

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Electricity brings everyday value

When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there — and that's how it should be, because you are a member of Spoon River Electric, and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month — roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family

comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

A Little Cost. A Lot of Life.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- 720 hours of refrigeration
- 20+ loads of clean clothes
- 15+ home-cooked meals
- 90+ hours of lighting
- Numerous devices charged
- Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- Countless connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort



Spoon River Electric is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community — not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power — so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

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 Detective Challenge

School is back in session, and it's time to put your observation skills to work! Complete the challenges below and earn points by finding ways your family can save energy.

Goal:
Score 20 points to become an Energy Detective! After you've earned 20 points, cut out the badge below and display it for all to see!

ENERGY DETECTIVE

SCAVENGER HUNT	COMPLETED
A light is left on in an empty room (2 points)	☐
A smart or programmable thermostat (4 points)	☐
A ceiling fan spinning in a room where no one is spending time (2 points)	☐
A charger plugged in with nothing connected to it (2 points)	☐
An ENERGY STAR* label on an appliance (3 points)	☐
A window or door left open or cracked when the heating/cooling system is on (3 points)	☐

MISSIONS	COMPLETED
Turn off the lights when you leave a room (3 points)	☐
Open blinds or curtains during the day instead of turning on a light (3 points)	☐
Unplug a charger that isn't being used (3 points)	☐
Remind family members to close the refrigerator door quickly (3 points)	☐
Help your family create a "lights out" check before bedtime (4 points)	☐

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA



Storm safety tips: How to prepare and stay safe

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

Watch vs. warning

When severe weather is approaching, many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A **watch** means conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A **warning** means severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

Follow these tips to stay safe

- Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.

- Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

Know how to keep others safe

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- Slow down and move over in work zones.
- Do not distract crews while they work.
- Direct service questions to your utility.
- Check your utility's social media

channels or text alerts for outage updates, if available.

- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause back-feed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

Stay alert during cleanup

- If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
- Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit SafeElectricity.org.



DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other **equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab.** Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.

SafeElectricity.org

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Safety Tip

Place your generator outside in a clean, dry area, and at least 20 feet from windows, doors, garages, porches and vents. Direct exhaust away from the home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.



Safe
Electricity.org



POWER LINE SAFETY for Professional Drone Pilots

POWER LINES AND DRONES DON'T MIX

Drones are helpful tools in many industries, including inspection, construction, agriculture, emergency response and photography. But near power lines, they can be hazardous.

RISKS:

- ⚡ Power outages.
- ⚡ Electrical hazards.
- ⚡ Falling debris.
- ⚡ Injury or damage.

BEFORE YOU FLY:

- Check the site.
- Look for lines, poles, guy wires and substations.
- Watch the weather.
- Coordinate with utility providers when needed.

DURING FLIGHT:

- Keep your drone in sight.
- Stay a safe distance from power lines, substations and equipment.
- Be extra cautious when near power infrastructure.

IF YOUR DRONE CRASHES or gets tangled in power equipment:

- ✗ Do not retrieve it. Stay clear.
- ✗ Contact the local electric utility.
- ✗ Call 911 if needed.

Learn more at:

Safe
Electricity.org



LOOK UP. LOOK OUT. FLY SMART.