

www.4riverselectric.com
620-364-2116

Lebo Headquarters

2731 Milo Terr.

Lebo, KS 66856

Fredonia Office

9346 Jewell Road

Fredonia, KS 66736

Emporia Office

2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B

Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Moving Forward Together: A Proposed Rate Adjustment

As your electric cooperative, 4 Rivers works every day to provide safe, reliable and affordable power you can depend on. We take that responsibility seriously, and we do not take a rate increase lightly. We understand that electricity is an essential service, and we also understand the impact that higher costs can have on our members.

Over the last several years, the costs of keeping the electric system running have increased significantly. Since 2020, prices for many of the materials and equipment we depend on — such as poles, transformers, wire, meters and other system components — have risen sharply. These items are necessary to deliver electricity safely and reliably, and they must be repaired or replaced as they age.

Even when electricity use is lower, the cooperative still has the same responsibility to maintain the electric system. Poles, power lines, substations and meters must be ready to serve you every hour of every day. These fixed costs continue to grow and cannot be avoided.

These investments ensure the system is ready to respond quickly to outages, storms and emergencies, no matter when they occur.

Because of these challenges, the board of trustees has scheduled a member rate hearing on Feb. 16, 2026, at 6 p.m. to be held in conjunction with the board meeting at our Fredonia office. At that

Continued on page 12C ►



Dennis Svanes

PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT

The 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees will hold an open rate hearing to consider and vote on a proposed rate adjustment affecting the following rate classes: Non-Commercial, General Service Small and General Service Large.

The hearing will be held at **6 P.M. ON FEB. 16, 2026**, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the board of trustees, at 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc., 9346 Jewell Road in Fredonia, Kansas.

The proposed adjustment includes an increase of \$3.25 per meter per month, representing an approximate 1.9% overall adjustment.

Members have the right, pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d(g), to request review by the Kansas Corporation Commission of any rate change. Additional information regarding the proposed rates is available at www.4riverselectric.com/electric-rates.

PHOTO ABOVE, "BACKROAD BEAUTY," IN COFFEY COUNTY WAS SUBMITTED BY 4 RIVERS MEMBER JULIE ROHRER OF RURAL BURLINGTON.

DEFINING DEMAND

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

When you look at your electric bill, you may see the word **DEMAND** and wonder what it means. Simply put, demand measures how much electricity you use at one time, not just how much you use overall.

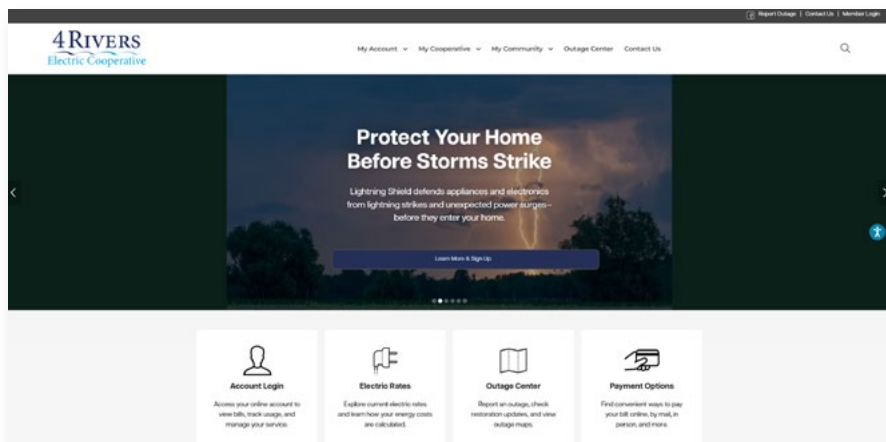
Think of electricity like water flowing through a hose. Energy (kilowatt-hours) is the total amount of water you use over time. Demand (kilowatts) is how wide you turn on the faucet at any given moment. The more appliances and equipment running at the same time, the higher your demand.

Electric cooperatives must build and maintain an electric system that can handle members' highest demand, even if it only occurs for a short period. That means power lines, transformers and substations must be sized to meet peak use on hot summer afternoons, cold winter mornings, or during busy work hours.

