

Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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or
a story
for
Rural Power?

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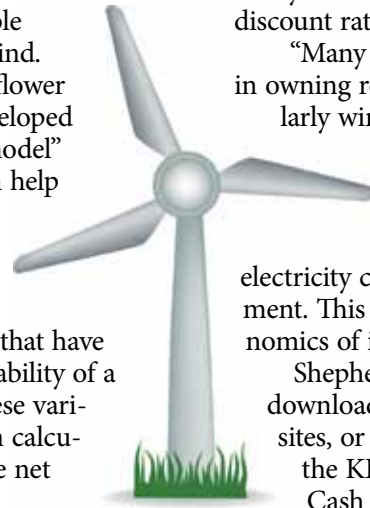


Tool developed to analyze small wind turbine investments

Kansas electric cooperatives have seen an increase in the number of requests from their member-owners for information about owning renewable energy systems, particularly wind. In response, staff at KEC, Sunflower and Midwest Energy have developed the "Small Wind Cash Flow model" – a spreadsheet tool – that can help individuals analyze the economics of investing in a small wind generator.

The model allows the user to input several variables that have an impact on the economic viability of a small wind machine. Once these variables are entered, the tool then calculates annual cash flows and the net present value of the project.

These variables include project costs and grants, cost of debt financ-



ing, O&M costs, amount of electricity generated and consumed, the retail electric rate, the utility's avoided cost, project life and cash flow discount rate.

"Many cooperative members are interested in owning renewable energy systems, particularly wind, for their homes, businesses, or farming operations," said KEC's Doug Shepherd. "A common question asked is how much money can be saved in future electricity costs in comparison to the investment. This model can help analyze the economics of investing in a small wind turbine."

Shepherd encourages the cooperatives to download and post the model on their web sites, or to direct their member-owners to the KEC web site. KEC's Small Wind Cash Flow model is posted on the KEC web site at [www.kec.org/smallwindcash-](http://www.kec.org/smallwindcash-flow.aspx)

[flow.aspx](http://www.kec.org/smallwindcash-flow.aspx).

Electric cooperatives spark interest in safety at the Kansas State Fair

Kansas electric cooperatives sparked the interest of nearly 2,000 fair-goers at this year's Kansas State Fair with a high-voltage line safety demo.

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas co-sponsored the full-size, electric safety demonstration belonging to Midwest Energy. The demonstration was narrated by James Wright, Greg Swob, and Brian Dreiling of Midwest Energy. The hot work was conducted by linemen from CMS, Heartland Lane-Scott, Midwest Energy, and Victory. The linemen also demonstrated proper safety precaution, showed the protective gear linemen use, and answered questions from the audience.

The demonstration was offered free of charge, and was part of the State Fair's "Kansas Largest Classroom". As a bonus, the Touchstone Energy "Get Charged" kits were distributed to teachers who registered their 5th - 9th grade classes for the safety demonstration.



Above: Scott Vanderpool and Kevin Weins, CMS, teach students at the fair how to stay safe around electricity. Left: Greg Swob, Midwest Energy, shows fair-goers an electric line. This is the third year that the Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas have sponsored the high-voltage safety demonstration.

The new Cooperative.com is live

NRECA has flipped the switch on the new *Cooperative.com*. Several new features, including a video library, are now available. There is also a new navigation system, including a Hot Topics box and Quick Links to popular pages. CRN and Touchstone Energy content is also available. NRECA has created short video tutorials to help employees and trustees become accustomed to the new *Cooperative.com*. Topics include a site overview, accessing benefits information, where to find communities and listservs and others.

Listen in on "Ag Issues" during Co-op Month

As part of the Kansas Cooperative Council's promotional activities for co-op month, KCC's Leslie Kaufman, and Frontier Farm Credit's Janet McPherson, will be guests on WIBW 580 radio's Ag Issues program. This year's co-op month theme – your values, your business – sets the stage to highlight how co-op businesses live out cooperative principles on a daily basis. The interview will air live on WIBW 580 AM on October 8 at 6 am.

Governor makes appointments to CURB

Gov. Mark Parkinson has appointed Stephanie Kelton and Nancy Jackson to the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board. Kelton of Lawrence is a professor of Economics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and holds a Ph.D. in Economics. Jackson of Eudora is the Executive Director of the Climate & Energy Project at the Land Institute. CURB provides legal and technical representation for residential and small commercial utility ratepayers. The Board ensures that utilities charge just and reasonable rates to Kansans.

