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Efficiency Kansas loan program is underway

Efficiency Kansas, a revolving loan program from the State Energy Office at the Kansas Corporation Commission, officially launched November 17 with a news conference by Gov. Mark Parkinson.

The program provides low-cost financing for cost-effective energy efficiency improvements in homes and small businesses.

There are four steps for consumers to implement the program: Have an energy audit completed; select a contractor to do recommended work; submit the plan to the State Energy Office for review and approval; then have the contractor implement improvements.

Utilities, such as electric cooperatives, are invited to become partner utilities in the program. To be a partner, utilities must plan to either utilize Efficiency Kansas financing and tie loan repayment to the meter, or collect loan payment on utility bills on behalf of partner lenders.

To date, there are 14 Efficiency Kansas partner lenders, with 89 branches located throughout the state.

Efficiency Kansas is a revolving loan fund, using \$34 million in federal funds



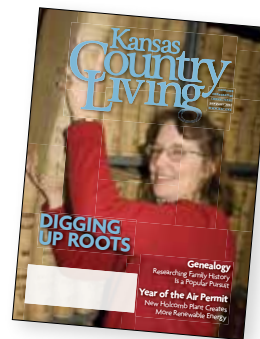
authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more details about the program, visit www.energycanada.com.

Wheatland joins the Kansas Country Living family

Wheatland, Scott City, has announced it intends to begin mailing the *Kansas Country Living* magazine to its members on a one-year trial basis, effective with the January 2010 issue.

Wheatland becomes the 23rd electric cooperative to send the magazine to its members each month. By adding Wheatland's approximately 22,000 members, the magazine's circulation will now reach over 125,000 rural homes and businesses.



Wheatland also plans to use all four pages of the center-spread to report local news and information to its members.

"Informing the membership is an operating principle of the electric cooperatives and the KEC staff looks forward to working with Wheatland and all of our members to make KCL a valued tool in that effort," said

Stuart Lowry, KEC Executive Vice President/General Counsel.

\$3.8 million in grant funds available for renewable energy

The State Energy Office announced the Renewable Energy Incentives Grant program. The program utilizes \$3,837,200 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding, authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Local units of government are eligible to apply for grants to fund up to 25% of the development, implementation, and installation of renewable energy technology, up to \$250,000. Public entities including state agencies, cities and counties, community colleges and school districts are eligible to apply for grants for qualifying wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, or hydropower projects.

Approximately \$1 million will be awarded in each of the first three rounds. The remaining available funds will be awarded in round four. The deadline for submitting applications for round one is January 31, 2010. Round one awards will be made the second week of February.

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://kcc.ks.gov/energy/arra/>.

Unanimous settlement reached in MKEC rate case

A unanimous settlement agreement has been reached between Mid-Kansas Electric Company, Kansas Corporation Commission, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, Western Kansas Industrial Consumers Group, KEPCo, and the Kansas Power Pool regarding MKEC's request to increase rates charged to electric utility customers.

In June 2009, MKEC filed an application requesting a \$10.3 million wholesale rate increase and a \$16.4 million retail rate increase. Under the terms of the agreement, parties agreed to a reduced \$6.5 million wholesale rate increase and a reduced \$12.7 million retail rate increase.

KCC NEWS RELEASE – 12/02/09

DECEMBER

- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24-25 **KEC offices closed.**

JANUARY

- 1 **KEC offices closed.**
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 23 **Board Leadership Course 929.1 - Current Issues in Policy Development**, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 24 **Board Leadership Course 933.1 - The Fiduciary Duty of Director and Employee Officers**, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 25-26 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Maner Conference Center, Topeka.

Nominate the 2009 wind cooperative of the year

The Wind Cooperative of the Year call for nominations is underway through Dec. 31, 2009.

The 2009 award will honor one electric cooperative for its leadership in wind power. Past winners include Wolverine Power Cooperative, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Great River Energy. The 2009 winner will be recognized at the NRECA TechAdvantage Con-

ference in Atlanta, GA, Feb. 11-15, 2010.

Cooperatives can nominate themselves or other systems and there is no cost to enter. Complete the nomination form, which includes the award criteria, and e-mail it to Randy Manion, Western Area Power Administration, or call 720-962-7423 for more information.

