



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B
1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5144
www.flinthillsrec.com



**FLINT HILLS RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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Chuck Goeckel
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Member Services

- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

FROM THE MANAGER

See You at the Annual Meeting

It's that time of year again—annual meeting time! On behalf of Flint Hills REC, I'd like to personally invite you to join us on Thursday, April 4 at Herington Community Building. We look forward to gathering with you—members of the co-op community—to catch up, listen to what you have to say and enjoy good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community—it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Flint Hills REC and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

While Flint Hills RECA provides convenient options for bill paying and communications, there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality

of life for all in our corner of the world.

Perhaps you feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy. We want to hear from you to help us make informed decisions as we make our plans.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So, make it a point to join us on April 4 at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!



Chuck Goeckel

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Meeting April 4

The Flint Hills RECA Annual Meeting will be held April 4 at the Herington Community Building. Dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

April 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Mail-In Ballots Due March 25

Cast Your Vote for Board of Trustee Election

The Flint Hills RECA mail-in-ballots were mailed on Feb. 28 for the 2019 election of the Board of Trustees. The new mail-in-ballot voting process allows every consumer-member the opportunity to cast their vote by mail. Following is an explanation of how the voting process will work.

Voting

The election of trustees shall be by mail-in ballot. Only those nominees selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the mail-in ballot. The ballots were mailed to all active members on Feb. 28, 2019. All ballots must be returned to the Flint Hills RECA office and in our possession by the March 25, 2019, deadline.

Election Committee

The board selected an election committee, consisting of at least three qualified members of the cooperative. They will be responsible for opening and counting all mail-in-ballots. The election committee will follow a confidential counting process during the ballot opening meeting, which will be held on March 27, 2019. The cooperative's legal council will also be present at the counting meeting.

Annual Meeting

The voting results will be announced, along with other cooperative business, at the April 4, 2019, Annual Meeting. Results will also be posted on our website after the Annual Meeting and in the May 2019 *Kansas Country Living* magazine. The Flint Hills RECA 81st Annual Meeting will be held at the Herington Community Building, with registration and meal starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be no voting of trustees at the annual meeting.

Your vote for trustees is important because Flint Hills RECA is run by a democratically elected Board of Trustees. The board is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. The trustees you vote for are a part of your local communities and are committed to remain dedicated to providing its consumer-members safe, reliable and affordable electric service. For more information on the voting process, please call 620-767-5144 or visit our website, www.flinthillsrec.com, and click on the Member Service tab to view the cooperative's member bylaws.

Please remember to cast your vote, and return it on time to ensure your cooperative is in good hands for the future!



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

Electric cooperatives are different than other types of energy providers.

- We are led by consumer-members just like you.
- We were built by the community we serve.
- We still belong to the community.

That's the cooperative difference!

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few do-it-yourself efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the Most of Your Water Heater

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly



RARE FORM PROPERTIES

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money.

tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weatherstrip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weatherstripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weatherstripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



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Electric Co-op Policy Priorities for the New Congress

Every time a new Congress convenes, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to educate new lawmakers on issues that matter most to their consumer-members and the communities they serve. The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate.

Since then, co-ops have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to introduce ourselves to new members on Capitol Hill. Here are several priority issues that we're bringing to lawmakers' attention.

Energy Policy and Infrastructure

The potential for energy and infrastructure legislation presents a significant opportunity as electric cooperatives work to meet the growing needs of their local communities. NRECA will work to ensure that any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges, including opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment

NRECA will promote and encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development programs—including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperative renewables use has increased substantially in recent years, more than doubling since 2010.

Broadband

Expanded rural broadband access remains a priority for NRECA. As electric co-ops engage the new Congress, we will work to ensure that all rural broadband discussions include the electric co-op perspective on the need to expand high-speed internet service

in rural areas. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband—millions of them are members of an electric co-op. That's why roughly 100 electric cooperatives are working to close the digital divide by bringing broadband to their communities, and more are exploring the option.

Tax Policy

The 2017 tax reform law included a provision that treated federal grants as income. This threatens the tax-exempt status of some electric cooperatives, because many co-ops rely on government grants to maintain and expand their infrastructure and provide services to their local communities. America's electric cooperatives will seek to fix this unintended consequence of the tax law.

Grid Resilience

Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

With such a large freshman class of lawmakers, educating them about electric cooperatives and the issues we care about will take time and perseverance.

Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the very heart of our business.

Spring Forward on March 10

On Sunday, March 10,
remember to turn your
clocks forward one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

SUMMER TIP: Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

