



FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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FROM THE MANAGER

Working with Local Legislators



Chuck Goeckel

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics

have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Flint Hills REC, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all,

our mission is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our purpose is to help our community thrive.

Flint Hills REC is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

Providing Industry Guidance and Expertise

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues.

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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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system’s performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren’t blocked so air can flow freely. **SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**



Our Crews are Working to Serve You Help us keep them safe

- ▶ At a job site, don't ask crews what they are working on or when power will be restored. Crew members must give the repairs their full attention to ensure safety. Diverting their attention increases the amount of time it takes to resolve the issue.
- ▶ When driving by a utility truck (or any roadside vehicle with flashing lights), please move over and give them space. In a work zone, follow all signage, including speed limits. Drivers who travel through a work zone too fast endanger workers on the ground and up in the bucket.
- ▶ If one of our employees is in your yard or on an easement to address service issues, please secure your dogs. Also keep meters and pad mount transformers (green boxes) free from obstructions.
- ▶ Please be patient as we work on an outage or other issues. Safety is our top priority, for you and our employees.



Working with Local Legislators

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Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Flint Hills REC provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who've been in the energy industry for many years.

One way we do so is through the Co-ops Vote program. Partnering with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. we bring together co-op trustees and key staff, local officials and our legislators to discuss energy-industry topics and their effects on the quality of life of our communities.

Today's energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees, and staff, often at Co-ops Vote events, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or

regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we're involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

Representing Your Best Interests

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our consumer-members. This means we can cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we're advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We're proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you'll continue to advise Flint Hills REC on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.

Nominations for Trustee

The Nomination Committee is scheduled to meet on Jan. 4. Nominations for the Board of Trustees of Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative can also be made by petition, filed at the Council Grove office on or before the close of business on Jan. 19, 2022.

For more information on the cooperative's voting process, please visit Article V of the member bylaws located on our website flinthillsrec.com.



Tips to Ditch the Space Heater

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- ▶ Use an electric blanket to keep warm at night.
- ▶ Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- ▶ Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.
- ▶ Open curtains during the day to let sunlight warm your home. Close them at night.
- ▶ Run ceiling fans clockwise in the winter to push warm air down.

KANSAS ELECTRIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



TOPEKA

SUMMER 2022

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAMP



COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 15-21, 2022



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Students Invited to Apply for Leadership Opportunities

Flint Hills REC has a strong tradition of promoting youth leadership and that tradition will continue with two in-person leadership programs this summer. Flint Hills REC will select two individuals and they will have their choice to attend one of two all-expenses-paid trips to either the Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The KEY Leadership Conference will be held in Topeka in early June and will provide leadership learning opportunities, engaging speakers, and team-building activities. Student leaders from across the state will tour the Kansas State Capitol and other local attractions. Those selected for this experience also can apply for the Kansas seat on a national youth leadership council.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp will be July 15-21, 2022, and

will be held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. High school students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming participate in this leadership camp. Together, the youth will create a candy cooperative, hear from dynamic speakers, and raft down the Colorado River.

If you know of a student with strong leadership potential who is ready for new experiences, would like to network with other student leaders, and is willing to learn more about themselves and their communities, encourage them to apply for these incredible leadership opportunities.

To apply, you can call our office at 620-767-5144 or email us for an application at memberservices@flinthillsrec.com or visit our website at FLINTHILLSREC.COM/YOUTH-TOUR

Contest Application – Due Feb. 18, 2022

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or tgriffin@flinthillsrec.com.

Name of Applicant _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____ Phone Number _____

I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.

Signature of Applicant _____

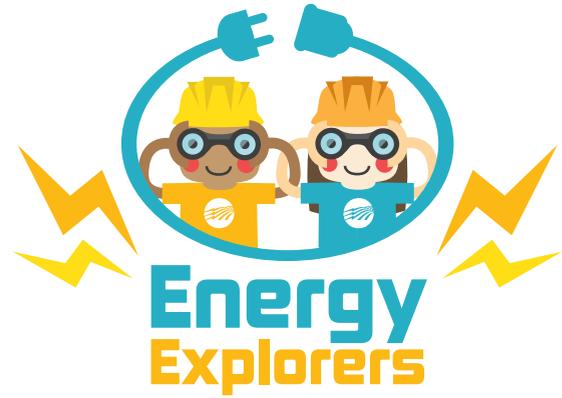
I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR _____ TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

