

# K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 2024

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## NOTICE

**K.C. Electric has a new  
pay-by-phone number:  
855-940-3898**

Call to:

- Check your balance
- Update your auto-pay information
- Make a payment by phone. MasterCard, VISA, and e-checks are accepted.

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

**H**ave you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal and suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As the general manager of K.C. Electric, I'll occasionally have a member question me about the cause of a particular power outage or why it took so long to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

1. **We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Call us at 1-800-700-3123 or 1-800-296-5318.
2. **Our employees might be affected too.** K.C. Electric is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve and our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be as well.
3. **It's a team effort.** All of K.C.'s employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our office employees are taking your calls, field staff are surveying damage, and department managers are organizing crews. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
4. **We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different. We don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need, and next make a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
5. **Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back online in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then, we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
6. **Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for weather elements, road conditions, and fast-moving vehicles. (If you ever see one of our vehicles parked on the side of the road, please move over and slow down, it's state law.)
7. **Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked to prevent a

possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

- 8. **You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare for an emergency.
- 9. **Our employees have to plan and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews

work long hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

- 10. **Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is caused by an issue from a connected provider, we must let them make their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.



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### Claim Your Savings

Each month, members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you need to do is find your account number and 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).

**R.J. Jolly, Kit Carson – 11089xxxxx**

**Arthur Stevens, Flagler – 52280xxxxx**

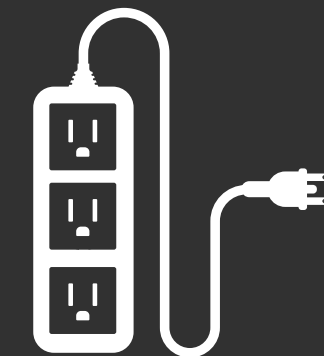
**Paul Witt, Flagler – 11074xxxxx**

**Don Stewart, Burlington – 12649xxxxx**

In May, two members called to claim their savings: Laurel Knudsen and Luanne L. Gaschler.

### Safety Tip

Overloading extension cords or power strips means they can overheat and cause fires. Do not overburden them by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the strips or cords can handle. If any part of the extension cord or power strip is hot while in use, it might be overloaded.



**Safe  
Electricity.org®**

# Power Up Your Lawn Care with **Electric Equipment**

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

## Benefits of Electric Equipment

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective, and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and because they are lighter, they

are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-behind, and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Similarly to mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers, and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance, and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.

## Choose Electric Equipment to Meet Your Needs

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating — this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric

lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

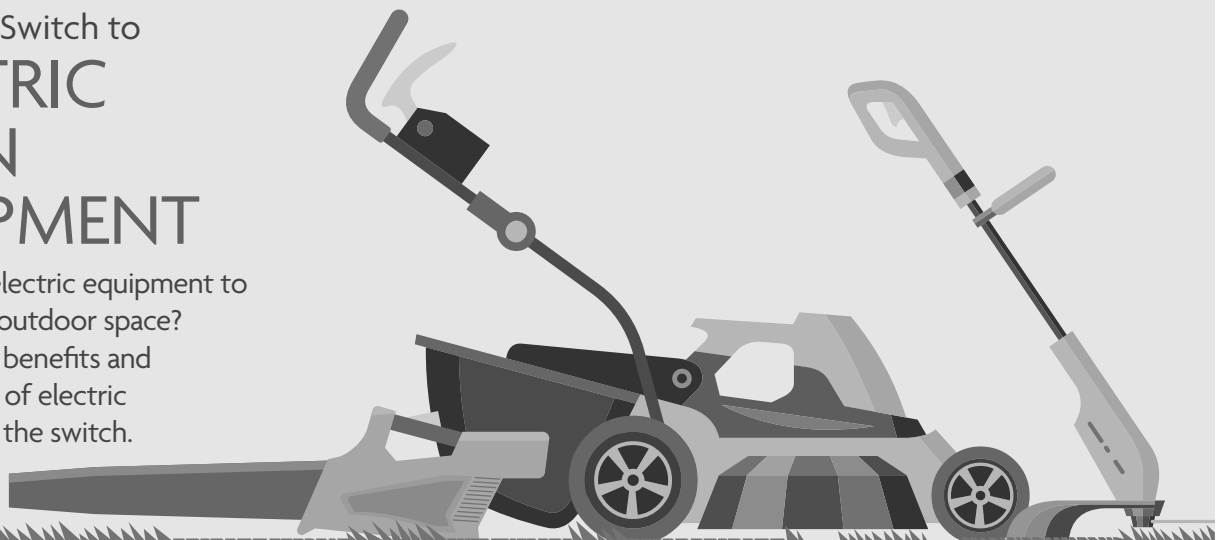
Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate, and is kinder to the environment.

Electric tools are quietly redefining the way we approach lawn care. If you're planning to make the switch to electric lawn equipment, please reach out for more information. Call us at 719-743-2431 or go to [kcelectric.coop/contact-us](https://kcelectric.coop/contact-us) to send an email.

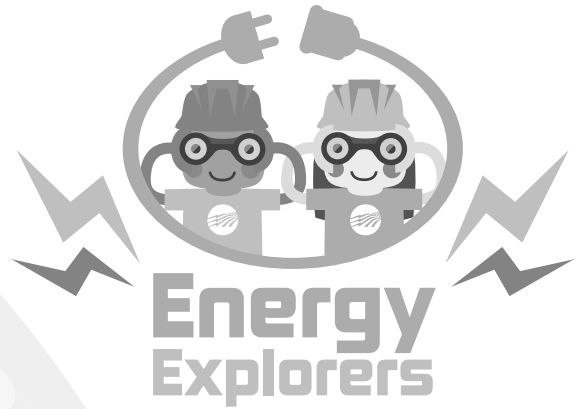
## Making the Switch to ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT

Upgrading to electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits and considerations of electric before making the switch.



# NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.

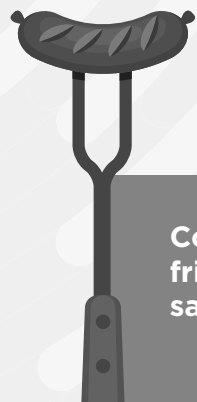


B H C D F T N U Z R B J R Q G  
 O A U F O N H R K Q S H E F V  
 M A R N X U J O R W Z N M B L  
 W M G B F B X L F P O K M V Z  
 X S J A E Z K M O R F S U B T  
 E S R P N Q I V P H P R S H V  
 X C D L L F U A L A C B K P J  
 V K J N A E B E T M E V K V X  
 J X O Y E K D U T B C H N I J  
 W N P T B I L C P U T Y T Y F  
 N C C N J A R O C R C G C D A  
 Y T W V C Z A F W G M E W B M  
 O D G R I L L A R E O U X W I  
 U L T K U S Q N V R S Q U B L  
 L E T K S O Q R G O D T O H Y



**WORD BANK**

- Hamburger
- Spatula
- Hot Dog
- Friends
- Summer
- Apron
- Grill
- Barbeque
- Family
- Tongs



Cooking outdoors is a fun way to spend time with friends and family! By cooking outside, you can save energy indoors and keep your home cooler.