



**Sumner-Cowley  
Electric Co-op, Inc.**

*Building on our past. Lighting the way to the future.*

P.O. Box 220, Wellington, KS 67152  
888-326-3356  
[www.sucocoop.com](http://www.sucocoop.com)

**SUMNER-COWLEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS FROM THE *WHEAT CAPITAL*

## SUMNER-COWLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**John Schon**

President, District 7

**Keith Leddy**

Vice President, District 4

**Jeff Swanson**

Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

**John Beard**

Director, District 3

**Craig Knudsen**

Director, District 1

**Jim McMullin**

Director, District 5

**Gabe Schlickau**

Director, District 6

### STAFF

**Coni Adams**

CEO

**Jordan Creed**

Director of Operations

**Stacy Wiley**

Director of Finance

**Tanner Ford**

Member Engagement and  
Creative Services

## FROM THE CEO

# Happy New Year From Your Electric Cooperative!

As we step into a new year together, all of us at Sumner-Cowley Electric Co-operative want to extend our warmest wishes for a safe, happy and healthy 2026. Winter is fully upon us here in the Midwest, and as temperatures drop, our electricity use naturally rises. Heating systems run longer, lights stay on a bit more, and we tend to use appliances at the same busy times of day — early mornings and early evenings. All of this puts extra pressure on the electric grid.

That's why Sumner-Cowley works closely with our wholesale power provider, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), to plan for seasonal weather patterns. Together, we carefully study energy needs, strengthen infrastructure and make sure reliable power is available every day of the year. While

we manage our local system, it's important to remember that we're also connected to a much larger regional and national grid.

Across the country, winter weather can push electricity demand close to — and sometimes even beyond — available supply. We all remember Winter Storm Uri in 2021, when bitter cold, ice and widespread equipment failures pushed the grid to its limits. Events like that remind us how quickly extreme weather can affect the amount of electricity that can be produced and delivered. In rare cases when



**Coni Adams**

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## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Join us on Facebook for updates from Sumner-Cowley Electric. Simply search for Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative and click the "like" button.



## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Beware of "winter bill relief" energy scams. Scammers exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps. Always verify offers directly by calling your utility's phone number located on your energy bill — do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text. Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won't pressure you for immediate action.



# RUN FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PETITIONS TO JOIN THE BOARD ARE DUE JAN. 31, 2026**

THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION IN DISTRICT 3 IN 2026. IF YOU LIVE IN THIS DISTRICT, CONSIDER RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AND HELP SHAPE THE DIRECTION OF THE COOPERATIVE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE BALLOT, PETITIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.SUCOCOOP.COM](http://WWW.SUCOCOOP.COM). FILL OUT THE PETITION AND SEND TO CEO, CONI ADAMS AT [CONIA@SUCOCOOP.COM](mailto:CONIA@SUCOCOOP.COM) BY JAN. 31, 2026.



## APPLY BY JAN. 16

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRIPS**  
OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

**ALL EXPENSES PAID!**

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

**TRY NEW EXPERIENCES**

### **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR JUNE 13 - 19, 2026**

Join students from Kansas and Hawaii to tour Washington D.C. Visit historic landmarks, museums and monuments; watch a performance at the famous Kennedy Center; meet congressional representatives and senators; and more!

### **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP JULY 10 - 16, 2026**

Join students from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming for this amazing leadership camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. You'll learn about the cooperative business model, strengthen leadership skills and hear from national recognized speakers. Other activities include river rafting, hiking, touring a power plant and more!

# Happy New Year From Your Electric Cooperative!

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demand threatens to exceed supply, the Southwest Power Pool — our regional grid operator — may require temporary, controlled outages, often called rolling blackouts, to protect the broader system.

If a situation like this ever arises again, your cooperative will communicate quickly through our partners at KWLS (107.9) and KLEY (104.1 FM and 1130 AM), as well as through our Facebook page and website. Timely communication gives members the chance to take simple conservation steps that lighten the load on the grid — actions that can help prevent deeper outages and keep our local system intact.

