



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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**For more information,
call us at 620-767-5144.**

Voluntary Program Keeps Your Costs Down

Question: If gas were \$21 dollars a gallon during one hour on a specific hot summer day, would you fill up your car during that hour? This example is similar to the problem your cooperative, Flint Hills RECA, faces every summer during its peak load hour. Last year that one hour cost Flint Hills \$122 per kW. That is 900 times the normal current cost per kW.

Throughout, July and August, we invite our members to participate in the Peak Alert Savings Program. This voluntary program can help reduce the wholesale power costs incurred by the cooperative during the 2016 summer peak hours. By participating you may receive a possible energy credit on your October billing.

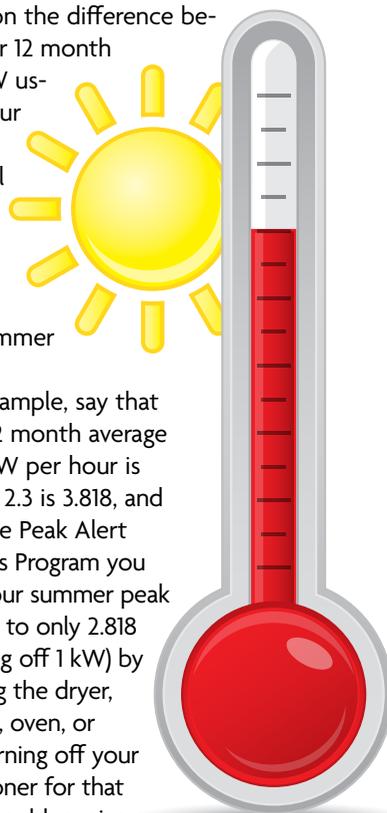
The summer peak demand for electricity drives a major portion of the wholesale power billing amount for the eight off-peak months that follow, October through May. This means that the lower the peak demand registered on the peak load hour in the summer, the lower demand charges will be throughout the remaining months.

Members who voluntarily sign up for the Peak Alert Savings Program by June 20, and lower their energy usage during the highest summer peak hour, could be eligible for an energy credit. In addition you are helping the co-op save on the wholesale power costs for the following eight months.

The Peak Alert Savings Program will run only on weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 3 to 6 p.m. when the temperature is forecasted to be 95 degrees or higher. The program runs during July and August, excluding the July 4th holiday. Flint Hills will make every attempt to notify you by email or text when possible peak hours may occur. At the end of the August billing period, your credit will be based on the difference between your 12 month average kW usage per hour X 2.3, and your actual kW usage during the cooperative's highest summer peak hour.

For example, say that your last 12 month average usage of kW per hour is 1.66. 1.66×2.3 is 3.818, and through the Peak Alert

Savings Program you lowered your summer peak usage hour to only 2.818 kW, (shaving off 1 kW) by not running the dryer, dishwasher, oven, or even by turning off your air conditioner for that hour, you could receive a



We are Prepared for Summer Storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust Flint Hills RECA is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first— like



When summer storms roll in, we'll be ready. In the event of a power outage, you can rest easy knowing your electric co-op is ready to respond!

damage to transmission lines, which serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Flint Hills RECA line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Flint Hills RECA so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check Flint Hills RECA's website for the latest updates during a power outage.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp Winners Selected

PAIGE CRANEY and **MEGHAN EIDMAN**, were selected by Flint Hills RECA to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO, in July.

To win this trip, students were asked to describe activities such as complete applications, interview with a judge, and take a quiz about cooperative.

These local youth will join approximately 100 high school students from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to participate in the leadership camp sponsored by the electric cooperatives in each state.

As part of the week-long adventure, the students will establish a candy cooperative business, in which they elect a general manager and board of directors, participate in daily

membership meetings and pay their membership dues of 50 cents to the newly established co-op business.

"The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is specifically designed to empower student leaders and help them better understand the cooperative business model," said Bob Reece, General Manager of Flint Hills RECA. "This camp not only highlights the co-op's commitment to their communities, but it also helps teach the students to become community leaders."

When not tending to their candy cooperative, the students will learn about electric co-ops, witness a high-voltage safety demonstration and build a transmission line from craft supplies. The youth will go on a river rafting excursion and tour local sites



Paige Craney



Meghan Eidman

like Steamboat Springs, Fish Creek Falls, Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant.

Flint Hills RECA sponsors two students each year as part of our commitment to community and our mission to help develop our next generation of leaders. For more information about the trip contact Youth Tour Coordinator, Diann Diehl at diann@flinthillsrec.com.

Driving Blindfolded on the Highway

The dangers of texting and driving

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them—including traffic lights, stop signs, and pedestrians—when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving—talking, texting, sending emails—is a growing threat to community safety. We have all seen distracted drivers, and most likely, we ourselves have used a phone while driving. Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes of the road and their hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a

distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your focus off driving, putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders.

At Flint Hills RECA, safety is a core value. At this time of year in particular, when more people are on the roads and kids are out of school, our goal is to raise awareness and spur conversation about the dangers of distracted driving. Talking on a cell phone quadruples your risk of an accident, about the same as if you were driving drunk. Risk doubles again if you are texting while driving. We are committed to eliminating this unnecessary risk and believe that no conversation or text is worth the potential danger.

Help promote a culture of safety. We encourage our members at Flint Hills RECA to join us and help keep our families, friends and neighbors safer by putting our phones down and focusing on the road when we drive. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.

Voluntary Peak Control Program Keeps Your Costs Down

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credit of \$70 on your October 1 bill.

How do you sign up to participate in Peak Alert Savings Program?

To sign up, call our office at 620-767-5144. We will direct you to the Smarthub app or to the Smarthub option through our website, flinthillsrec.com, to choose your option of text or email for Peak Alert notifications. Flint Hills will notify you on the possible peak days to let you know when to reduce your usage. It is that easy! There is no cost to you to participate. At the end of September, Flint Hills will calculate your peak hour usage. If there is a reduction from your annual average usage by using the example formula on page 16-A, you will receive the appropriate credit on your October 2016 billing.

How to shave energy during the peak load hour?

Reduce your energy usage during the possible peak hours, (3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday) when the temperature is 95 or over. Refrain from using appliances that use a lot of electricity. The dishwasher uses approximately 1,400 W an hour, the clothes dryer uses an estimated 6,000 W an hour, and the oven uses 2,660 W an hour. By doing the cooking and washing later on in the evening or early in the morning, you could reduce your peak hour usage and help reduce the cooperative's wholesale costs for power. This, in turn, comes back to you, the member, with lower billing charges.

Electricity is one of the best discoveries ever made and living without it would be a struggle, but by lowering your usage during the hottest summer hour, you could put credit on your October bill and reduce costs for your cooperative and your fellow members, as well.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
from Flint Hills RECA

How the Electric CO-OP WORKS



1 Member-owners elect board directors.

2 Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.

3 GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8 Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4 GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7 GM/CEO shares results with the board.



6 GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5 Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.