

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Understanding your electric bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Spoon River Electric, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our

cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Spoon River Electric purchases power from Prairie Power Inc. (PPI). The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural

gas, coal and other energy resources. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability.

Closer to home, Spoon River Electric maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly \$75. This is a monthly fee members pay per meter, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve you. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Spoon River Electric's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions. Thank you for allowing Spoon River Electric to serve you.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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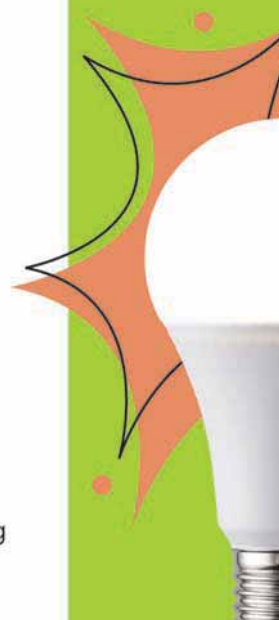
Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,361

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity—adding symbols, numbers and capital letters—password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.

Source: CISA



Coordinating power across the grid

When you flip a switch, electricity is there — instant, reliable and ready to power your day. But behind that simple moment is a carefully coordinated system made up of many “grid power players,” all working together to keep the lights on.

At Spoon River Electric, we think it's important for members to understand how this system works and who's involved in delivering the electricity you depend on every day.

It all starts with generation owners and operators. These are the facilities that actually produce electricity. Power plants convert energy from a variety of sources — such as natural gas, coal, nuclear energy and renewables like wind or solar — into electricity. These facilities may be owned by electric utilities, government entities or private companies. In most regions, a diverse mix of generation sources helps ensure reliability while also supporting affordability and sustainability goals.

Once electricity is generated, it needs to travel — often across long distances — to reach local communities. That's where transmission owners and operators come in. Using high-voltage transmission lines strung along massive towers, they move bulk electricity from power plants to local areas. You've likely seen these lines along highways or across open land. Because electricity can't easily be stored in large quantities, this system must constantly move power from where it's produced to where it's needed, all in real time.

Spoon River Electric is a member of Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), our local generation and transmission partners. PPI is a private, not-for-profit wholesale power provider that generates and transmits electricity to Spoon River and other electric cooperatives in our state.

Coordinating the flow of large amounts of power is a complex job, especially across multiple states or regions. In many parts of the country, organized wholesale markets, managed by Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) or Independent System Operators

(ISOs), handle this responsibility. These entities don't typically own power plants or transmission lines. Instead, they act as traffic controllers for the grid — balancing supply and demand every second of the day and directing which power plants should generate electricity at any given moment. Spoon River Electric and PPI work with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to help ensure reliable service and cost-effective energy for our members.

Then there's the part of the grid most people are familiar with — your local electric utility. That's where Spoon River Electric comes in. We take electricity from the high-voltage transmission system and deliver it directly to your home, farm or business through lower-voltage distribution lines. We also maintain utility poles, power lines, electric substations and other essential equipment in our community.

When storms roll through or outages occur, our crew is the one working to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. At Spoon River Electric, we're proud to serve around 4,500 accounts across Fulton, Peoria, Schuyler, Knox and McDonough counties, and we're committed to providing reliable, affordable electricity you can count on.

Finally, there's you — the end user. Homes, businesses, and industries all play a critical role in the grid. Your energy use directly influences how much electricity needs to be generated and delivered at any given time. During periods of high demand — like hot summer afternoons or cold winter mornings — the grid must work harder to meet increased usage. Simple steps, like adjusting your thermostat or running appliances during off-peak hours, can make a meaningful difference.

Beyond these key power players, there are additional organizations working behind the scenes to ensure our grid remains reliable and secure.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) develops and enforces reliability standards through a collaborative stakeholder process that includes utilities, regulators and industry experts. NERC also monitors the grid, trains personnel and assesses risks to help maintain a strong and resilient electric system across North America.

Meanwhile, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) provides federal oversight. FERC regulates interstate transmission of electricity and oversees wholesale energy markets to ensure they operate fairly and efficiently. It also plays a role in hydroelectric licensing and energy infrastructure development, helping ensure safe and reliable energy delivery nationwide.

From generation to transmission to your local utility, it takes a coordinated effort to power your everyday life. At Spoon River Electric we're proud to be your trusted energy partner — and to play our part in keeping the grid strong for the communities we serve.



Safety Tip

Heading to college? Never charge your phone under a pillow, on bedding or in bed with you. It can overheat and cause burns or start a fire. Instead, set up a dedicated charging station on a hard surface in your room.





LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY AT HOME

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, laptops, e-bikes, tools and toys. These batteries store a lot of energy in a small space. Learn how to buy, charge, store and recycle batteries safely to help prevent fires at home.

Use lithium-ion batteries safely

- Buy batteries and chargers with a nationally recognized safety certification mark.
- Only use chargers made for your devices and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't leave devices charging for longer than is necessary.
- Charge on hard, flat surfaces. Do not charge on beds, couches or under pillows.
- Store batteries at room temperature and away from anything that can catch fire.
- Have repairs conducted by a qualified professional.

! Stop using a battery if it smells unusual, gets very hot, makes popping sounds or changes in shape or color.

Charge e-bike and e-scooter batteries safely

- Charge your battery outdoors in a flat, dry area away from direct sunlight.
- Do not use a battery or charger that is damaged.
- Store batteries at room temperature, away from hot or cold areas.
- Never charge in areas that may block exits or create tripping hazards.
- Keep batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

What if batteries have been exposed to floodwater?

- Do not charge lithium-ion batteries that have been submerged or show signs of damage.
- Place exposed devices or batteries in noncombustible containers. Store them outside, away from buildings until recycled.

Recycle batteries the right way

- Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or curbside recycling bins. Doing so can start fires.
- Recycle batteries and devices at an approved battery recycling location.
- Contact your local waste department or visit batterynetwork.org to find a recycling site near you.

! The best way to cool a lithium-ion battery that is overheating or on fire is to flood it with water or submerge it in water.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

To learn more, visit:

Safe
Electricity.org®