



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
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Wamego, KS 66547  
800-558-1580  
[www.bluestemelectric.com](http://www.bluestemelectric.com)

# Bluestem NEWS

## BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Manager of AMI and Mapping/OMS

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Manager of Member Services

### CONTACT US

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5, Wamego, KS 66547  
800-558-1580

## FROM THE MANAGER

# New Rates Effective Oct. 1



**Mike Morton**

After several months of studying the rates for electric service, Bluestem Electric's Board of Trustees approved the rates published in the August

issue of *Kansas Country Living*. A special board meeting was held Aug. 19 to discuss and vote upon the proposed rates. The approved rates will be effective on Oct. 1, 2024, and be reflected on November's bill.

The cost of providing safe and reliable electric service has increased since rates were last adjusted seven years ago, and it is no longer possible to maintain the financial ratios required by our lenders. Increasing rates is not

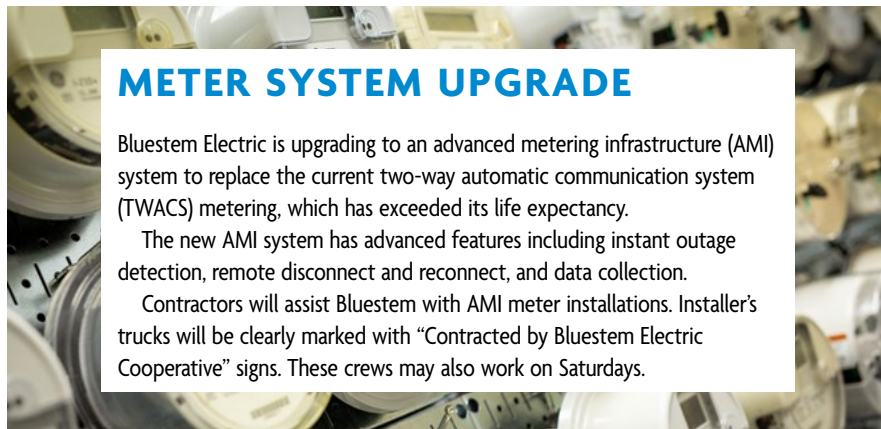
the only way we fight rising costs. We continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently.

For example, we continue to automate processes where feasible. We have taken steps to minimize and reduce the amount of property taxes paid by the co-op and staffing has been reduced in the last seven years.

Several measures that required an initial investment will also begin to pay off in reduced costs. Our new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system has advanced features including instant outage detection, remote disconnect and reconnect, and data collection. This technology reduces the cost of sending a truck and staff to make these changes.

As outlined in the August notice, the study showed that revenues should

*Continued on page 12B* ▶



## METER SYSTEM UPGRADE

Bluestem Electric is upgrading to an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system to replace the current two-way automatic communication system (TWACS) metering, which has exceeded its life expectancy.

The new AMI system has advanced features including instant outage detection, remote disconnect and reconnect, and data collection.

Contractors will assist Bluestem with AMI meter installations. Installer's trucks will be clearly marked with "Contracted by Bluestem Electric Cooperative" signs. These crews may also work on Saturdays.

## New Rates Effective Oct. 1 Continued from page 12A ▶

be increased approximately \$1.5 million or about 8.2%. This amount was apportioned to the various classes of service using the results of the cost-of-service study as a guide.

The cost-of-service study shows the average investment made to serve each class of customer, as well as the revenues and expenses attributed to each class. Furthermore, it provides the board with a relative comparison of each class's rate of return.

A three-part rate (Customer Charge, Energy Charge and Demand Charge) was approved in place of the current two-part rate (Customer Charge and Energy Charge). The change to the three-part rate will create a more equitable rate for all members. It will also reflect how Bluestem is billed by our power supplier.

With this change, how and when you use power will be more important than ever! The new rate design will tie costs to electrical use, so members are treated fairly.

