



# the COOPERATOR

**JULY 2022** | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative  
A supplement to Oklahoma Living

## Time of use matters!

Shifting household tasks to off-peak hours helps keep rates down.

**E**lectricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Kay Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of its members during times of highest energy use, also known as “on-peak hours.” This is why time of use matters.

During summer, it’s especially important to reduce energy consumption during peak hours. Wilford Collins, engineer at Kay Electric, explains that KEC purchases its power from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, a Generation and Transmission (G&T) Cooperative based in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

“During the summer, most consumers use more electricity, especially for air conditioning. If we can reduce our overall demand, that reduces our bill from WFEC,” Collins says. And when the overall bill is lower, that means better rates for members.

This year’s load control season will run from June 20-September 9, though not all days within this time frame will be peak days. “WFEC gives us notice of peak days and we share a peak alert with our members. We try to give as much notice as possible,” Collins says.

When the power supplier calls a peak day, members are encouraged to reduce con-

sumption, especially from 4 to 7 p.m. Kay Electric will communicate peak alerts via our website, Facebook page, text message, email and local radio stations.

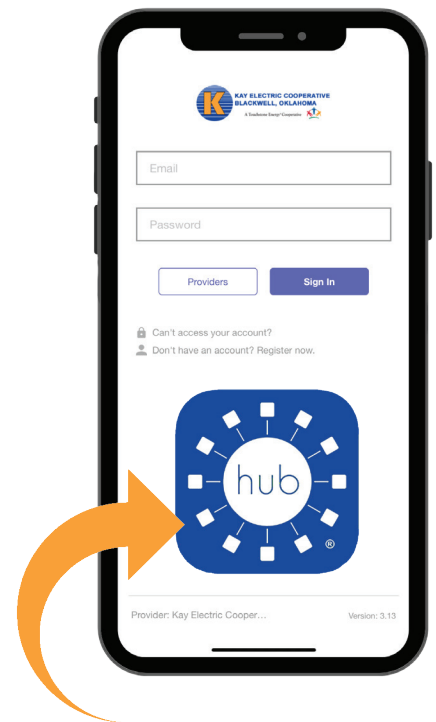
On peak days, members are encouraged to take steps to save energy: turn the thermostat up a few degrees; finish laundry earlier in the day; wait until later in the evening to run the dishwasher; turn off pool pumps; and avoid welding during peak hours. “It would be a great time to grill outside,” Collins adds.

Kay Electric is grateful to members who help us keep usage down by voluntarily conserving power on peak days! 🌞

## Get SMART about energy use!

KEC's free SmartHub app makes it easy to view real-time energy usage! By using SmartHub, you can learn when your usage typically peaks and make adjustments to become a more efficient user of electricity.

**SUMMER PEAK**  
JUNE 20 TO SEPTEMBER 9



**Download the free SmartHub app at the Apple App store or Google Play store or login to SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop).**



## OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,400 miles of line and more than 5,800 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

## CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079  
300 W. Doolin Ave. | PO Box 607  
Blackwell, OK 74631  
[www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

## REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop).

# TRUCKS FOR SALE BY SEALED BID



A



C



B



D

**A.** 2012 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 Crew Cab, 5.3 V8 engine. 140,200+ miles, 6 speed automatic transmission, new battery. Good condition.

**B.** 2015 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 Double Cab, 6.0 V8 engine. 225,100 miles, 6 speed automatic transmission. Poor condition.

**C.** 2013 Ford F-550 4x4 Extended Cab, bucket bed, 6.7 diesel engine. 172,400 miles, 6 speed automatic transmission. Fair condition.

**D.** 2013 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 Extended Cab, 5.3 V8 engine. 143,600 miles, 6 speed automatic transmission. Good condition.

All vehicles are being sold "as-is" with no warranty expressed or implied. Regular maintenance records available upon request. Sealed bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., Friday, July 22, 2022. KEC reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For questions, or to request bid sheet, please call Brandon, Tracy or Heath at 580-363-1260 or 800-535-1079 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

## Students and Teacher of the Month



Congratulations to Blackwell Middle School students and teacher of the month! From left: Amarilis Torres, Carter Fergeson, teacher Sue Fleck, Jordyn Smith, Parker Estep and Emanuel Ontiveros.

# Thinking of going solar?

Ask questions before you commit.

**N**et metering continues to offer cooperative members an alternative option for renewable energy at their homes or farms. Net metering is a billing practice that enables you to take your usage portion down to zero dollars.

Kay Electric wants to make sure that you are asking the right questions and getting a fair deal when you decide to go solar. Here are some of the questions you should ask your solar installer.