The Wind Cooperative of the Year Award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Powering America Program in partnership with NRECA.

upcoming training

Trustee training offered at 2010 KEC Annual Meeting

The KEC Annual meeting will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, on January 23 - 24, 2010.

Scheduled for Sat., Jan. 23 is the recently updated Board Leadership Course **929.1 Current Issues in Policy Development**. This course encourages attendees to view policies as proactive tools to establish a standard of board behavior required for governance in today's electric cooperative board room. It is designed to revisit the fundamentals of governance and the roles policies play in contributing to effective governance. During this course, participants will take part in discussion about current issues facing rural electric cooperatives and how the governance function contributes to the cooperative and adds value.

The course on Sun. Jan. 24 is the new **933.1 The Fiduciary Duty of Director and Employee Officers**. This

comprehensive one-day course focuses on the fiduciary duties, responsibilities and expectations of board officers, operating officers, and agents of an electric cooperative board.

Both of these courses will be facilitated by Bob Patton and will count as one credit each for the Board Leadership certificate. Trustees must have completed their CCD certificate and 10 Board Leadership credits to earn the Board Leadership certificate.

The courses scheduled for the KEC Summer Board Meeting July 31 - August 1 are **925.1 Co-op By-laws: Guiding Principles and Current Issues**, and the **939.1 Applying Governance Concepts to Real Boardroom Challenges**.

There will also be a slate of courses offered during the NRECA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, on Feb. 11-14. Visit cooperative.com for more details.

Co-ops receive no major electric outages from winter storm

The statewide winter storm that has hit Kansas with significant snow accumulation, strong winds and extremely cold temperatures has had little effect on the state's electric cooperatives.

On Dec. 8, snow fell in virtually all areas of Kansas. In most areas, particularly in the areas in northern Kansas with the heaviest accumulations, the snow was reported to be very dry and is not sticking to power lines and trees.

The southeast part of the state received some sleet and freezing rain. Some of the western cooperatives braced for wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour.

However, no extended electric outages occurred as a result of this storm. Only scattered outages were reported and they were quickly repaired by cooperative line crews. All electric

cooperatives in the state are reporting no outages as of 10 a.m. the following day.

About 400 meters were without electric service for a period Tuesday night due to a transmission problem that was repaired, according to Doug Jackson, manager at Rolling Hills.

Lyon-Coffey had about 60 meters off for approximately four hours according to Mark Doebele, the cooperative's line superintendent.

"Strong winds caused a break in our lines in an older section of our system," Doebele said.

Midwest Energy reported a few minor outages that were quickly repaired.

For information about Kansas electric cooperatives or future storm information, visit www.kec.org.

bestwishes

Tony Haas announces retirement

Tony Haas, USDA Rural Development's Kansas field accountant, has announced his retirement. He will retire as of January 2, 2010, with over 42 years of service.

He wrote in a letter stating that it has been his "great pleasure to have worked with the Kansas rural electric systems over the years."

"Financial strength and integrity have been the hallmark of the REA program and I am humbled to have been a small part of making this true for the Kansas systems," he wrote.

Tony said that now is the time to spend time with family and restore the first car he ever owned—a 1953 Chevy.

If you would like to send Tony a congratulations card, his address is: Tony Haas, 1549 Sherwood Way, Emporia, KS 66801.

Kansas cooperative officials honored at December board meeting

Following the business session of the KEC Board of Trustees meeting on December 3, several Kansas electric cooperative officials were recognized for their service.

The Board of Trustees congratulated Delbert Eichman, Bluestem, and Carla Bickel,

Ninnescah, on their retirements. Both were presented with a certificate of appreciation from KEC. Joe Conley, KEC board president, also surprised Lowry with a thank-you gift of two hand-carved Wood duck decoys for all of his efforts working on the FEMA projects.



(Above) Stuart Lowry presents Carla Bickel with a plaque thanking her for her years of service. (Above right) Delbert Eichman thanks the board for the years he worked with them. (Right) Lowry in his office with the duck decoys.





Our holiday reflections include our best wishes to all, and our gratitude for our association with you.
May the coming year bring good health, good fortune and success to all of your endeavors.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the KEC Staff

RuralPower

**Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267**

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