



# the COOPERATOR

**AUGUST 2025** | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative  
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



Left: KEC Youth Tour delegates Brianna Payne of Garber and Emmie Harden of Tonkawa pose in front of the U.S. Capitol.

## A monumental experience

Kay Electric powers Washington, D.C., adventure for two local students

Since 1964, Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been transforming futures for high school students across rural America—taking them beyond the classroom and into the heart of our nation's history. This year, Kay Electric was proud to sponsor two exceptional students for the experience of a lifetime: Brianna Payne of Garber and Emmie Harden of Tonkawa.

From June 13–19, these young leaders joined more than 1,700 peers from 45 states for an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C. Highlights of the trip included visiting iconic landmarks, museums

and sites that brought American history to life. A special moment of the week was “Capitol Hill Day,” when students met with members of Oklahoma’s congressional delegation and gained behind-the-scenes insight into the legislative process.

Beyond sightseeing, Youth Tour included several events focused on leadership development and cooperative advocacy. During Youth Day delegates heard from speakers who shared the story of electric cooperatives and encourage students to consider their potential to shape their communities and country. 🌎



Learn more about Youth Tour at [www.kayelectric.coop/youth](http://www.kayelectric.coop/youth)



OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Co-operative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,267 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

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Investing in education

Co-op taxes deliver more than \$1.2 million to local schools

Electric cooperatives operate as not-for-profit businesses, but that doesn't mean they're exempt from paying taxes. In 2024 alone, electric cooperative gross receipts tax contributed \$1,231,630.09 to 16 school districts in our area.

Unlike for-profit companies that pay ad valorem taxes, Oklahoma law requires electric cooperatives to pay a 2% gross receipts tax on both wholesale and retail revenue. Of the funds collected, 95% goes directly to local schools, while the

remaining 5% is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs.

These tax distributions are based on the number of co-op power line miles within each school district. Kay Electric has 2,272 miles of line across 16 districts. The chart below shows the 2024 gross receipts tax disbursements to local schools from both Kay Electric and our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Co-operative. 🇺🇸

2024 TAXES PAID TO LOCAL SCHOOLS			
School District	KEC Tax	WFEC Tax	Total
Billings	\$68,336.18	\$18,192.65	\$86,528.83
Blackwell	\$48,907.26	\$25,062.89	\$73,970.15
Covington-Douglas	\$8,039.55	\$153.52	\$8,193.07
Deer Creek-Lamont	\$85,085.24	\$9,595.28	\$94,680.52
Frontier	\$36,847.94	\$0	\$36,847.94
Garber	\$20,433.86	\$0	\$20,433.86
Kildare	\$51,587.11	\$7,676.23	\$59,263.34
Medford	\$64,986.37	\$164,271.23	\$229,257.60
Newkirk	\$121,598.20	\$61,102.75	\$182,700.95
Peckham	\$39,192.81	\$36,001.51	\$75,194.32
Perry	\$28,138.43	\$44,253.44	\$72,391.87
Ponca City	\$35,508.01	\$15,429.22	\$50,937.23
Pond Creek-Hunter	\$34,838.05	\$13,433.41	\$48,271.46
Shidler	\$55,271.91	\$55,959.68	\$111,231.59
Tonkawa	\$62,306.52	\$16,427.13	\$78,733.65
Woodland	\$0	\$2,993.72	\$2,993.72
TOTALS	\$761,077.43	\$470,552.66	\$1,231,630.09



## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



### Three Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy this Summer

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting to your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save this summer.

#### Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

#### Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled

or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs. 2376002

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.

#### Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as "phantom load"), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

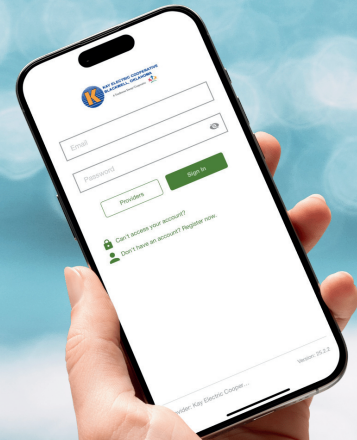
Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies. 🌞



### Less hassle. More sunshine.

KEC's free SmartHub app empowers you to track your usage, report outages, pay bills and more—anytime, anywhere.



## GOOD COOKIN'

### Carrot Cake

#### Ingredients

- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups carrots, shredded
- 1 cup crushed pineapple with juice
- 2/3 cup walnuts
- 2, 8-ounce packages cream cheese
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5 1/2 cups powdered sugar

#### Instructions

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and baking powder. In mixing bowl, cream together oil and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Gradually add in carrots and crushed pineapple. Add dry mixture to wet ingredients and beat until smooth. Fold in walnuts. Pour batter into two lightly greased 8-inch round cake pans and bake 25-30 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Allow cakes to cool completely. Remove cakes from pans and slice off tops to level cakes. To make frosting: In mixing bowl, cream together cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Gradually add in powdered sugar and mix until smooth. Spread two large spoonfuls frosting over top of one cake and stack second cake on top. Frost entire cake with remaining frosting.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

*Source: energy.gov*

#### Peak Alert Reminder

Peak energy hours may be called between June 20 and September 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Be sure to check our Facebook page and our website for when our power supplier calls a peak day. It's important that members limit electricity use on those days as it helps keep our rates down.

## \$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email [contact@kayelectric.coop](mailto:contact@kayelectric.coop) to claim your prize.

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