

**ROLLING HILLS  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

**ROLLING HILLS  
ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.**

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**CONTACT US**

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P.O. Box 339  
Beloit, KS 67420  
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

For outage updates,  
energy efficiency tips and  
cooperative news.

## Need Assistance Paying Your Bill?

### Apply for LIEAP by March 31

Rolling Hills Electric receives requests for assistance with member electricity bills throughout the year. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

**THE 2025 LIEAP**

**APPLICATION PERIOD ENDS**

**MARCH 31, 2025, AT 5 P.M.** To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchases of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed in the table.

The benefit levels vary according to the following factors:

- ▶ Household income.
- ▶ Number of persons living at the address.

**2025 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,882.50	5	\$4,572.50
2	\$2,555	6	\$5,245
3	\$3,227.50	7	\$5,917.50
4	\$3,900	8	\$6,590
+1	\$672.50 for each additional person		

- ▶ Type of dwelling.
- ▶ Type of heating fuel.

For more information and to apply, visit **WWW.DCF.KS.GOV**, select the **SERVICES** tab at the top, then scroll down and click on **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)**. Applications must be received at the DCF office prior to 5 p.m., **MARCH 31, 2025**. Late arrivals will not be considered for assistance.

The state will contact Rolling Hills Electric to verify payments are being made on the account and the account is active in the applicant's name. LIEAP payments will come directly to Rolling Hills Electric and be applied directly to the account.

For more information or assistance in completing the application, please contact the LIEAP office at 888-369-4777.

## LOOK FOR THE **KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING** READERSHIP SURVEY IN YOUR EMAIL!

Kansas Country Living has engaged **INSIDE INFORMATION**, a research and data analytics company in Smithville, Missouri, to oversee a readership survey beginning this month. The

short, 21-question survey will be conducted through email and will help *Kansas Country Living* — the official communication channel for your electric cooperative — measure reader engagement and perceptions about the publication and your electric cooperative's local pages.

The magazine is the most cost-effective way to share essential business information with our consumer-members, along with articles about legislative and regulatory issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, outage and construction activities, features highlighting the great state in which we live, safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

If you are one of the lucky randomly selected readers to receive the survey, the email will come from **[SURVEY@KANSASCOUNTRYLIVING.COM](mailto:SURVEY@KANSASCOUNTRYLIVING.COM)** and the email headline will clearly indicate it is a survey from *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

**Kansas COUNTRYLiving**  
**SURVEY**

You have a new unread message

**OPEN**

**COMING SOON!**

*When you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for ONE OF 15 \$25 GIFT CARDS as our thank you for helping us keep you informed of co-op-related matters as an owner of*

**ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.**

# Happy New Year!

From our co-op family to yours,  
wishing you a peaceful new year!

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN. 1.**

### A BALANCING ACT: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.

#### FACTORS THAT IMPACT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

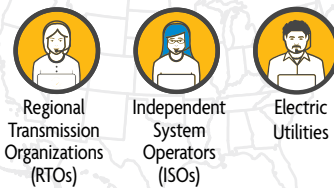
- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators.

#### REGIONAL GRID OPERATORS



Regional  
Transmission  
Organizations  
(RTOs)

Independent  
System  
Operators  
(ISOs)

Electric  
Utilities



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

**ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](https://www.usda.gov/program-discrimination-complaint-form) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# Underground Digging and Professional Excavation

## Safety First with 811

Whether you're digging in your backyard or are a professional excavator, Dig Safe is a critical resource for you. No matter how deep you're digging, it's important to get your utility lines marked before doing so. Ensuring safety is crucial, and the only way you'll know if you're near a utility line is by getting your lines marked by professionals. Beneath every dig site lies a network of utility lines — electric, water, gas and telecommunications. Striking these lines can cause:

- ▶ Costly delays.
- ▶ Expensive repairs.
- ▶ Service disruptions to the community.
- ▶ And most importantly, serious injury or death.

Contacting 811 before digging helps prevent these risks.

### CONTACTING 811

When you contact 811, they will notify relevant utility companies to mark underground lines, free of charge, using colored flags or paint. This process usually only takes a few days.

The American Public Works Association's Uniform Color Code for marking utilities is universal and used by all professional underground utility locating companies:

- ▶ **RED** — electric
- ▶ **ORANGE** — communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ **BLUE** — potable water
- ▶ **GREEN** — sewer/drainage
- ▶ **YELLOW** — gas/petroleum
- ▶ **PURPLE** — reclaimed water
- ▶ **WHITE** — premark site of proposed excavation

### BEST PRACTICES FOR DIGGING

After receiving utility markings, follow these practices:

- ▶ Respect the marks. Dig carefully around them.
- ▶ Maintain markings. Refresh if they fade or are removed.
- ▶ Verify responses. Ensure all utilities have reported.
- ▶ Hand dig in tolerance zones. Use hand tools within 18–24 inches of marked utilities.

