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Midwest Energy receives first Efficiency Kansas funds

The State Energy Office (SEO) has granted approval for Midwest Energy, a partner utility, to move forward with its first project that will utilize Efficiency Kansas funds.

“Efficiency Kansas is an attempt at the state level to do what the How\$mart® program has done for Midwest Energy,” said Michael Volker, Midwest Energy’s director of regulatory and energy services. “The idea is to utilize energy savings to pay for efficiency improvements. The Kansas Corporation Commission and its SEO liked the How\$mart® model, and they are trying to use stimulus money to do the same thing.”

Midwest Energy’s How\$mart® program invests in measures that improve the energy efficiency of its members homes or businesses including new heating and air equipment installation, insulation and air sealing. Members then repay the investment with part of the savings on their energy bill.

However, with Efficiency Kansas funding, Midwest Energy’s How\$mart® program is better. This is because Efficiency Kansas provides capital at zero percent interest making more How\$mart® efficiency measures cost effective for the member. Members pay back the energy efficiency investment on their utility bills, but the payments are less than the pro-

jected savings.

“Like How\$mart® alone, the SEO will only provide Efficiency Kansas funding for measures that are justified by the energy savings,” Volker explained.



Efficiency Kansas uses federal stimulus dollars to fund a revolving loan program for home energy efficiency measures.

The revolving loan fund was established by the Kansas Corporation Commission’s State Energy Office using \$34 million in federal funds autho-

rized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Efficiency Kansas officially launched on November 17, 2009, and currently has 14 Partner Lenders, with 89 branches statewide. Midwest Energy is the program’s first Partner Utility to offer Efficiency Kansas funding by way of its already existing How\$mart® program. Kansas Gas Service also announced that it was filing an application with the KCC to become an Efficiency Kansas Loan Program Partner Utility. Several other cooperatives will be offering loans soon. Scholarships for energy auditor training have been given to 70 individuals. Thirty scholarships remain available.

The SEO recently released the updated Efficiency Kansas Program Manual, which can be downloaded from www.encykansas.com.

Youth Leadership Council participates in Touchstone Energy service project

On February 13, dozens of high school students from around the country teamed up with other cooperative volunteers to provide energy-saving improvements to revitalize a high school, located in GreyStone Power’s service territory.

As part of the community service project in conjunction with the NRECA Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, GA, the volunteers made simple, inexpensive energy efficiency improvements to the schools lighting capabilities – such as changing out



Morgan Taylor (right)

fluorescent lamps, installing LED exit signs and replacing incandescent lamps with compact fluorescents.

The Kansas representative to NRECA’s Youth Leadership Council, Morgan Taylor of Rolla, helped to change out the bulbs.

“We’ve taken out the burnt out bulbs and replaced them with those that were more energy efficient,” Taylor said. “It’s nice to be able to help other students in a different part of the country.”

View the project video on www.cooperative.com.

Governor Parkinson names Ward Loyd to KCC

Governor Mark Parkinson has appointed former state representative Ward Loyd to the Kansas Corporation Commission. He replaces Mike Moffett, who resigned several weeks ago.

Loyd is a Garden City lawyer who served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1999 to 2007, where he was a member of the House Utilities Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

NEWS RELEASE – 2/24/10

Oglethorpe Power Corporation receives DOE nuclear loan guarantees

President Obama announced \$8.33 billion in federal loan guarantees for the construction of the first nuclear power plant in the United States in nearly 30 years. Two reactors will be built by a partnership including Southern Co., Oglethorpe Power Corp., and two municipal utilities. Loan guarantees for three more nuclear projects are expected soon.

NEWS RELEASE – 2/16/10

Student teams to battle lunar terrain at NASA's Moonbuggy Race

More than 100 student teams from around the globe will drive specially crafted lunar rovers through a challenging course of rugged, moon-like terrain at NASA's 17th annual Great Moonbuggy Race in Huntsville, AL., April 9-10.

Participating are 1,088 high school and college students, including Kansas students from Elk Valley and Erie High Schools, and Pittsburg State University.

Students design, build and test a sturdy, collapsible, lightweight vehicle. The buggies are based on the design of rovers which astronauts drove during the Apollo 15, 16 and 17 missions in the 1970s.