For members on demand-based rates, spreading out electricity use can help manage demand. For example, avoiding running multiple large appliances at the same time may reduce peak demand and help control costs.

Understanding demand helps explain why reliable electric service depends not just on how much energy is used, but when and how it's used.

A Fresh Look, Same Trusted Website



You may notice our website looks a little different, and that's because it is. We've moved to an updated web platform designed to make it easier for members to find information, access resources and stay connected with 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative.

While the website address hasn't changed, the updated site offers improved organization and navigation, along with better performance on mobile devices, tablets and desktop computers. Members will also notice enhanced search functionality, making it quicker to locate service information, programs, events and educational resources.

As always, our website provides convenient links to SmartHub,

As always, our website provides convenient links to SmartHub, allowing members to securely access their accounts anytime, anywhere.

allowing members to securely access their accounts anytime, anywhere. In addition, our social media feed and latest news are featured on the site to help keep members informed about cooperative updates and community information.

The updated design allows us to share information more clearly and keep content current as your cooperative continues to grow. We invite you to explore the refreshed website at www.4riverselectric.com.

Applications for Youth Leadership Opportunities Due Feb. 16

There's still time for high school juniors in 4 Rivers Electric territory to apply for two incredible youth leadership opportunities happening this summer — but the deadline is Feb. 16.

4 Rivers will sponsor four students to attend nationally recognized cooperative leadership programs:

- ▶ Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (June 13–19, 2026) in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (July 10–16, 2026) near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

These programs help students build leadership skills, gain

confidence, explore new places and connect with peers from across the country — all while learning more about the cooperative difference.

Best of all, 4 Rivers covers all expenses, including travel, lodging, meals and program costs.

Any high school junior who lives in 4 Rivers Electric territory or has a parent or guardian who is a member is eligible to apply. Questions? Contact Member Services Manager April Engstrom at 620-364-2116 ext. 306.

LEARN MORE OR APPLY AT WWW.4RIVERSELECTRIC.COM. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEB. 16.

Moving Forward Together: A Proposed Rate Adjustment *Continued from page 12A ►*

time, members will have the opportunity to learn more about the proposed rate adjustment and share their thoughts.

The proposal includes a \$3.25 per meter per month increase, which represents about a 1.9% overall adjustment for the cooperative. While some members experienced bill changes as part of the consolidation that formed 4 Rivers, this would be the first cooperative-wide rate increase to the Non-Commercial (residential) and General Service Large (large commercial) tariffs since 2012. The adjustment reflects rising costs to maintain the electric system and ensure reliable service.

One reason we have been able to delay a rate increase for so long is that we have worked hard to control costs and plan carefully. Another important reason is that when our two former

cooperatives came together to form 4 Rivers, it helped us eliminate duplication, streamline operations and make better use of member dollars. While those efficiencies helped us delay a rate increase for many years, continued cost growth now requires us to act responsibly to protect the cooperative's long-term financial health.

We remain committed to watching expenses closely and planning responsibly for the future. Our goal is to keep rates as affordable as possible while making sure the electric system remains strong and reliable.

As a member-owned cooperative, your voice matters. I encourage you to stay informed and participate in the rate hearing. Thank you for your trust in 4 Rivers and for allowing us to serve you.

WELCOME TO THE 4 RIVERS TEAM!

Please join us in welcoming **LANE RAIDA** of Thayer to the 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative team. Lane will be serving our members as a journeyman lineman based out of Fredonia's office. Lane brings valuable experience and a strong commitment to safety and reliable service to the cooperative.



Lane Raida

When he's not working on power lines, Lane enjoys being outside, hunting, and spending time with his wife, Kady, and two daughters, Masyn and Parker. He's looking forward to being a part of the cooperative team and meeting our members.

We're glad to have Lane on board and look forward to the skills and dedication he brings as we continue serving our members.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX! District election ballots should arrive in late January. Please return your completed ballot to the Lebo office or ensure it is **postmarked by Feb. 20** for your vote to be counted!

LIEAP Benefits – Do You Qualify?

Apply by March 31

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps keep families safe and healthy by assisting eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs by providing a once-per-year benefit.

