



DAVID CHURCHWELL

# K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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**Our mission** is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

## RESTORING POWER SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: Power outages occasionally happen.

For most K.C. Electric Association consumer-members, outages are rare and last only a few hours. But when major storms such as high winds, ice storms and blizzards in the winter impact our area, extended outages can sometimes be unavoidable.

When the power goes out, how do K.C. Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? I have answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the main three-phase distribution lines that originate at our substations. After those repairs are made, crews work on the three-phase and single-phase taps. Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. K.C. Electric keeps an ample supply of extra transmission and distribution poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby

co-ops and contractors to bring in additional crews and material when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see contract tree crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power on an entire substation circuit. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire system. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly hire contractors to test the internal integrity of our utility poles, and K.C. crews continually inspect our power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our office at 719-743-2431 any time of the day or night.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable. But as a member of K.C. Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



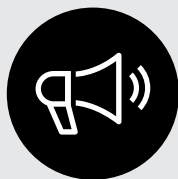
## Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric consumer-members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

- **John Engelbrecht, Cheyenne Wells — 1118470000**
- **Marth Schaal, Burlington — 1121050000**
- **Zylpha North, Flagler — 524350002**
- **Christa Gilbert, Burlington — 1287413501**

In September, two consumer-members called to claim their savings: Earl Helm, Stratton and Karen Fehrenbach, Stratton.



## GFCIs and AFCIs in a Nutshell

GFCIs prevent shocks and AFCIs prevent fires. Both should be installed by a qualified electrician to make your home safer.



# HAPPY *Thanksgiving*

Happy Thanksgiving from the employees and board of directors of K.C. Electric Association.

May your blessing be multiplied this year for you and your family.

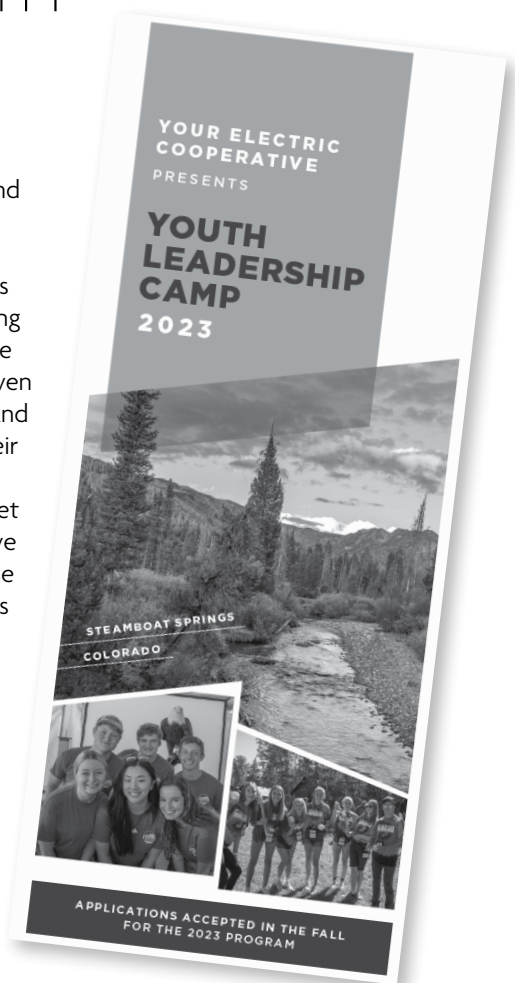
## APPLY FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

In July 2023, K.C. Electric Association will send one student to represent the co-op at the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. Students from electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming will spend a fun and educational week in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Students are given the opportunity to learn about electricity and electric co-ops while also strengthening their leadership skills.

“I will always remember the people I met through this trip,” one student said. “I have made some great friends and I know those relationships will not stop now that camp is over.”

One of the best things about this phenomenal trip? It is free for the student who is selected to attend.

The deadline to apply for Youth Leadership Camp is January 12, 2023. Applications are open to high school juniors and seniors living within K.C. Electric’s service territory whose parents are K.C. Electric consumer-members. You can apply online at [www.kcelectric.coop](http://www.kcelectric.coop).