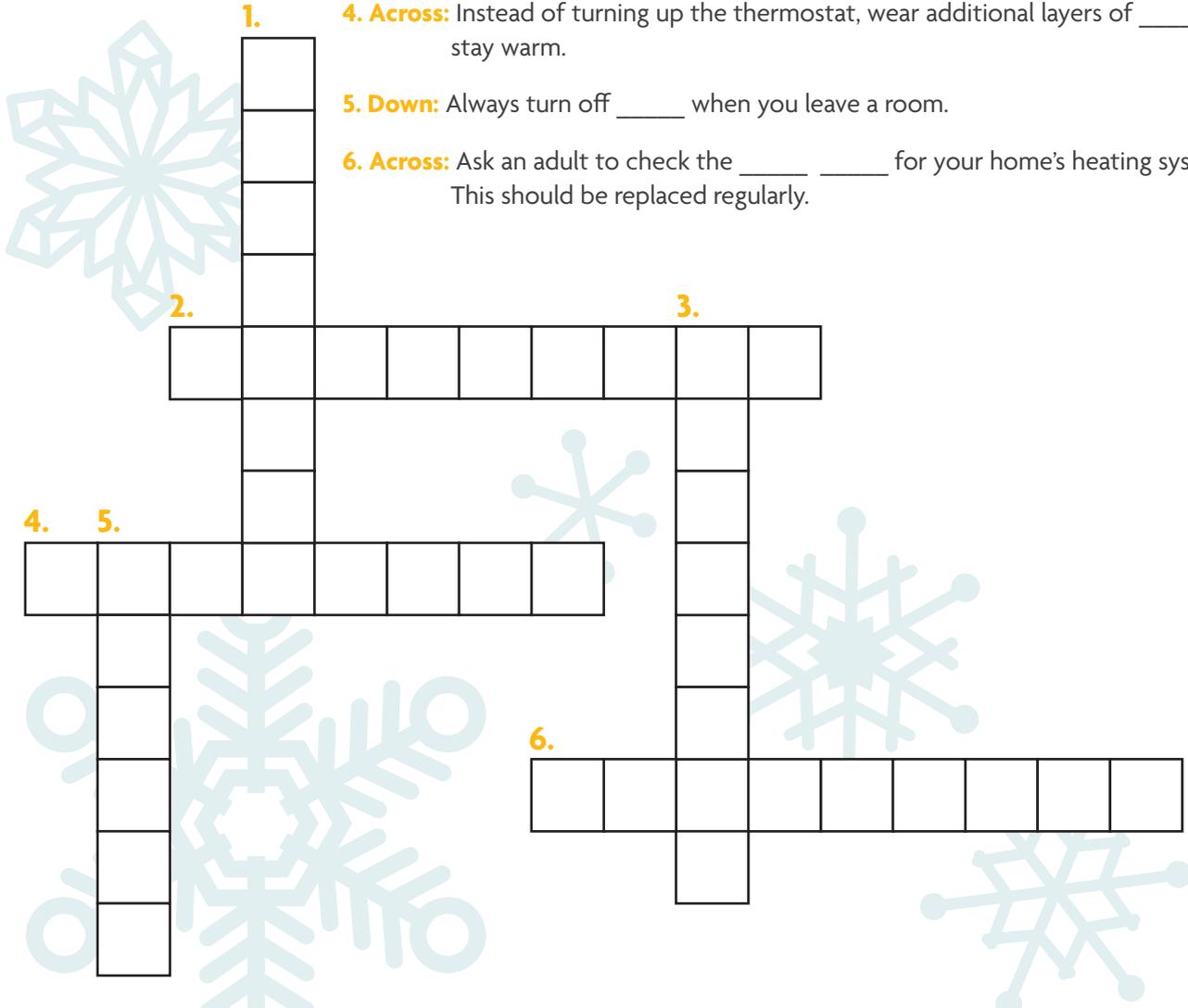
The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), the trip will be canceled.

WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD

Did you know there are several ways you can fight the winter chill *and* save energy at home? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how to save energy during winter months.



1. **Down:** Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow _____ in to warm your home.
2. **Across:** If you have a _____ at home, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.
3. **Down:** Unplug phone and tablet _____ when they're not in use.
4. **Across:** Instead of turning up the thermostat, wear additional layers of _____ to stay warm.
5. **Down:** Always turn off _____ when you leave a room.
6. **Across:** Ask an adult to check the _____ _____ for your home's heating system. This should be replaced regularly.



Answer Key — 1. Down: sunlight, 2. Across: fireplace, 3. Down: chargers, 4. Across: clothing, 5. Down: lights, 6. Across: air filter