The 2026 LIEAP application period is open; applications must be received online or in a Kansas Department for Children and Families office by March 31 to be considered for eligibility. For more information or to request an application, call 800-432-0043 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

2026 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	
Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,956
2	\$2,644
3	\$3,331
4	\$4,019
5	\$4,706
6	\$5,394
7	\$6,081
8	\$6,769
+1	\$688 for each additional person

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating — these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.

SOURCE: NRECA





CO-OP CLASSROOM

Understanding the Power Behind Your Power



Our Power to Save a Life

February is American Heart Month, a time to focus on heart health and what to do when every second counts. At your electric cooperative, safety and education extend beyond electricity. They are part of how we care for our employees, our members and our communities.

That's why every member of our cooperative team, from our journeyman linemen to our accounting department, receives annual training in First Aid and CPR. Just as we train to deliver safe, reliable power, we also train to respond when lives are on the line.

WHY CPR MATTERS

Cardiac emergencies can happen anywhere — at home, at work or in the community.

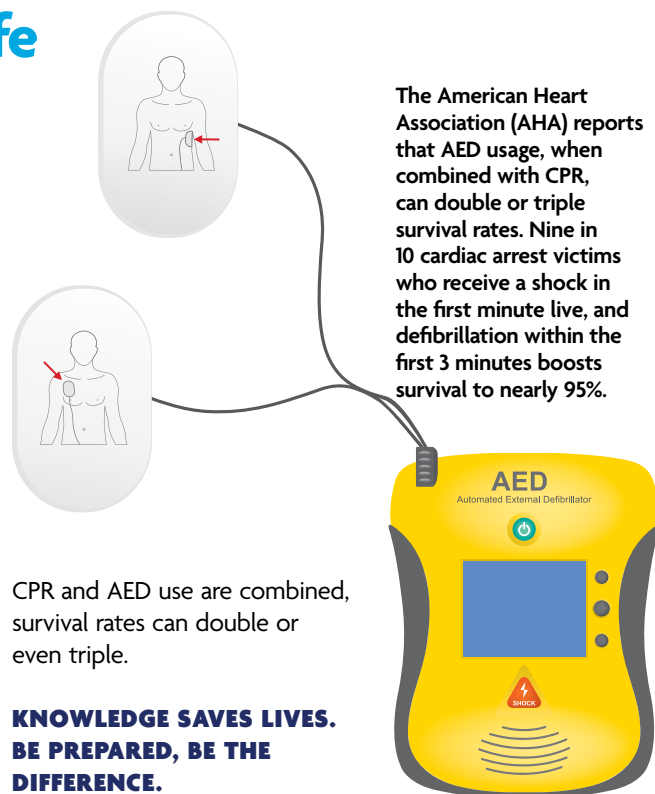
- ▶ More than 436,000 Americans die each year from cardiac arrest.
- ▶ Immediate CPR can double or triple survival chances by keeping blood and oxygen flowing until help arrives.
- ▶ Brain damage can begin within four minutes of a cardiac emergency without intervention.

Knowing CPR and first aid prepares everyday people to act confidently during emergencies, including severe weather events and other disasters.

THE ROLE OF AEDS

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are portable devices designed to help restore a normal heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest.

AEDs are safe and easy to use, providing clear voice and visual instructions. They only deliver a shock if needed, meaning bystanders cannot cause harm by using one in an emergency. When



The American Heart Association (AHA) reports that AED usage, when combined with CPR, can double or triple survival rates. Nine in 10 cardiac arrest victims who receive a shock in the first minute live, and defibrillation within the first 3 minutes boosts survival to nearly 95%.

CPR and AED use are combined, survival rates can double or even triple.

KNOWLEDGE SAVES LIVES. BE PREPARED, BE THE DIFFERENCE.

We encourage our members to gain lifesaving knowledge, too. Even those unable to perform CPR, such as children, can help by recognizing an emergency and calling 911. Teaching family members when and how to get help strengthens households and communities alike.

The tools to save a life are simple and powerful, but only when people are prepared to act. This American Heart Month, we encourage everyone to learn CPR, support AED access and foster a readiness to respond.

Because the power behind your power isn't just electricity — it's people looking out for one another.