MSFC-NASA MARSHALL NEWS RELEASE – 3/5/10

MARCH

- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Holcomb Station, Garden City.
- 24-26 **Kansas Member Services Directors Association Meeting.** Courtyard Marriott at Old Town, Wichita.
- 25 **NRECA Course 170.1, The Role of Renewables in Power Supply for Employees,** Courtyard Marriott at Old Town, Wichita.
- 25 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

APRIL

- 7 **Touchstone ElectroRally Race.** Scott City.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 22 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

MARCH

- 20 **Pioneer Annual Meeting.** Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses.
- 23 **Heartland Annual Meeting.** Fort Scott Community College, Fort Scott.
- 23 **Flint Hills Annual Meeting.** Centre High School, Lost Springs.
- 25 **Doniphan Annual Meeting.** Midway School, Denton.
- 29 **Lyon-Coffey Annual Meeting.** White Auditorium, Emporia.
- 30 **Prairie Land Annual Meeting.** Cooperative Office, Norton.
- 30 **Ninnescah Annual Meeting.** Municipal Building, Pratt.

APRIL

- 6 **DS&O Annual Meeting.** Bicentennial Center, Salina.
- 6 **Ark Valley Annual Meeting.** State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson.
- 6 **Victory Annual Meeting.** Civic Center, Dodge City.
- 7 **Wheatland Annual Meeting.** County Fairgrounds, Leoti.
- 7 **Kaw Valley Annual Meeting.** Cooperative Office, Topeka.
- 8 **Radiant Annual Meeting.** Cooperative Office, Fredonia.
- 9 **Alfalfa Annual Meeting.** High School, Cherokee, OK.
- 10 **Sumner-Cowley Annual Meeting.** High School, Wellington.
- 13 **Sedgwick County Annual Meeting.** The Cotillion, Wichita.
- 15 **Twin Valley Annual Meeting.** Labette County High School, Altamont.
- 16 **Rolling Hills Annual Meeting.** NCK Tech School, Beloit.
- 21 **LJEC Annual Meeting.** High School, McLouth.
- 23 **CMS Annual Meeting.** Meade High School, Meade.

MAY

- 4 **Caney Valley Annual Meeting.** School-Gymnasium, Cedar Vale.
- 7 **Tri-County Annual Meeting.** TX County Activity Center, Guymon, OK.
- 12 **Western Annual Meeting.** Cooperative Office, WaKeeney.
- 20 **KAMO Power Annual Meeting.** Hilton Southern Hills, Tulsa, OK.
- 21 **Sunflower Annual Meeting.** Western Office, WaKeeney.

JULY

- 13 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting.** Fairgrounds, Dighton.

NOVEMBER

- 15 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting.** University Campus, Fort Hays.
- 17 **KEPCo Annual Meeting.** Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

2010 Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame induction

A ceremony will be held on March 15 to honor this year's inductees into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame: Dennis Hofts and John Sloup. Sloup (posthumously), sponsored by Farmland Industries, and Hofts, sponsored by the Kansas Credit Union Association, will be recognized for their contributions to the cooperative movement.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1999 to recognize those who have been instrumental in developing and spreading the co-op philosophy. The Hall of Fame is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Hofts' and Sloup's biographical information will be placed alongside other inductees in the Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Located in the Pride of Kansas Building, this permanent display highlights the achievements of our state's great co-op leaders and preserves our co-op history.

annual meetings

Brown-Atchison

The 72nd annual meeting of The Brown Atchison Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc was held on February 25, at the Cooperative Headquarters in Horton.

The members heard a report from General Manager Rod Gerdes. Guest Speakers were youth tour winner Ariel Cowley and KEC's Stuart Lowry.

Keven Gigstad and Harrison Idol, Jr. were both re-elected to the Board of Trustees and Wayne Pagel was elected to replace Glen Oxendale, who did not seek reelection after serving 23 years on the Board of Trustees.

Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall's 71st annual meeting took place on March 2 at the Axtell American Legion. Nearly four hundred members and guests enjoyed a lunch, and 193 members registered for the meeting. Guest Speakers were youth tour winners Pam Heiman and Greg Howard.

Re-elected to the board were James Borgerding and Dale Shirley. Newly

elected to the board was Dean Becker who fills the seat vacated when Gene Holthaus retired from the board.

Bluestem

Approximately 200 members, trustees and employees attended Bluestem Electric Cooperative's 12th annual meeting on March 8 at the Riley County High School.

