

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**

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**This institution is an equal  
 opportunity provider  
 and employer**

**FROM THE MANAGER**

**America's Electric Cooperatives  
 Post-Election Priorities**

With the midterm elections in the rearview mirror, Flint Hills RECA is looking ahead at the impact and opportunities for rural America and electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives across the nation played an active role in the midterm election and worked to get to know each candidate running for federal, state, and local offices. This was particularly important since more than 60 members of Congress decided to retire or run for other office.

Through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan political engagement effort led by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, more than 100 candidates attended electric cooperative functions or met with co-op staff. Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. reminded cooperative members through social media

posts and *Kansas Country Living* magazine articles about important information leading up to the primaries and general elections, including voter registration dates and where to access candidate information.



**Chuck Goeckel**

As we continue getting to know our new elected officials, Flint Hills RECA will continue advocating for policies that protect local business interests and advance the quality of life in the Flint Hills area.

There are several opportunities for our elected leaders to find common

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**Energy Efficiency  
 Tip of the Month**



Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations. *Source: energy.gov*

# America's Electric Cooperatives Post-Election Priorities

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ground and advance legislation to benefit our community.

Improving our nation's aging infrastructure is a great place to start. Congress and the White House should explore an infrastructure package that benefits all Americans, especially those at risk of being left behind in rural America. And this investment in critical infrastructure needs to go beyond roads and bridges. Congress should leverage an infrastructure package to help maintain and modernize the electric grid and connect rural communities to the modern economy.

Another area of possible bipartisan agreement lies in the need to produce a new farm bill. The

farm bill, which authorizes numerous rural economic development programs, traditionally has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Although the House and Senate have passed very different versions of a farm bill this year, we're hopeful lawmakers can come to an agreement on a compromise bill that promotes rural economic development and protects Rural Utilities Service electric loan funding on which electric co-ops depend.

Electric cooperatives like Flint Hills RECA are engines of economic development in rural areas. We are proud to continue working toward a brighter and more prosperous rural Kansas and rural America.

## When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings, and electrical equipment. While power lines can sway in high winds, add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, from temporary power interruptions to equipment damage, the collapse of power poles, and downed lines.

Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much utility workers can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you see galloping power lines:

- ▶ Keep your distance—ice can break off or power lines can break loose.
- ▶ Contact Flint Hills RECA to let us know of the potential damage as soon as possible. If you see a downed line:



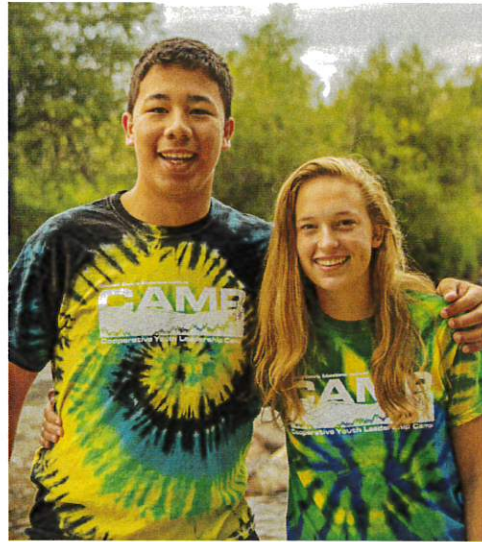
- ▶ Stay far away and warn others to stay away too.
- ▶ Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.
- ▶ Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment.

In the event of an outage, be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, and toiletries.

To learn more about storm and outage safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



COOPERATIVE  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
**CAMP**  
JULY 12-18, 2019  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO



The 2018 Flint Hills RECA Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners—Brandon Nguyen and Morgan Spinden.

## Apply to Win a Free Trip of a Lifetime

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp on July 12-18, 2019.

Rafting, hiking, and building memories—it's not just another trip! At camp, you will join winners from other co-ops in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains to build valuable leadership skills and friendships of a lifetime. So pack your sunscreen and hiking shoes and get ready to build memories that will last a lifetime.

The contest is open to all current high school sophomores

and juniors in Flint Hills' service area whose parents or guardians are members of Flint Hills RECA. Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material that will be made available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, please complete the application form below and send to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Bill Wessel, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846 by Feb. 4, 2019.

Once we receive this form, material will then be sent to you for the interview process.

### Contest Application for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp—Due Feb. 4, 2019

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Bill Wessel, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or [bwessel@flinthillsrec.com](mailto:bwessel@flinthillsrec.com) by Feb. 4, 2019.

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 2019 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.**

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

# ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS FOR KIDS!



Did you know there are small things you can do to help your family conserve energy at home? Fill in the blanks below to learn how you can help. Use the word bank below if you need a hint!

- 1 Turn the \_\_\_\_\_ off while you're brushing your teeth. You can save several gallons a month just by taking this simple step.
- 2 Any time you leave a room, remember to turn off the \_\_\_\_\_. Ask your parents if they use LED lights, which save the most energy!
- 3 With the help of your parents, \_\_\_\_\_ glass, plastic, paper and aluminum items.
- 4 When the heat or air conditioning is running, always keep \_\_\_\_\_ to the outside closed.
- 5 Take short \_\_\_\_\_ instead of baths to conserve water use.

## Word Bank

Showers  
Doors  
Water  
Recycle  
Lights