GOVERNOR'S NEWS RELEASE – 9/22/09

OCTOBER

- 6-7 **2009 Kansas Wind & Renewable Energy Conference**, Ramada Inn, Topeka.
- 13 **Pre-Regional Director Education; New Director Orientation; Resolutions Meeting**, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- 14-15 **Region 7 meeting**, Little America Hotel and Convention Center, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- 14-16 **KMSDA meeting**, Hotel at Old Town, Wichita.
- 21-22 **KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 22-23 **Accountants' Club meeting**, Grand Prairie Hotel, Hutchinson.
- 26 **District 1 meeting**, Labette Bank, 2121 Main, Parsons.
- 27 **District 3 meeting**, Fox Pavilion, 1202 Main St., Hays.
- 28 **District 4 meeting**, Victory Electric Cooperative Headquarters, 3230 N. 14th, Dodge City.
- 29 **MDM meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 30 **District 2 meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka.

NOVEMBER

- 3 **Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 10 a.m.
- 12 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 16 **Midwest Energy**, Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Fort Hays State University, Hays.
- 17-19 **Administrative Workshop**, Marriott, Wichita.
- 18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees meeting**, Ramada Inn, Salina, 2 p.m.
- 18 **KEPCo Annual Meeting**, Reception 5 p.m. Dinner/Meeting 6 p.m., Ramada Inn, Salina.
- 19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting reconvenes**, Ramada Inn, Salina, 8:30 a.m.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.

DECEMBER

- 2-3 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

upcoming training

CFC BudgetPro workshop

Due to the popularity of the first two BudgetPro workshops, CFC is now planning to host a third session on Oct. 19-20 at Kaw Valley Electric in Topeka.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for your distribution cooperative using a spreadsheet template.

Attendees should have a basic understanding of the RUS Uniform System of Accounts and the operation of Microsoft Excel 2003 or higher. Attendees should bring a laptop to the workshop. A flash drive with operating instructions will be provided.

Cooperatives were emailed registration information. There is no cost to attend this training. For more information or a copy of the registration form, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554.

Touchstone Energy

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott on Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. To make a room reservation, call Roberta Goodwin at (316) 462-3179 before Oct. 21 to get the \$81 room rate. Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Holsteen, KEC, by Oct. 21.

KEC District Meetings

The KEC District Meetings will take place Oct. 26-30. As part of the meeting, CFC's Rod Crile will give an industry update. This report will identify key issues within the industry, including new generation, carbon constrained world, financing, global economy, current economic conditions, hiring and retaining employees, new directors, technology, energy & fuel prices, and communications.

Athletes will hoop it up for cancer research

Hoops for Hope is coming to Coldwater.

Women basketball players from around the country will descend on the Comanche County town on Oct. 30 for a basketball game to raise funds for women's cancer prevention. The "pink team" will be coached by Claflin-native Jackie Stiles and the "white team" will be coached by Ransom-native Ruth Riley.

"All of the coaches and players have been touched by cancer in some way," said Jerry King, Victory's member services manager. "They are all giving their time and telling their personal stories to raise funds for cancer awareness."

The events begin on Oct. 30 at South Central High School in Coldwater with a practice session at 2 p.m. Other events include a tailgate party, a cheer clinic, and a youth rally. The Kansas University and the Kansas State University cheerleaders will perform at the game, as will K-State's Pride of Wildcat Land marching band. A dunk-show and a free throw contest will also be offered to the crowd. The game will be aired live beginning at 8:30 p.m. on Fox Sports Net (FSN) - Midwest.

Hoops for Hope is the result of efforts by two Kansas hospitals and five southwest Kansas communities, which joined together to change their

approach to accessible healthcare. What began as a simple fundraiser for breast cancer research has grown into a state-wide movement.

Ashland Health Center in Ashland and Comanche County Hospital in Coldwater collectively serve the communities of Wilmore, Englewood, Protection, Ashland and Coldwater, or WEPAC for short. These five towns have formed the WEPAC Alliance, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing resources and education to encourage women to take active responsibility for their health.

The WEPAC Alliance has partnered with the Kay Yow Fund, a breast cancer research fund inspired by the life and accomplishments of Coach Kay Yow, former women's basketball coach at North Carolina State University, to host this first annual WEPAC Hoops for Hope event.

The event organizers hope to raise \$100,000 for women's cancer prevention. Ten percent of all money raised will go to the Kay Yow Fund. The remaining 90% will go to the WEPAC Alliance. The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas is among the sponsors of this event.

For ticket information, email wepacinfo@yahoo.com or visit www.wepacthehouse.org.

Thirteen Kansas Energy Efficiency Projects Announced

Thirteen Kansas applicants were selected to receive a total of \$675,054 in loans and grants to make energy efficiency improvements and conduct a feasibility study for a renewable energy system.

The funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). In addition to the \$675,054 that USDA is providing, the 13 project recipients will invest \$807,472 from other sources

The project recipients include a gas engine-powered water pump in Finney County, a sub-surface drip irrigation system in McPherson and Harvey counties, a gas-powered irrigation system in Stanton County, a replacement for a natural gas pump to irrigate crops in Gove County, a conversion project of natural gas to electric motors for irrigation in Stanton, Johnson, and Ford counties, a wind energy project in Kiowa County, and a roof-replacement project in Fort Scott.

In addition, a grocery store will receive energy efficiency improvements in Labette County, an insurance building will receive new windows in Cunningham, and a feasibility study for a proposed 300 megawatt wind project will be conducted in Rawlins County.

LJEC holds annual meeting and health fair

LJEC conducted their annual meeting on September 8, 2009, in McLouth. The meeting was preceded by a health fair and a barbecue supper.

LJEC's general manager Steve Foss reviewed the activities of the cooperative during the last year. KCC chairman Tom Wright made a presentation on the Efficiency Kansas program. The youth tour and youth leadership camp delegates – Katie Walbridge, Molly Adams and Austin Baragary – spoke to the members on their experience.

Current LJEC board president Bill Pohl was re-elected to the Board of Trustees, along with fellow trustees Larry Meadows and Martha Shaw.

Electric cooperative officials prepare for Region 7 meetings

Representatives of electric co-ops from Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming will gather in Cheyenne, WY on October 14-15, to share their experiences and discuss the physical, financial and political challenges facing the electric utility industry.

Topics to be covered at the Region 7 meeting include rising costs and the difficult task of keeping electricity affordable, ensuring adequate power supply and reliability into the future, and maintaining openness and transparency in cooperative governance.

Electric co-op officials will convene to get the latest information on competition and consumer protection in the electric utility industry. Ralph Phil-

lips, LJEC, was elected by the Kansas Trustees at its September 24 meeting to serve as the KEC Voting Delegate at the NRECA, CFC, and Federated Region 7 meetings.

The Cheyenne meeting is part of a series of seven 2009 Regional Meetings convened by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This meeting continues the Association's grass roots policy making process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's Annual Meeting, to be held in Atlanta, GA, February 15-17, 2009.

The 2010 Region 7 meeting is scheduled for October 20-21 in Denver, CO, at the Omni Interlocken Hotel.

Together We Save

New interactive Web site helps your members find ways to cut energy use and save money

Touchstone Energy® co-ops nationwide have launched a new Web site — www.togetherwesave.com — to help co-op members examine ways they can reduce energy consumption.

The calculators are based on a 3,000-square foot home in Kansas. While they do not provide individual dollar-for-dollar savings accuracy, the interactive activities do show how reducing energy use can reduce costs.

The site shows savings from taking simple steps, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, to more significant changes, such as purchasing new energy efficient appliances or adding insulation. It also provides step-by-step video guides for a variety of energy efficiency makeover projects.

Training on the Together We Save campaign will be offered as part of the Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) meeting in Wichita on Oct. 14-16. For more information, contact Shana Holsteen.



Co-ops golf, raise funds in 13th Annual KCRE Tournament

30 teams raised more than \$6,300 during the 13th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament. The event was held August 28 at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The KCRE golf tournament raises an amount of money approximately equal to 300 memberships and provides KCRE necessary funds to support those who support electric cooperative issues.

A total of 117 golfers participated in the tournament. Flight winners included the teams from CMS, Flint Hills, Sedgwick County, Sunflower, Bluestem and DS&O.

Tyler Roesti of Rolling Hills won the early bird drawing, and Ken Holmes



Kirk Thompson of CMS, standing, kicks off the KCRE Golf Tournament, held Aug. 28 in Salina. The event raised \$6,300 for the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification.

of NRECA won the top prize drawing. In addition, 18 hole prizes were also awarded following the tournament.

The 14th Annual KCRE Golf Open scheduled for Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

insympathy

Harold Rauckman

Harold Rauckman, father of KEC's Bob Rauckman, passed away on September 6.

A funeral service was held on September 10 at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hutchinson.

Memorials may be made to the church or to Hospice Care of Kansas in care of Elliott Mortuary, 1219 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501.

Mariann Ogorzolka

Mariann Ogorzolka, mother of

Brown-Atchison's Rod Gerdes, passed away on August 28.

Memorials may be sent to the Stratton Ambulance Fund in care of Lockenour Jones Mortuary, PO Box 247, Cambridge, NE 69022.

Art Schnose

Art Schnose, former general manager of Sunflower, passed away on August 21. He served as Sunflower's general manager from 1971-1985. The funeral service was held at the First Baptist Church in Hays.

RuralPower

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