



FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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FROM THE MANAGER

Why We Love Serving Our Members



Chuck Goeckel

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a

host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people

in our lives know we care about them — with or without a store-bought greeting card.

With that in mind, we've created the top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Flint Hills REC.

1 We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Simply put, Flint Hills REC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1938 — to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2 You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. We are able to help our community by giving to high school organizations and 4-H clubs just to name a few.

3 Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They

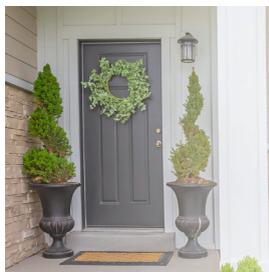
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Member Services

- ▶ 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



Shut the Front Door on Energy Waste

Did you know 25%-40% of energy used to heat and cool your home is wasted through air leaks? Seal all exterior doors with weatherstripping to minimize energy waste.

Why We Love Serving Our Members

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provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4 You help us get it right. Flint Hills REC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services like our rebate programs for heat pumps and water heaters. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5 You and other Flint Hills REC members make up the community we serve — and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help our area thrive. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, we strive to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

Join Us for YOUR Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendars for March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting will be held on March 29, 2022, at the Herington Community Building. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. Your annual report and ballot will be included with the March *Kansas Country Living* magazine.



5 Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day. If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills.

1. Use a Smart Power Strip

Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.

2. Unplug Your Least-Used Equipment

If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

3. Choose Energy Star®-certified Office Equipment

If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the Energy Star® label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the Energy Star® rating

include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. Flip The Switch and Use Natural Light Instead

It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in — and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!

5. Lower the thermostat

Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Flint Hills REC at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.

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 _____

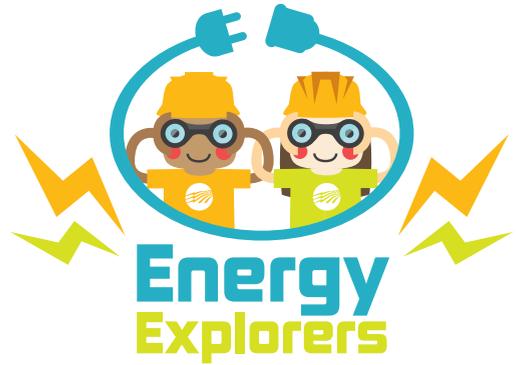
I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR _____ TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.

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.

ENERGY CONSERVATION BINGO

Cross off a square for each energy conservation task you complete. Share this with your friends and family to see who can get a “BINGO” first!



B	I	N	G	O
Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Use a reusable bag	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car
Unplug unused phone chargers	Collect items to recycle	Use a smart power strip	Carpool with friends	Reuse a water bottle
Take a 5-minute shower	Use solar lights outdoors	FREE	Unplug unused phone chargers	Use a reusable bag
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