The approved rates will increase the monthly Customer Charge and implement a Demand Charge. As a result, members will notice a decrease in the Energy Charge or price per kilowatt-hour. A portion of the cooperative's costs are the

“Each member's monthly demand is printed on their billing statement, as well as the date and time it was incurred. We encourage members to review past bills, monitor current bills and understand what impacts your demand each month.”

same for all members in similar rate classes, whether a member is a high energy user or low energy user. The cooperative has made similar investments in poles, wire, transformers and meters for all customers and incurs similar cost for reading meters, billing and consumer accounting. Increasing the fixed charges closer to the actual cost helps to minimize the amount of increase on the energy charges and more accurately tracks the cost of providing electric service.

The Demand Charge is something each member can control.

Demand is the rate of energy used at any given point in time and is measured by the highest rate at which a member uses electricity during a 60-minute period and is billed accordingly. The demand charge will be billed on the highest demand registered during the billing period.

Each member's monthly demand is printed on their billing statement, as well as the date and time it was incurred. We encourage members to review past bills, monitor current bills and understand what impacts your demand each month.

Rest assured BEC has not entered this matter lightly. It took diligence on the part of your member-elected board of trustees and the employees of BEC to minimize the rate adjustment — with the members' best interest at heart.

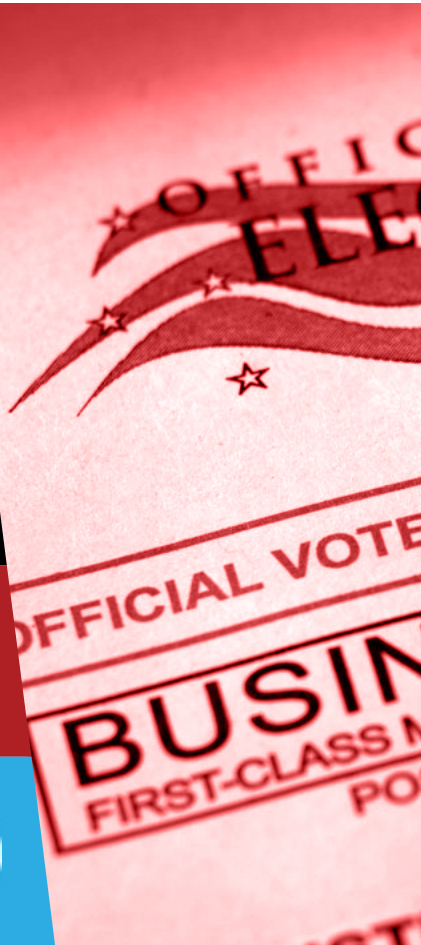
We live by the co-op difference; we are not driven by profits to provide a return for shareholders. Rather, we are service-driven and operate at cost. Our focus is on keeping the co-op financially strong on behalf of all members, in order to continue to provide safe, reliable service at the lowest practical cost.

If you have questions, please contact the cooperative office at 800-558-1580.

Check off step one  
in becoming a  
co-op voter.

REGISTER TO VOTE ON  
NATIONAL  
VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DAY SEPT. 17

Learn more about being a  
#CoopVoter and complete  
your registration at  
[www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).