To reduce these risks, SCEC and KEPCo invest in reliability year-round. That includes regular system maintenance, grid modernization, vegetation management and constant line patrol. These efforts strengthen our portion of the grid so it can better withstand extreme conditions.

But maintaining reliability is a team effort — and as members, you can make a meaningful difference during high-demand periods. Simple actions at home help ease stress on the grid and can lower your energy bill at the same time:

- Lower your thermostat slightly. Even a small adjustment helps conserve energy.
- Shift appliance use away from peak hours, which typically occurs in the early mornings as people get up and around for the day and early evenings as we return home and settle in. Running dishwashers, washing machines and dryers during midday or later in the evening makes a big impact.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees and space out showers to save both electricity and hot water.
- Unplug devices you're not using. Lighting and electronics usage accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather affects electricity demand helps us all play a part in keeping our cooperative powered. With a little awareness and a few easy habits, we can keep our homes warm, our lights on and our grid strong.

From all of us at Sumner-Cowley Electric, thank you for your continued trust and membership. Here's to a bright, reliable and cooperative-powered New Year!

**COOPERATIVELY YOURS**  
**CONI ADAMS, CEO**

## BE PREPARED THIS WINTER WINTER STORM SUPPLY KITS-THE ESSENTIALS



FLASHLIGHT WITH  
FRESH BATTERIES



FIRST AID KIT, PRESCRIPTION MEDS,  
AND BABY SUPPLIES



WOOD FOR PROPERLY  
VENTILATED FIREPLACE



NONPERISHABLE FOOD  
ITEMS AND CAN OPENER



BOTTLED DRINKING WATER



BATTERY POWERED  
EMERGENCY LIGHTS  
AND RADIO



BLANKETS, EXTRA CLOTHES, AND  
GLOVES

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

SOURCE: NRECA

## SAFETY TIP

Drafty room? Check your home's energy efficiency. Seal air leaks; add insulation where it matters, such as in the attic; use a programmable thermostat and have your furnace serviced regularly.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



# PowerTown: Brings Electrical Safety to Life

Electricity powers our daily lives, but in an instant, it can also become extremely dangerous or even deadly if safety is ignored. At Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative, your safety is important to us, which is why we make electrical safety a top priority. To help educate the public about the hazards of electricity, we offer an interactive and engaging safety demonstration we would love to share with you: the PowerTown Electrical Safety Table.

PowerTown is a powerful tool that uses live, energized parts to help identify the sights and sounds of electrical hazards, while also providing insight into dangerous situations that may not be seen or heard. The table features power lines, farm equipment, houses, vehicles and more, making each demonstration fully customizable to fit any audience. The main lessons emphasized in every PowerTown demonstration are to treat every power line as if it is energized and dangerous, and if something doesn't look or feel right, call us at SCEC or dial 911.

This safety demonstration is perfect for schools, safety meetings and trainings, or community events, and it can truly benefit any group. To book a PowerTown presentation, contact Tanner Ford at 888-326-3356 or [tannerf@sucocoop.com](mailto:tannerf@sucocoop.com).

**TOP RIGHT:** Systems Operator Danny Clark gives a demonstration at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Operations Manager Jordan Creed giving an overview about electrical safety at a tractor safety event in Harper.



## 2026 SENIORS: APPLY FOR THE SCEC SCHOLARSHIP!

Applications for the SCEC Scholarship Program are open! We know that pursuing higher education is a costly investment, and we would like to show our commitment to the future generation of leaders by easing that financial burden and providing the resources to help them achieve their dreams.

To apply, you must be a 2026 high school graduate and your parents or guardians must be current members of Sumner-Cowley Electric Co-op.

Scholarship applications can be found online at [www.sucocoop.com](http://www.sucocoop.com) and must be completed and returned by April 10, 2026. If you would like an application emailed to you, reach out to Tanner Ford at [tannerf@sucocoop.com](mailto:tannerf@sucocoop.com).

## SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**APPLY BY APRIL 10, 2026**

### REQUIREMENTS:

**2026 HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATE**

**PARENTS OR GUARDIANS  
MUST BE SCEC MEMBERS**



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