



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

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

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**SUMNER-COWLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS FROM THE **WHEAT CAPITAL**

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FROM THE MANAGER

Understanding Your Electric Bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our service territory are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bills and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Sumner-Cowley Electric we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home, farm or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is

typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during mild-er weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Sumner-Cowley purchases power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo). The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home,

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Coni Adams

SAFETY TIP

Heading to college? Never charge your phone under a pillow, on bedding or in bed with you. It can overheat and cause burns or start a fire. Instead, set up a dedicated charging station on a hard surface in your room.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



Goran Djurovic (left) and Lucas Pauly represented Sumner-Cowley Electric cooperative at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Sumner-Cowley Sends Local Students to Explore the Nation's Capital

GORAN DJUROVIC, Wellington High School, and **LUCAS PAULY**, Conway Springs High School, recently represented Sumner-Cowley Electric at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 13-19. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and developed their leadership skills while connecting with peers from across the cooperative network.

This year, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative joined with the Kansas-Hawaii delegation. These 32 standout student representatives, 27 from Kansas, four from Hawaii, and one from Maine, were hand-selected through an application process. Students were required to list their academic records and achievements, as well as their leadership experience both at school and in the community, write an essay about a chosen topic about leadership, and to show their personalities students submitted a short video to teach us about any topic of their choosing or to describe what this trip would mean to them.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a speech from Trooper Ben, a welcome from other notable Youth Tour Alumni, and dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. The tour was led by Senator Brenda Dietrich and Representative Tobias Schlingensiepen, along with Peter Barstad, director of policy in the Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft's office. After returning to the hotel, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better with icebreaker activities.

In Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National

Cemetery, and The People's House — A White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

On June 18, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, and Brynn Lee Hirata, the 2026 National Youth Leadership Council Spokesperson. This year's NRECA Youth Tour brought together around 2,100 delegates and chaperones across 44 states to Washington, D.C. This attendance represents a record of almost 700 cooperatives, bringing attendance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Students had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. Additionally, delegates met with Chief of Staff Krisann Pearce from Congressman Derek Schmidt's office; Legislative Assistant Rylee Rosamond and intern Hayden Napierala (a 2023 Youth Tour alumna) from Congressman Tracey Mann's office; and intern Cappi Hoeting (a 2022

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GORAN DJUROVIC
2026 ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
YOUTH TOUR
DELEGATE

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp alumna) from Senator Moran's office. During these discussions, they asked thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed unique opportunities to bond with peers from across the country — trading pins with other state delegations and taking in the sights during a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

Reflecting on their experience, Djurovic shared, "This trip had an amazing impact on me. From meeting Kansas Senate members, cruising on a riverboat, visiting Mt. Vernon, going to a Washington Nationals MLB Baseball game, and many more things. It is difficult to decide what has impacted me the most, but after visiting the reflecting pool, Kennedy Center, and the White House lawn from afar and seeing the changes of the areas due to

all of the events happening there made me realize that history is being written as we are living in it. During this trip I have made so many amazing memories, experiences, and friendships that will last a lifetime. This trip has shown me that we are all a part of something bigger than ourselves, and together we can all make our mark by serving others, showing love and compassion to others, and leading in a meaningful way."

"I cannot say enough how lucky and grateful I am to go on this trip," Pauly said. "The biggest impact would have to be meeting Senator Roger Marshall and Senator Jerry Moran, getting great life advice from them. Throughout this trip I have met so many amazing people and made wonderful memories. Something that has inspired me on the trip is seeing how no matter



SCEC's Goran Djurovic poses in front of the Washington Monument.

where you come from or what you've been through, many people with all backgrounds can become talented leaders and amazing people overall."

Students who participated in the 2026 Youth Tour are also eligible to apply for the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship. For more information about Youth Tour or other KEC youth programs, please contact Tanner Ford at 620-326-3356.

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LUCAS PAULY, 2026 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE



SCEC Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Delegate Lucas Pauly (second from right) shakes hands with Senator Roger Marshall while visiting Washington, D.C.



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegates from Kansas, Hawaii and Maine pose at the Jefferson Memorial.

Understanding Your Electric Bill

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it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Sumner-Cowley maintains the local electric distribution system — utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly facility charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks, and avoiding the use

of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill, and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Your electric cooperative's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support our rural Kansas members.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill, please reach out. We're here to help!

In fact, check out the video recently produced by Tanner Ford, member engagement and creative services. He makes understanding your electric bill a breeze!

Thank you for allowing Sumner-Cowley Electric to serve you.

Scan to learn key points of your bill



COOPERATIVELY YOURS,
CONI ADAMS
SUMNER-COWLEY ELECTRIC CEO

**VIEW AND PAY BILLS, CHECK YOUR USAGE, SET UP
AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS, REPORT OUTAGES AND MORE!**

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