| MEMBER CLASS                     |                                      | CURRENT EFFECTIVE RATE  | CHANGE       | APPROVED RATE |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| SINGLE PHASE SERVICE             | STANDARD                             | Annual Revenue          | \$13,977,532 | \$1,333,689   | \$15,311,221 |
|                                  |                                      | Customer Charge \$/mo.  | \$36.00      | \$14.00       | \$50.00      |
|                                  |                                      | NCP Demand Charge \$/kW |              | \$4.50        | \$4.50       |
|                                  |                                      | Energy Charge \$/kWh    |              |               |              |
|                                  |                                      | Winter (Oct.-May)       |              |               | \$0.10820    |
|                                  |                                      | First 750 kWh           | \$0.13400    | (\$0.02580)   | \$0.10820    |
|                                  |                                      | Next 750 kWh            | \$0.13150    | (\$0.02330)   | \$0.10820    |
|                                  |                                      | Next 1,500 kWh          | \$0.12900    | (\$0.02080)   | \$0.10820    |
|                                  |                                      | Over 3,000 kWh          | \$0.12650    | (\$0.01830)   | \$0.10820    |
|                                  |                                      | Summer (June-Sept.)     | \$0.14150    | (\$0.02330)   | \$0.11820    |
|                                  | ELECTRIC HEAT                        | Winter (Oct.-May)       |              |               | \$0.10000    |
|                                  |                                      | First 750 kWh           | \$0.13400    | (\$0.03400)   | \$0.10000    |
|                                  |                                      | Next 750 kWh            | \$0.12650    | (\$0.02650)   | \$0.10000    |
|                                  |                                      | Over 1,500 kWh          | \$0.11570    | (\$0.01570)   | \$0.10000    |
|                                  | HEAT PUMP                            | Summer (June-Sept.)     | \$0.14150    | (\$0.03150)   | \$0.11000    |
|                                  |                                      | Winter (Oct.-May)       |              |               | \$0.09000    |
|                                  |                                      | First 600 kWh/ton       | \$0.10550    | (\$0.01550)   | \$0.09000    |
|                                  |                                      | Excess kWh              | \$0.12650    | (\$0.03650)   | \$0.09000    |
|                                  | TOU                                  | Summer (June-Sept.)     | \$0.13150    | (\$0.03150)   | \$0.10000    |
|                                  |                                      | Winter (Oct.-May)       | \$0.11750    | (\$0.03850)   | \$0.07900    |
| Summer (June-Sept.)              |                                      |                         |              |               |              |
| Peak (3-6 p.m.)                  |                                      | \$0.30000               | \$0.10000    | \$0.40000     |              |
| CATHODIC PROTECTION OF PIPELINES | Off-Peak (6-3 p.m.)                  | \$0.11750               | (\$0.03850)  | \$0.07900     |              |
|                                  | Annual Revenue                       | \$81,445                | \$8,160      | \$89,605      |              |
| THREE PHASE SERVICE              | STANDARD                             | Customer Charge \$/mo.  | \$8.00       | \$42.00       | \$50.00      |
|                                  |                                      | Demand Charge \$/kW     | \$14.00      | \$0.00        | \$14.00      |
|                                  |                                      | Energy Charge \$/kWh    | \$0.10819    | (\$0.07319)   | \$0.03500    |
|                                  |                                      | Annual Revenue          | \$492,977    | \$9,991       | \$502,968    |
|                                  | TOU                                  | Customer Charge \$/mo.  | \$48.00      | \$22.00       | \$70.00      |
|                                  |                                      | NCP Demand Charge \$/kW |              | \$4.50        | \$4.50       |
|                                  |                                      | Energy Charge \$/kWh    |              |               |              |
|                                  |                                      | Winter (Oct.-May)       |              |               | \$0.09650    |
|                                  |                                      | First 2,000 kWh         | \$0.13561    | (\$0.03911)   | \$0.09650    |
|                                  |                                      | Next 3,000 kWh          | \$0.13311    | (\$0.03661)   | \$0.09650    |
| TOU                              | Over 5,000 kWh                       | \$0.13061               | (\$0.03411)  | \$0.09650     |              |
|                                  | Summer (June-Sept.)                  | \$0.14311               | (\$0.03661)  | \$0.10650     |              |
|                                  | Winter (Oct.-May)                    | \$0.11311               | (\$0.04551)  | \$0.06760     |              |
|                                  | Summer (June-Sept.)                  |                         |              |               |              |
| GENERAL SERVICE DEMAND           | Peak (3-6 p.m.)                      | \$0.75000               | \$0.00000    | \$0.75000     |              |
|                                  | Off-Peak (6-3 p.m.)                  | \$0.11311               | (\$0.04551)  | \$0.06760     |              |
|                                  | Annual Revenue                       | \$282,882               | \$3,660      | \$286,542     |              |
|                                  | Customer Charge \$/mo.               | \$48.00                 | \$22.00      | \$70.00       |              |
|                                  | Demand Charge \$/kW                  | \$14.00                 | \$6.00       | \$20.00       |              |
|                                  | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 | \$0.09177               | (\$0.01177)  | \$0.08000     |              |
| LOAD MGMT                        | Demand Credit \$/kW                  | (\$14.00)               | \$0.00       | (\$14.00)     |              |
|                                  | Load Management Energy Credit \$/kWh | (\$0.00800)             | (\$0.00400)  | (\$0.01200)   |              |