A vendor-products fair was held before the meeting. Prior to giving the invocation, Pastor Kevin Larson from the Sedalia Community Church commented that in 1964, he had been an Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participant from the C&W Rural Electric Cooperative. He spoke briefly of this positive experience and expressed appreciation for that opportunity. Steve Parr of KEPCo and Doug Shepherd of KEC were guest speakers.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected to the board for three-year terms were Robert Ohlde and Dean Blanka. Richard Ridder was newly elected.

Kansas linemen assist Iowa with storm restoration

Four Kansas electric cooperatives traveled to Iowa in January to help with recovery efforts following a large winter storm. 17 linemen representing Bluestem, LJEC, Lyon-Coffey, and Nemaha-Marshall arrived on site within 24 hours of receiving the request for assistance.

Some parts of the state received up to 31 inches of snow, leaving Iowa's cooperative members without service.

It was reported by one of the participating cooperatives that the linemen returned home with a new appreciation for the amount of snow received in Kansas. The linemen had experienced a white-out blizzard while they were working, which made power restoration even more difficult.

The Kansas cooperatives assisted Glidden Rural Electric Cooperative, Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative, Farmers Electric Cooperative, and Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.



Craig Mueting, Lyon-Coffey, traverses the snow in Iowa.

insympathy

Harold Ehler

Harold Ehler, retired trustee of Rolling Hills, passed away on February 22nd.

Harold served as a director for Smoky Hill Electric beginning in 1982, through the consolidation for Rolling Hills Electric, until his retirement in December 2004.

Funeral services were held on February 26 at of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Holyrood, with burial in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions to the church may be sent in care of Parsons Funeral Home, P. O. Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439.



Harold Ehler

Scott City to host Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

Kansas high school students are gearing up for the Touchstone ElectroRally Race at the Scott City airport on April 7.

The Kansas ElectroRally is an educational and fun project designed to get high school students to think about technology and transportation in new ways.

Through this program, students design, raise funds, and build the electric vehicles (EVs). The cars are single person, aerodynamic, and highly efficient. Students are encouraged to be innovative

in the design. All cars are powered by deep-cycle lead acid battery packs. The experimental cars also use solar power.

The ElectroRally competition is based on time and distance, and the team that completes the most laps in

one hour wins the race. Strategy is as important as speed - drive fast to complete many laps or go slower, conserve battery and last the whole race. These EVs can reach speeds in excess of 30 mph and travel a distance of 25 miles in the one-hour period.

The Kansas ElectroRally is the nation's largest high school event of its kind, sanctioned by the national oversight body Electrathon America.

The first Kansas ElectroRally in 1997 had eight teams competing. The number of Kansas high school teams

and the excitement surrounding the event continues to grow each year. This year, more than 30 teams are expected to compete in the race.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.kansaselectrorally.org.



Federated to offer Culture of Safety Strategy Lab

Federated will facilitate the Culture of Safety Strategy Lab in Wichita on June 29, 30, and July 1.

Mike Bird of Federated is working to help electric cooperatives nationwide understand the culture of safety within their organization and understand the culture within the state. This is done through the Culture of Safety Strategy Labs that Federated has underwritten in

15 states by year end 2010.

The Strategy Labs utilize a computer program that allows anonymous input from up to 40 people seated in front of a laptop computer.

Participants will include cooperative personnel who are in positions that give them important perspectives on safety at the co-op. More information will be sent to the cooperatives about the lab.

co-op training

Renewables in power supply course offered for employees

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) will host a one-day workshop on March 25 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Wichita's Old Town district. This workshop is being held in conjunction with the KMSDA spring meeting. Both KMSDA members and non-members are invited to attend this workshop.

NRECA's Mike Core will facilitate this course that answers many important questions about renewable energy. The following are some of the questions that be discussed during the workshop:

- What role should renewables play in our power supply portfolio?
- How should our co-op respond to member requests for green power?
- What factors should be considered when purchasing power from members with renewable generation capacity?
- What are the key regulations and laws pertaining to renewable energy, and how do they affect our co-op?

Space is limited, so all attendees must pre-register by calling Shana Holsteen, KEC, 785-478-4554, or email sholsteen@kec.org. Registration deadline is March 16.

Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Courtyard by Marriott at 316-264-5300. Ask for the KMSDA room block to receive the \$129 rate by March 16.

RuralPower

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Electronic Edition

Rural Power is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please e-mail sholsteen@kec.org.