Remember, 811 does not locate private utilities. Hire a private locator for systems including underground sprinklers, invisible fences, pool equipment, data communication systems or gas piping to a garage.

### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Talk with individuals helping you at your home. Professionals should train their team on excavation procedures and the importance of contacting 811. Regular toolbox talks before digging can reinforce safe practices and potentially save lives.

Failing to contact 811 is unsafe and often illegal. Many states have laws requiring excavators to use the 811 system and to premark proposed sites, with potential fines for non-compliance.

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Always contact 811 before any excavation, no matter what the project size. Once utilities are located, wear proper protective gear before digging.

Whether you're digging a foundation for a skyscraper or installing a fence post, check before you dig. It's free, easy and helps keep your crew and the community out of harm's way. Prioritizing 811 reflects your commitment to safety and professionalism. Stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe!



# Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **DAMAGED ONCE EVERY 6 MINUTES** because someone didn't call 811.

Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 BUSINESS DAYS** prior to digging.

Even if you previously had underground utilities marked, **UTILITIES CAN SHIFT**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.

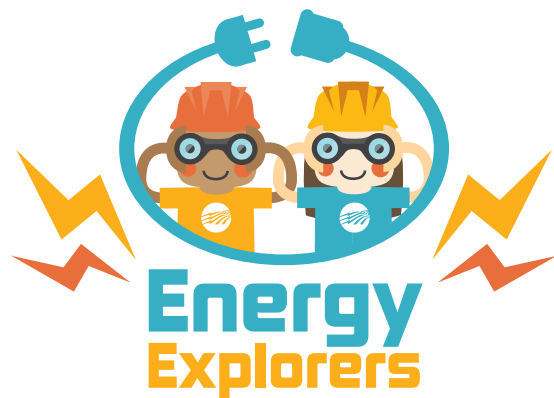
811 locators **DO NOT MARK PRIVATELY OWNED LINES**, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, and data communication systems. Call a private locator for these.

Once **ALL OF YOUR UTILITY AND PRIVATELY OWNED LINES** have been located, you can safely start your digging project!

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

# ENERGY SAVINGS SCAVENGER HUNT

Saving energy at home is a great way to help the environment (and save money). With the help of an adult, look for ways you can save energy around your home. Use the tips below to get started, then check off the areas where you've identified ways to save!



## ☐ TASK: BRIGHT IDEAS

Ensure your home uses energy-saving LED bulbs. If you find incandescent or CFL bulbs, replace them with LEDs.



## ☐ TASK: UNOCCUPIED ROOMS

Turn off lights and ceiling fans in unoccupied rooms to conserve energy.

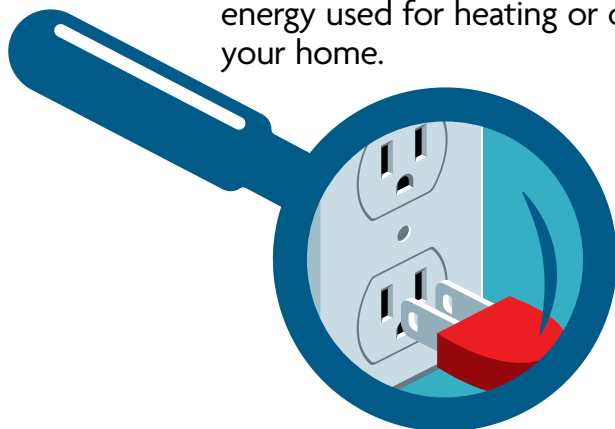
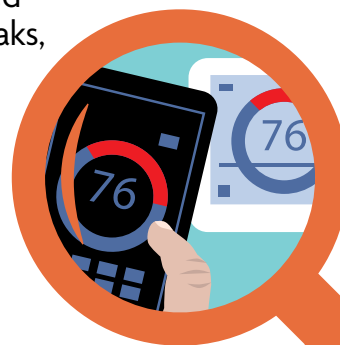


## ☐ TASK: SEALED FOR SAVINGS

Check windows to make sure they are closed and locked. Sealed windows help prevent air leaks, which saves energy.

## ☐ TASK: SET TO SAVE

Check the thermostat to see if it can be adjusted a few degrees (either lowered in winter or raised in summer) to conserve energy used for heating or cooling your home.



## ☐ TASK: SLAY ENERGY VAMPIRES

Energy vampires are devices that consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug these items, like phone chargers and tablets, when you're not using them.