



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
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Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card at Oswego Sonic and get a Route 44 for .99 cents!



FROM THE MANAGER

Take Control of Your Account with SmartHub

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has implemented SmartHub, a new innovative tool for account management. SmartHub can help you take control of your electricity and your Twin Valley account like never before.

SmartHub makes managing your account quick and easy. Use SmartHub on your computer, smartphone or tablet to pay your bill, view your electricity use, contact customer service and much more.

As soon as you log in, you can view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks— or taps if you're using the app! You can also access your current bill and bills from the previous month or even the previous summer if you want to compare costs. In addition to viewing your billing history, you can also track your actual electricity use. You can see how your use trends over time, which will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill.

The first time you make a payment on SmartHub, you can securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

SmartHub also allows you to manage your account notifications. By

logging in to SmartHub, you can select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. You can even set usage thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more electricity than you'd like, which will help you keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

If you do need to drop off a payment or stop by our office, SmartHub can help you there as well. Use SmartHub's map feature on your GPS-enabled mobile device to find our office location.

Want to get the latest news and information from Twin Valley? Stay connected with us through SmartHub. With the SmartHub news feed, you'll get the latest news, updates and more from Twin Valley, all without leaving the app or the web page.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.twinvalleyelectric.coop or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).



Ron Holsteen

SmartHub makes managing your account quick and easy.

Student Selected to Tour Washington, D.C.



Hannah Baker

HANNAH BAKER will join 36 students from across Kansas to attend the 56th Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June.

Baker was selected by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative from a pool of high school applicants. To win this trip, students were asked to complete an application, take a quiz and be interviewed in front of a panel of judges.

The Kansas delegation will join more than 1,700 high school students from across the nation on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. During their week-long stay in Washington, D.C., the students will have the chance to visit with their congressional representatives. They will also have the opportunity to tour the Capitol, Smithsonian Institute, Mt. Vernon and the many memorials.

"Twin Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to support the Youth Tour program and send our youth to experience government in action," Ron Holsteen, CEO, said. "Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our political system works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative sponsors one student each year as part of our commitment to community and our mission to help develop our next generation of leaders.

For more information about the trip, call Jennifer Winters at 620-784-5500.

Driving Blindfolded on the Highway

The dangers of texting and driving

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them—including traffic lights, stop signs, and pedestrians—when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving—talking, texting, sending emails—is a growing threat to community safety. We have all seen distracted drivers, and most likely, we ourselves have used a phone while driving. Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes off the road and their hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a

distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your focus off driving, putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders.

At Twin Valley Electric, safety is a core value. At this time of year in particular, when more people are on the roads and kids are out of school, our goal is to raise awareness and spur conversation about the dangers of distracted driving.

Talking on a cell phone quadruples your risk of an accident, about the same as if you were driving drunk. Risk doubles again if you are texting while driving. We are committed to eliminating this unnecessary risk and believe that no conversation or text is worth the potential danger.

Help promote a culture of safety. We encourage our members at Twin Valley to join us and help keep our families, friends and neighbors safer by putting our phones down and focusing on the road when we drive. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.

Drivers can miss up to half of what's around them when talking on a cell phone.

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Cut Your Cooling Costs this Summer



William Worthy

As the mercury rises, so does the cost of keeping comfortable. Cooling a home on hot, humid days can be an energy-intensive process; in fact, cooling generally becomes the largest energy expense homeowners face during the summer. During the summer months, most electric bills are 1.5 to 2 times higher than the rest of the year, leading to sticker shock when your Twin Valley electric bill arrives. In today's economic climate, everyone is trying to reduce their housing budget in every way possible.

Simple things like weather stripping your doors and windows are inexpensive, simple fixes that can lead to savings. Having your air conditioning unit serviced and checked by a professional is another simple idea that can potentially lead to savings.

Ceiling fans can help circulate the air, but make sure they are turning the proper direction. In the summer, they should turn in a counter clockwise rotation. If you have lights on your

ceiling fans, and they are not on a dimmer, you might want to consider installing compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. The heat generated by regular incandescent bulbs is forced down into the room as the fan turns. CFLs generate very little heat and can last up to five times longer. The cost of CFLs has come down significantly and is a viable option for all of your lighting needs.

For our members with window units, a dehumidifier might help reduce your costs as well. Unlike a central unit, a window unit cannot pull the moisture out of the air before it returns cold air into your home. A dehumidifier draws out the moisture making the room feel more comfortable without having to turn the unit on lower setting. Be sure to also check the insulation around the unit. If the insulation has dried out or is damaged, the outside air works as a vacuum, drawing out the colder air.

To ensure the heat from your attic is not raising the temperature in your home, check to make sure your ceiling insulation is adequate. Installing radiant barrier decking on your ceiling can reduce the heat transmission into your home, leading to

significant savings. Installing an attic or air exchange fan to your home can also help reduce your reliance on your air conditioner.

Need a few more quick tips for keeping things cool? Check the connections inside your breaker boxes. Make sure to turn the breakers off or hire an electrician to give your side of the service a once over. Load changes, ambient temperature changes and fluctuations can cause the conductor in your panels to expand and contract causing them to possibly loosen and create an arc. If you have added on to your home or added significant load, give us a call and we'll check your usage to see if we need to upgrade your meter loop or transformer at no cost to you.

Other energy saving ideas can be found on our website, www.twinvalleyelectric.coop, or you can email your questions to memberservices@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

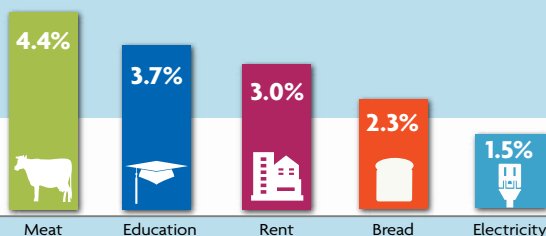
Twin Valley will continue to do its part in keeping costs down while providing you with reliable, efficient electric service. Have a safe and happy summer! As always, I welcome your feedback and can be emailed directly at wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.



Average Annual Price Increase 2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Peterson Earns Certificate

DAN PETERSON, president of the Twin Valley Electric Board of Directors, received his Director Gold Program certificate of achievement at Kansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s January Board Meeting.

This January, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association introduced the Director Gold level in their Director Education Program. This credential recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate credentials and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board.



Peterson receives the Director Gold Program certificate.

Managing your
electric bill just
got a whole lot
SMARTER



What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is account management at your fingertips! SmartHub lets you manage all aspects of your electric account online or with your mobile device including your usage up to the hour. Creating a SmartHub account takes less than three minutes. Enter your profile information, choose your Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, and you're ready to begin.

How do I sign up for SmartHub?

If you are new to the system, click on the SmartHub link on our website homepage to create a new account or call us during office hours to speak with one of our representatives. We look forward to talking with you!

How do I get the App for SmartHub?

Simply search for SmartHub—one word, not case sensitive—in the Apple Store® or in the Google Play Store®. If duplicates appear the correct App is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative.

**Visit www.twinvalleyelectric.coop
for more information or to sign up!**

