



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

Board of Trustees

Shawn Potts
 President

James Witt
 Vice President

Korby Effland
 Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Andres
 Trustee

Cary Granzow
 Trustee

Trey Hinkson
 Trustee

Terry Olsen
 Trustee

Roger Zimmerman
 Trustee

Staff

Chuck Goeckel
 General Manager

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

Electric Vehicle FAQs



You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles (EVs) from Flint Hills REC members, so I thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Q WHY IS FLINT HILLS REC COMMUNICATING ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in EVs is growing, and Flint Hills REC is providing information about EV's so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q WHY IS FLINT HILLS REC INVOLVED IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES?

A: All electric utilities are planning now to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs — without jeopardizing the ability to keep safe, reliable and affordable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, Flint Hills is best suited to advise and help our members and local businesses plan for the electric vehicle future.



Chuck Goeckel

Q CAN I CHARGE MY EV USING AN EXISTING OUTLET OR DO I NEED A SPECIAL OUTLET?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard

Continued on page 12B ▶



Electric Vehicle FAQs

Continued from page 12A ▶

household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

Q DOES THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE AFFECT THE RANGE OF AN EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q WILL AN EV MEET MY DAILY DRIVING NEEDS?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Q WHAT KIND OF INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVS?

A: There are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program.

Q SHOULD I LET MY CO-OP KNOW IF I PURCHASE AN EV?

A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more Flint Hills REC members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 620-767-5144 or contact us at memberservices@flintheillsrec.com.

**JOIN THE
PEAK
ALERT
SAVINGS
PROGRAM**

**SIGN UP TO
SAVE**

Save on your bill when electricity demand is high. Sign up for **PEAK ALERT SAVINGS** and receive an energy credit when you lower your energy usage during peak hours.* The lower your usage, the **BIGGER THE CREDIT** you could be eligible for. The sign-up deadline is **JUNE 30**.

SIGN UP TODAY!

**MEMBERSERVICES
@FLINTHILLSREC.COM**

620-767-5144

*Some program restrictions apply. Credit only valid for reductions in the months of July and August, from Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m. (excluding July 4). This program will be active on peak load days when alerts are sent to participating members. Visit www.flintheillsrec.com for a full list of program details.

Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money — and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an Energy Star®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels — and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills.

night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

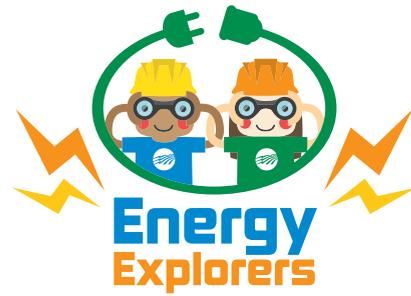
Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with Energy Star® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

May is National Electrical Safety Month! Take this quiz to test your safety skills. Check your answers in the key below.



1. It's safe to plug in several devices to one electrical outlet as long as you use a power strip.

A. True B. False

2. Smoke alarms should be tested _____.

A. Every month B. Every other month C. Every six months

3. Extension cords are safe to use year-round if the cord is not frayed or damaged.

A. True B. False

4. When unplugging a device from an electrical outlet, always hold the _____ while unplugging.

A. Cord B. Plug C. Device

5. It's never safe to play near power lines, but it's OK to play near pad-mounted transformers (those big green boxes you see in neighborhoods).

A. True B. False

6. Where is the most dangerous place to use electricity?

A. Near other electrical equipment B. Outdoors C. Near water

Answer Key: 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C