| MEMBER CLASS              |                                      | CURRENT EFFECTIVE RATE                       | CHANGE      | APPROVED RATE          |             |          |             |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| IRRIGATION SERVICE        | STANDARD                             | Annual Revenue                               | \$445,866   | \$78,730               | \$524,596   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Customer Charge \$/mo.                       | \$36.00     | \$14.00                | \$50.00     |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Horsepower Charge \$/HP                      | \$35.00     | \$0.00                 | \$35.00     |          |             |
|                           |                                      | On Peak Demand Charge (June-Sept., 3-6 p.m.) |             | \$5.00                 | \$5.00      |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Energy Charge \$/kWh Summer (June-Sept.)     | \$0.13972   | (\$0.02472)            | \$0.11500   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Winter (Oct.-May)                            | \$0.13222   | (\$0.02472)            | \$0.10750   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Load Management Credit \$/HP                 | (\$20.00)   | \$5.00                 | (\$15.00)   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Energy Charge \$/kWh                         | \$0.07088   | \$0.00000              | \$0.07088   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | LARGE POWER SERVICE                          | LOAD MGMT   | Annual Revenue         | \$1,913,004 | \$17,045 | \$1,930,049 |
|                           |                                      |  |             | Customer Charge \$/mo. |             | \$82.00  | \$82.00     |
| Demand Charge \$/kW       | \$14.00                              |  |             | \$6.00                 | \$20.00     |          |             |
| Energy Charge \$/kWh      | \$0.10247                            |  |             | (\$0.01567)            | \$0.08680   |          |             |
| CP Demand Charge \$/kW    |                                      |  |             |                        |             |          |             |
| TIME OF USE               | Summer (July-Aug.)                   |  | \$15.40     | \$0.00                 | \$15.40     |          |             |
|                           | Winter (Sept.-June)                  |  | \$11.15     | \$0.00                 | \$11.15     |          |             |
|                           | NCP Demand Charge \$/kW              |  | \$4.50      | \$0.00                 | \$4.50      |          |             |
|                           | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 |  | \$0.10247   | \$0.00000              | \$0.10247   |          |             |
|                           | Demand Charge \$/kW                  |  | \$14.00     | \$6.00                 | \$20.00     |          |             |
| LOAD MGMT                 | Load Management Demand Credit \$/kW  | (\$14.00)                                    | \$0.00      | (\$14.00)              |             |          |             |
|                           | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 | \$0.10247                                    | (\$0.01567) | \$0.08680              |             |          |             |
|                           | Load Management Energy Credit \$/kWh | (\$0.00800)                                  | \$0.00000   | (\$0.00800)            |             |          |             |
|                           | Annual Revenue                       | \$12,757                                     | \$2,439     | \$15,196               |             |          |             |
|                           | Demand Charge \$/kW                  | \$10.00                                      | \$5.00      | \$15.00                |             |          |             |
|                           | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 | \$0.07818                                    | \$0.00000   | \$0.07818              |             |          |             |
|                           | Load Management Demand Credit \$/kW  | (\$10.00)                                    | \$0.00      | (\$10.00)              |             |          |             |
|                           | Load Management Energy Credit \$/kWh | (\$0.00800)                                  | \$0.00000   | (\$0.00800)            |             |          |             |
|                           | MAPCO                                | Annual Revenue                               | \$361,124   | \$5,376                | \$366,500   |          |             |
|                           |                                      | Wholesale Power Cost Plus:                   |             |                        |             |          |             |
| Customer Charge \$/mo.    |                                      |  | \$18.75     | \$18.75                |             |          |             |
| Demand Charge Adder \$/kW |                                      | \$1.25                                       | \$0.35      | \$1.60                 |             |          |             |
| NNG                       | Energy Charge Adder \$/kWh           | \$0.00373                                    | \$0.00000   | 0.00373                |             |          |             |
|                           | Annual Revenue                       | \$153,842                                    | \$0         | \$153,842              |             |          |             |
|                           | NCP Demand Charge \$/kW              | \$5.00                                       | \$0.00      | \$5.00                 |             |          |             |
|                           | CP Demand \$/kW                      |  |             |                        |             |          |             |
|                           | Summer (June-Sept.)                  | \$15.40                                      | \$0.00      | \$15.40                |             |          |             |
|                           | Winter (Oct.-May)                    | \$11.15                                      | \$0.00      | \$11.15                |             |          |             |
| HIGHWAY LIGHTING          | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 | \$0.05453                                    | \$0.00000   | \$0.05453              |             |          |             |
|                           | Annual Revenue                       | \$6,430                                      | \$0         | \$6,430                |             |          |             |
| OUTDOOR AREA LIGHTING     | Energy Charge \$/kWh                 | \$0.17216                                    | \$0.00000   | \$0.17216              |             |          |             |
|                           | Annual Revenue                       | \$149,208                                    | \$0         | \$149,208              |             |          |             |
|                           | Small Lights \$/mo                   | \$11.55                                      | \$0.00      | \$11.55                |             |          |             |
|                           | Large Lights \$/mo                   | \$20.77                                      | \$0.00      | \$20.77                |             |          |             |

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

Each year the Board of Trustees of the cooperative shall appoint a nominating committee whose function is to nominate one or more candidates for trustee positions with expiring terms. The Bluestem Board of Trustees has appointed the following members to serve on the respective nominating committee:

## DISTRICTS 1 & 2 (TO MEET IN CLAY CENTER ON OCT. 8)

### DISTRICT 1

- ▶ **RANDY MEYER** — Palmer
- ▶ **JON PENNER** — Hanover
- ▶ **LARRY SCHEELE** — Linn

### DISTRICT 2

- ▶ **JANE BURGMAN** — Leonardville
- ▶ **STEVEN FOX** — Clay Center

## DISTRICTS 3 & 4 (TO MEET IN WAMEGO ON OCT. 7)

### DISTRICT 3

- ▶ **CODY BROCK** — Onaga
- ▶ **MIKE HEPTIG** — St. George
- ▶ **JON HOLLIDAY** — Soldier
- ▶ **KATHRYN MURRAY** — Onaga

### DISTRICT 4

- ▶ **EVAN PARSONS** — Manhattan
- ▶ **CONNIE MILLER** — Alma

## TRUSTEE POSITIONS WITH EXPIRING TERMS

**DISTRICT 1 & 2,  
POSITION – AT LARGE  
MARK DIEDERICH**  
— Greenleaf

**DISTRICT 3,  
POSITION – 2  
DAN POLLOCK** — Havensville

**DISTRICT 3 & 4,  
POSITION – AT LARGE  
RICHARD RIDDER** — St. George

# Bluestem and CoBank Partner to Provide Funding to Area Nonprofit Organizations

Bluestem has partnered with CoBank to donate \$16,000 to four local charitable organizations; **SHEPHERDS CROSSING**, Manhattan; **THE CRISIS CENTER**, Manhattan; **CARING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.**, Onaga; and the **WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD BANK**, Washington.

Bluestem donated \$2,000 to each organization, which was then matched by CoBank. The donations were part of CoBank's Sharing Success Charitable Contribution Program for 2024. CoBank, headquartered outside of Denver, Colorado, is a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses and rural infrastructure providers such as BEC and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States. CoBank established Sharing Success in 2012.

Since then, the bank and its customers have together contributed nearly \$86 million to groups such as volunteer fire departments, local schools and hunger relief programs, the majority of which are located in rural communities. Throughout rural America, cooperatives are working to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The Bluestem Board of Trustees is excited and proud to be able to assist Shepherds Crossing, The

Crisis Center, Caring Community Foundation, Inc., and the Washington County Food Bank, with this funding so they can continue their success of helping those in need in Clay, Jackson, Pottawatomie, Riley, Marshall, Nemaha, Wabaunsee and surrounding counties.



Jeannie Walker (right), Washington County Food Bank volunteer, accepts a Sharing Success grant check from BEC Trustee Mark Diederich.



BEC Trustees Matt Rezac (left) and Dan Pollock (right) present a donation to Jay Rezac (center), Caring Community Foundation board member.



Beth Klug (right), executive director of Shepherd's Crossing, accepts a grant check from BEC Trustee Stephen O'Shea.



Kathy Ray (right), executive director of The Crisis Center in Manhattan, accepts a donation from BEC Trustee Stephen O'Shea.