



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 Part II

This is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Ninnescah Electric employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible community. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall last month, we touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, we'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principle, Autonomy and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board

members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts — and



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Continued on page 16C ▶

Welcome New Members

Brandon C Slyter – Pratt
 Kevin D Shellnut – Loganville, GA
 Frendo &/or Whitley Sicheri – Coats
 Parallel Towerl III LLC – Austin, TX
 Ranger Land Co LLC – Wichita

Winter Rates Begin

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates go into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Single Phase Minimum Billings	Cost
Customer Charge	\$27.50
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Three Phase Minimum Billings	Cost
Customer Charge	\$37.00
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.1331 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation–No Control	Cost
Monthly Customer Charge	\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <i>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</i>	\$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.1156 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation– Direct Co-op Control	Cost
Monthly Customer Charge	\$25.00
Annual Installed Horsepower Charge <i>(Billed in five equal installments in billing months of April to August)</i>	\$37.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.0706 per kWh
Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly

Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 1

Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills. The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the member's request;
- ▶ The service is abandoned;
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- ▶ The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

To Qualify for the CWR the Member Must Do the Following:

- ▶ Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- ▶ Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- ▶ NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- ▶ Apply for any federal, state or local funds for which the member may qualify.

The Cooperative Will:

- ▶ Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- ▶ The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record. If the member is unable to be contacted a disconnect notice will be left on the door by a co-op employee; and
- ▶ Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.



Our office will be closed
 Thursday, Nov. 25, and
 Friday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.

*We hope you have a safe
 and happy holiday.*

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles Part II Continued from page 16A

we of course extend the same help to them when they are in need. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for Community


The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we



are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism, or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

You'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric cooperative.

On behalf of everyone at Ninnescah Electric, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



9 MOST DANGEROUS Electrical Hazards in the Home

Nearly 51,000 electrical home structure fires occur each year, according to data from the non-profit Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), and they cause more than \$1.3 billion in property damage annually.

Most electrical hazards can be easily fixed — if you know what to look for.

- 1 THE WRONG LIGHTBULBS**
The numbers on the lightbulbs you purchase aren't just for show. Lamps and other lighting fixtures have specific wattage ratings, and you'll need to use bulbs that are at or below that number to prevent a fire.
- 2 IMPROPER EXTENSION CORD USE**
Extension cords cause an estimated 3,300 structure fires a year, according to ESFI. The best ways to avoid problems:
 - ▶ Don't plug extension cords into one another.
 - ▶ Inspect cords for damage before use.
 - ▶ Never run cords through walls or use them in place of professionally installed wiring.
 - ▶ Don't allow cords to rest in water.
- 3 APPLIANCES THAT OFTEN TRIP YOUR CIRCUITS**
If a tripped circuit breaker is happening repeatedly, it's time to get to the root of the problem. Is there an appliance you turn on right before it trips? Look for damaged wires. If you can't easily identify the issue and your circuit breaker continues to trip when you turn on a certain appliance (or combination of appliances), call your electrician.
- 4 & 5 OUTDATED WIRING OR OR FAULTY WIRING**
Just like our appliances, wiring breaks down over time. If you've got old wires in your home, it might be time for an upgrade to prevent that breakdown from causing a fire. Look for these signs:
 - ▶ Difficulty drawing enough power to feed all of your needs.
 - ▶ A burning smell that seems to come from the walls or outlets.
 - ▶ Smoke coming from your outlets.
 - ▶ Warm spots in the wall.
 - ▶ Obvious fraying in exposed wires.
 - ▶ Noise, such as humming, coming from outlets.
- 6 IMPROPERLY PROTECTED OUTLETS**
As many as 5,500 people, including kids are sent to hospital emergency departments every year due to injuries involving outlets. If you've got kids in the home, use tamper-proof outlet covers to keep the curious safe. Electricity makes our lives easier every day, but it's powerful and needs to be treated with respect. Consider installing smart outlets that can be turned off from an app on your phone or contracting with an alarm company that can monitor for fire and smoke in the house.
- 7 OVERLOADED OUTLETS**
Extension cords aren't the only way homeowners try to extend the usage of their outlets. If you've added power strips or adapters that are loaded down with multiple appliances, you're increasing the risk of fire. Each outlet is only rated to supply a certain amount of power. Don't assume you're safe using each available spot in a power strip just because they're there — check with a professional to see how much electrical load your outlets can handle and record it in a notepad for future reference.
- 8 & 9 OUTLETS CLOSE TO WATER OR WATER NEAR APPLIANCES OR WIRES**
Water and electricity do not mix and can cause electric shock. To prevent this from happening, outlets should be installed as far from water as possible. Look for ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets. Designed with "test" and "reset" buttons, these are specifically made for installation in bathrooms, kitchens and areas where water is used, to prevent injury in case water and electricity meet. If you have leaking pipes, a leaky roof or standing water in a basement, get it fixed ASAP to avoid a short.

[HTTPS://SECURITYNERD.COM/HOME-ELECTRICAL-HAZARDS](https://securitynerd.com/home-electrical-hazards)

Watt' to Know about Appliance Electricity Use

Become 'watt' savvy before purchasing appliances, using generator

Determining how much electricity your appliances and home electronics use can help you understand how much money you are spending to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and one watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second.

The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while the power use of larger devices is measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use. Becoming watt savvy is also helpful if you are considering purchasing a generator. There are several ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and home electronics use.

See the Data Plate

Appliances usually have data plates located on the back or inside the door. They tell you how many amps, watts and volts are needed to power the appliance. If your appliance does not

list watts for some reason but does list the number of volts and amps, you can multiply volts times amps to get the number of necessary watts.

Review the EnergyGuide Label

The EnergyGuide label, a yellow-colored sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and cost to operate the specific model of the appliance you are considering. The FTC requires the label, and the dollar amount is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Use a Monitor or Meter

Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts. To put it to work, just plug the monitor into the electrical outlet and then plug the device into the monitor. The monitor will display how many watts the device uses. If you want to know how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a device uses over a length of time, just leave everything set up and read the display later. Some monitors even

allow you to plug in your utility's cost per kWh rate to determine how much that specific appliance costs you over a certain length of time.

Install a Whole-House System

Whole-house energy monitoring systems provide more detailed data on your home's energy use (as well as the ability to measure the energy use of 240-volt appliances). The features of these systems vary, and the cost and complexity depend on the number of circuits you want to monitor, how detailed the feedback is and the type of features available. The monitors are often installed directly into the main breaker panel of the home, and some require an electrician to install. Some monitors must be connected to your home's wireless network, with data being viewed on a computer or smartphone, while others come with a dedicated display. In addition to providing information on the energy consumption of your appliances, this type of monitoring system helps you understand where and when you use the most energy, allowing you to develop strategies to reduce your energy use and costs.

Ninnescah Offers 4 SCHOLARSHIPS

Ninnescah's Board of Directors have decided to award four \$1,000 scholarships in 2022 for high school juniors or seniors whose parents or guardians receive electric service from Ninnescah. To apply, please complete the application below and return to Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, 275 N.E. 20th St., P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124. Applications are due in Ninnescah's office by **FRIDAY JAN. 7, 2022.**

Applicant Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names _____ Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. **APPLICANT SIGNATURE** _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2022 Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship competition.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____