9 ENERGY VAMPIRES

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than expected.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well. Plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

- COMPUTERS
- SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS
- TVS
- SATELLITE / CABLE BOXES
- VIDEO GAME CONSOLES
- STANDBY COFFEE MAKER
- PRINTERS
- CELL PHONE AND TABLET CHARGERS
- MICROWAVES

Get Familiar with Cyber Basics

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyberattacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. As these recent breaches have shown, cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, we can take several steps each day to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors. Here are a few quick tips:

Enable Multifactor Authentication.

Multifactor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring MFA, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFAs make it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.

Use Strong Passphrases/Password Manager.

This may seem obvious, but too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic has certainly contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.

Perform Software Updates.

When a device prompts that it's time to update the software,

it may be tempting to simply click postpone and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait — update.


Do Your Research.

Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new to your device, such as apps. Before downloading any new learning app on your device, make sure it's legitimate by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

Check Your Settings.

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google documents, to Zoom calls, and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

Being cyber smart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyberattacks. No single tip is foolproof but taken together they can make a difference in taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially — and prevent lost time and money, as well as annoyance.



DO

- ▶ Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- ▶ Use two-factor authentication.
- ▶ Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T

- ▶ Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- ▶ Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- ▶ Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

PASSWORD DO'S AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart