



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.

FROM THE MANAGER

Know the Signs of a Scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue

on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 800-828-5538. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, ninnescah.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us at 800-828-5538, or use SmartHub to check the status of your account. Remember, Ninnescah will never demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim

Continued on page 12D ▶



Ninnescah Completes Installation & Energizes Two Solar Farms

In September 2021, Ninnescah announced a unique opportunity to partner with 11 other Kansas cooperatives on a solar project. Ninnescah officially flipped the switch to link our two new solar farms to the grid on May 24, 2022.

Our first site is in Pratt County close to our BP substation and our second site is located south of Greensburg close to our Greensburg substation. While the rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is attractive, the reduction in our peak demand, beginning this summer, provides the biggest opportunity for cost savings for all our consumer-members in our 10 county area. More than 44% of our annual wholesale power is consumed during June through September.

Today's Power, Inc (TPI) was chosen by Kansas electric co-ops in 2020 to provide solar-produced

power for cooperative use. For the length of the 25-year-or-more agreement, the cooperative will purchase electricity at a fixed low cost. TPI owns and operates 100% of the solar array.



Ninnescah Board President Ronald Schultz (center left) and Today's Power President Derek Dyson (center right) "flip the switch" to connect Ninnescah's solar farms to the grid.

TODAY'S POWER, INC.



TODAY'S POWER, INC.

The installation includes 3,500 solar panels, which have a 1.4 MW solar energy capacity.

Solar Farm DETAILS

- ▶ **PANELS:** 3,500
- ▶ **RACKING:** Single-Axis Tracker
- ▶ **ACREAGE:** Approximately 8 acres fenced
- ▶ **SIZE/CAPACITY:** 1.4 MW DC/1 MW AC
- ▶ **PRODUCTION:** Over 2,409,373 kWh annually
- ▶ **INVERSION:** 8 inverters, 140 strings (25 Modules/String)
- ▶ **LIFESPAN:** More than 25 years

Tips to Reduce Grocery Bills

Grocery shopping is something everyone must do, but there are many ways to get the job done. Kansas State University food scientist Karen Blakeslee says a few sensible ideas can help consumers save money on their grocery bill.

“Shop your pantry, refrigerator and freezer before you go to the store,” Blakeslee says. “Then make a list of needed items; or even better, make a weekly meal plan and stick to it.”

Then, Blakeslee says, grab a snack before hitting the aisles.

“Don’t shop on an empty stomach,” she advises. “That tempts you to make impulse buys and can add to your bill.”

Another money-saving idea: buy alternatives to the brand names. Blakeslee says store brands often taste just as good, or they have premium products that are very similar to the name brand items.

“Have you ever tried a blind taste test to compare?” Blakeslee asks. “You

may find your family will not even notice a difference.”

Reducing food waste will also eventually save money on groceries, Blakeslee says. Some tips include:

- ▶ Stretch meat with plant proteins. Adding beans to meat-based soup or casseroles can help make meat last longer and add beneficial nutrition.
- ▶ Store fruits and vegetables properly and use them in a timely manner.
- ▶ Ripe fruit can be used in other ways such as smoothies, cobblers, quick bread and crisps.
- ▶ Only shop in bulk when it is necessary and the most affordable option. Checking the unit price of an item can help in deciding when to buy in bulk. “Shop alone and stay focused,”

Blakeslee says. “Include others in creating the shopping list, help them make choices, and help them learn about costs to become better shoppers.”

Summer Rates Begin with July Billing

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah’s summer rates will be reflected on your July bill. The summer rates will remain in effect through your October bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Summer Rates		Cost
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$27.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$37.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation No Control	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$42.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1231 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation Direct Co-op Control	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$37.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.0881 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly

*Billed in five equal installments on April-August bills

Tips to Reduce Your Grocery Bill

Stretch Meat with Plant-Based Proteins



Adding beans to meat-based soup or casseroles can help make the whole meal last longer.

Switch to Private Label Alternatives



Buying private label alternatives can save shoppers 10-40%.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNN.COM/2022/03/22/BUSINESS/GROCERY-STORE-PRICES-SAVING-MONEY-INFLATION/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/22/business/grocery-store-prices-saving-money-inflation/index.html)

Ripe Fruit Can be Used in Other Ways



Fruit that is nearing its end-life, can be used in smoothies, cobblers, quick bread and crisps.

Shop Seasonally



Shopping for in-season fruits and vegetables can save shoppers 25-30%.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNN.COM/2022/03/22/BUSINESS/GROCERY-STORE-PRICES-SAVING-MONEY-INFLATION/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/22/business/grocery-store-prices-saving-money-inflation/index.html)

Welcome New Members

Alan C &/or Ginger Goering –

Medicine Lodge

Richard &/or Sue McVey – *Greensburg*

Carolyn L Yoder &/or Alexander Mayhew – *Macksville*

Darrah Oil Co LLC – *Wichita*

Michael D &/or Dawnita Miller – *Hutchinson*

Thomas J &/or Janelle K Sexter – *Leawood*

LLL Properties LLC – *Pratt*

Paul N &/or Kathy L Wyer – *St. John*

Brad A &/or Kara E Lock – *Macksville*

Know the Signs of a Scam Continued from page 12A ▶

you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this “refund” scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a “phishing” attempt) or by text (“smishing”), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Ninnescah will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Ninnescah employees wear uniforms. When we perform work on our

members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with anything from shutting off your power to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- ▶ Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- ▶ Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- ▶ Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- ▶ If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

10 Easy Ways to Save

Habits you can tweak to save energy

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35-38 F and your freezer at 0 F.
8. Reduce the setting on your water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.