## How much solar can I install?

Residential solar installations at electric cooperatives are limited to 25 kilowatts and 125% of a home's electricity consumption. This may be different from the sizing limitations for customers of other utilities in Oklahoma.

## What is my electric bill going to be after solar is installed?

KEC's system does not allow excess production to carry over to the next month. Be wary of promises of a zero electric bill. By law, the cooperative is required to collect at least the fixed customer access charge each month. KEC's minimum bill for a residential customer is \$25.

## What is going to happen to the solar tax credit?

As you may know, the federal solar tax for residential solar installations does not continue indefinitely. It will expire starting in 2024, unless Congress renews it. Make sure your solar installer is taking this into account.

## How will I pay?

Some solar installers require up-front payments; others allow payments over time.

Be sure you are clear on how much will be charged and at what intervals. Be sure to compare the cents-per-kilowatt-hour rate from your solar installer to KEC's rate.


## What is the payback period?

This is how long it will take for your solar panel investment to be paid off or for your panels to pay for themselves by generating electricity. The longer this period is, the worse deal you are getting. KEC's rates do not increase 3% to 4% every year, so be sure that your installer is using a reasonable metric to forecast future energy rates.

## When will you talk to my cooperative?

Either you or your installer must apply and be approved for interconnection with KEC prior to installing your solar panels. It is critically important that your solar installer not access cooperative equipment, such as the inside of the electric meter or the meter base. This equipment is sealed for your protection; going inside of it is dangerous and illegal. If you have a generator in addition to your solar panels, make sure you understand how it will work, as well. Contact Wilford at KEC - 800-535-1079 to get more information on the process.

## How can I get more information?

As your trusted energy expert, Kay Electric is here to help you make an informed decision. Please call us about solar or net metering. The best time to call us is before you have signed a contract with the solar installer. While we cannot recommend a specific solar company, we can help you through the process and make sure you are being treated fairly and asking the right questions. 



## How net metering works

A renewable energy system, in this case privately owned solar panels, converts energy from sunlight to electricity.

An inverter, which is connected to the electric grid, converts the electricity from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) to make it safe for use in homes.

The electricity is used to power the home. (It should be noted that solar panels do not provide electricity during a power outage.)

If the solar panels produce more electricity than the home needs, the excess electricity is sent back to the electric grid. 403003

# GOOD COOKIN'

## Cuban Sliders

Serves 12

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup melted butter  
12 pack Hawaiian rolls  
1 pound thinly sliced deli ham  
8 slices Swiss cheese  
6 dill pickle sandwich slices  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons dried minced onion



### Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with 2 tablespoons of the butter.

Without separating them, slice the entire package of Hawaiian rolls horizontally in half. Place the bottom half in buttered pan, cut side up. Layer ham slices on top of cut rolls. Place Swiss cheese slices on top of the ham. Cut each pickle slice in half. Place one half pickle slice on each slider. Cover with Hawaiian roll tops.

Make sauce by whisking together melted butter and Dijon mustard. Add in the minced onion and stir. Spoon the sauce over the roll tops.

Cover pan with foil. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake for an additional 5-10 minutes or until the rolls begin to brown on top; watch carefully at the end so they don't burn. Remove the sliders to a cutting board with a spatula and cut into 12 pieces. Serve immediately.

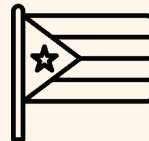


## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# CHRIS PRINCE

PURCHASING AGENT &  
WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

Chris Prince started at Kay Electric in April 2014. He serves as warehouse supervisor and purchasing agent for the co-op. Chris says he enjoys getting to help people and working with a great team. Born in Ponca City, Chris grew up in Braman. His Grandpa Barrows was an inspiration to him. Chris recalls that he would say, "If you want things you can't be afraid to work hard." Chris and his wife of 20 years, Angie, live in Blackwell. They have two sons, Collin a freshman at Northern Oklahoma College and Kallen, a third-grader at Blackwell Elementary. In his spare time, Chris enjoys fishing, bowling, and coaching youth sports. "I love sports and coaching. I've coached youth sports for 21 years and counting." One thing Chris is very proud of is his sons. "My boys make me proud daily." Chris attends Immanuel Baptist in Blackwell and is preparing to go on his second mission trip to Vieques, Puerto Rico.



TAKES MISSION TRIPS  
TO PUERTO RICO



ENJOYS FOOTBALL,  
BASEBALL, BOWLING



LOVES TO  
COACH YOUTH

*Images: courtesy flaticon*

## \$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.

## FOLLOW US!



for community highlights, contests, outage restoration updates and more

Pay your bill, report outages, view your usage, all via SmartHub. Access SmartHub through [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