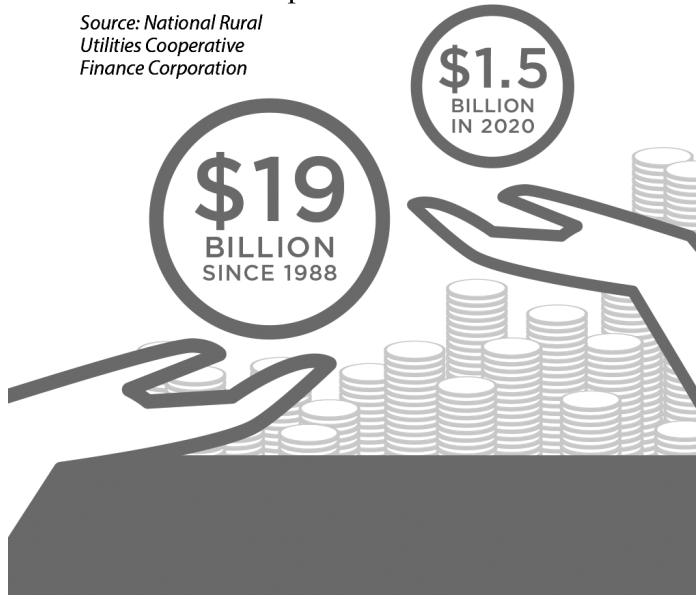


# Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$19 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.5 billion in 2020 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation





NOVEMBER 11

★ ★ ★

# VETERANS DAY

PROUD TO HONOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED



# STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

- Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.
-  Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.
- Always implement firearm safety techniques. 
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. 
- Carry a first aid kit. 
- Check the weather in advance and be prepared.
- Check tree stands regularly for stability.
- Survey the area for potential electrical hazards. 
- Be visible: Wear blaze orange. 

Learn more at: 

# SMART APPLIANCES FOR THE SMART CHEF

BY KATHERINE LOVING

Whether you're a master chef or a culinary novice, smart appliances add convenience to any kitchen. Smart kitchen appliances can guide you step-by-step or even perform the cooking themselves.

Smart appliances typically rely only on Wi-Fi (paired with a custom smartphone application), while others can work with common smart home systems like Google Home or Amazon Alexa. Smart home systems establish routines based on our activity, like when we return home from work. You can set smart devices to begin a programmed routine to turn on lights, adjust the thermostat and other tasks.

For smart kitchen appliances, routines could include preheating an oven or turning on a coffee maker. Let's take a look at a few smart appliances for the home chef.

## COOKTOPS AND RANGES

Induction cooktops are an innovation in themselves. Induction cooking works by delivering energy directly to cookware, using a magnetic field that warms the inside of cookware specifically made for induction cooking. Induction cooktops are 32% more energy efficient than gas cooktops and about 75% more efficient than electric cooktops.

Like other smart cooktops, smart induction models recognize when a pan is placed on an element and automatically turn off when a pan is removed from the cooktop. Brands like Samsung and Bosch offer additional smart functions like synchronization of the cooktop with a brand-matched smart ventilation hood. The smart hood activates as soon as cooking begins and adapts to cooking intensity on the fly. Smart ranges can also include this function and often feature a barcode scanning system that allows you to scan store-bought foods, prompting the oven to start based on the instructions.



Smart microwave ovens, such as the GE model shown here, include barcode scanning technology to allow product-specific cooking instructions to be sent to the appliance. Photo credit: GE

Smart ranges can be controlled remotely to preheat, and change and monitor temperatures through the companion app or an integrated home system. A few brands offer a Wi-Fi connected cooking thermometer to allow remote monitoring, leaving the home chef free to do other things while an app keeps an eye on cooking progress.

For novice chefs, many smart ovens and cooktops have guided step-by-step recipes within the app to help control the cook time and temperature.

## COUNTERTOP OVENS

Manufacturers are adding smart functionality to their countertop cooking options as well. The June Oven includes an in-oven camera that allows progress to be tracked from its app. The app also provides progress monitoring with push notifications to your phone when cooking is complete.

Tovala also offers a smaller, countertop oven for ready-to-cook meals. These ovens use barcode scanning technology for both Tovala meals and those from the grocery store. The Tovala app also uses push notifications to track progress.

Like Tovala, the Breville smart oven offers guided recipes and an app that directs cooking temperature and function, such as

air fry or bake, as the recipe advances. The Breville smart oven also uses its on-board chip to monitor and stabilize temperature from all sides for more efficient cooking.

## MICROWAVE OVENS, MULTI-COOKERS AND OTHER GADGETS

Other common kitchen appliances and small devices are getting smart, too. However, these devices feature a smaller set of functions than those mentioned above.

Microwave ovens from manufacturers such as LG, Whirlpool, GE, Sharp and Toshiba include the barcode scanning function to allow product-specific cooking instructions to be sent to the appliance.

Smart kitchen scales, air fryers and pasta makers are also available to connect to your phone for guided measuring and cooking.

If you're looking for a smart kitchen gadget that won't break the bank, try a smart meat thermometer. These handy little devices work with an app to specify optimal cook time and temperature, and they notify the chef when the meat is ready.

As our appliances and kitchen gadgets get smarter, home chefs will have more options for convenience and functionality. Bon appétit!

*Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*