

Solar power project planned for Heartland

A few years ago, Heartland sent out an informal email survey to the about 3,000 consumer-members who we have email addresses for, asking them a few simple questions that revolved around solar. This quick survey was used to help us understand more about our consumer-members interests in this area, and how Heartland needed to prepare to meet those needs in the future.

The results from those surveyed were heard loud and clear: Heartland's consumer-members are interested in having access to solar energy, they don't necessarily need it to be installed at their home, farm, or business, and they do not want to pay anything more than what they currently pay to have access to that energy.

Since the survey was conducted, Heartland has been working hard to find options that fit those three main objectives. The economics of any option was the most important piece that was focused on – whatever was being evaluated had to save money on the end-consumer's electric bills or else it could not move forward.

We are excited to soon share specific information with you that match the three objectives.

The final details are currently being worked out to build two one-megawatt

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



MARK SCHEIBE
HEARTLAND CEO

Lawmakers kept in the loop



Heartland recently hosted several area lawmakers for a discussion of issues and challenges that impact rural electric cooperatives and the price of power in rural Kansas. Officials included Rep. Jim Kelly, Rep. Richard Proehl, Rep. Joe Newland, Crawford County Commissioner Jeremy Johnson, and Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla. Hosting the event were Heartland CEO Mark Scheibe and Kansas Electric Cooperatives' Director of Government Relations Tara Mays.



Why do Heartland employees need to be on my property?

Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. We're working to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors, and that means we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush

- Spraying unwanted vegetation
- Restoring power outages
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment.

Nearly all field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted

We may have money for you!

During the month of December, 2019, Heartland retired more than \$850,000 in capital credits. Capital credit checks that were returned to the co-op as “undeliverable” are listed below. If you have information on any of the following recipients, please call Heartland REC at 1-800-835-9586.

Ian Abbott
Gregory J. Anthony
Cindy Baldwin
Andy Bedell
Dale A. Beecher
Aimee S. Billingsley
Kathleen Bird
Timothy J. Bodine
Stephen Boyd
Amanda Briggs
R. C. Brown
Beulah Brumback
Donna Burton
Larry J. Carter
Kevin Casella
Edmund Circle
Thomas E. Circle
Steven J. Conger
Clay E. Conner
Kevin Cox
Thomas Crumby
Jeff Davis
Judith E. Demott
Ted Dent
Wayne S. Dillon
Dale Donham
Charles W. Edwards

John C. Edwards
Sherwin L. Epstein
William O. Ewald
Kent Fales
George G. Faulkner
Monica A. Fraker
Jeremy R. Fudge
Theodore O. Furtado
Charlene K. Gemmell
Jonna Gomez
Arbra D. Graham
Cale Griffiths
Daniel L. Gulotta
William Hall
Scott A. Hanf
Daniel C. Heiman
Arbra Hilderbrand
John Hlade
Donald Holding
Richard E. Hughes
Norma Jackson
Darren Johnson
Howard Kennedy
Tim L. Kennedy
Michele Kirk
Ryan Klusman
Carol Kump

Matthew R Kupzyk
Patrick N. Lero
Enve McDaniel Jr.
Larry D. McKibbin
Alison Mairet
Chance T. Masters
David Major
Barbara Mather
Estella Meech
David W. Miller
Belinda Mitchell
Dale W. Moore
Ed Morgan
Robert L. Morris
Kristy K. Moss
Larry G. Murray
Margaret A. Nelligan
Mark Neville
Greg North
Daryl Ratliff
Charles T. Reynolds
Karen Hall
Naomi R. Ruff
Bob E. Rushing
Joseph S. Sakumura
R. O. Saylor
Lester D. Scheuneman

Cory Schnabel
Tommy R. Schooley
Teresa L. Scott
Lucille Shepard
Lucille Shook
Charles D. Sinn
Thomas L. Smith
Bruce A. Spitzer
Janice Stahl
Russell Stewart Jr.
Gloria Swartz
Ray E. Tanksley
Todd M. Thomas
Doug Toft
Crystal Tomlinson
Beulah Uden
Russell Van Houden
Ann Venneman
Mike S. Watson
Charles M. Warren
George Welch
Randy Wells
Jerry E. Wendt
Vanessa Wilson

INFORMED: From page 1

(1 MW) utility scale solar projects in the area we serve. These projects will be built utilizing a renewable energy carve-out in the wholesale power contract that Heartland has with its power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo).

The addition of solar will help us reduce the amount of wholesale energy we purchase from KEPCo and reduce Heartland's peak demand, both of which will provide rate stability for every consumer-member for years to come. Each project will have about 3,500 solar panels and will fit on about ten acres of land.

Heartland has been actively listening to you to ensure that we are continuing to enhance the value of living in rural Kansas. You are rural for a reason, and Heartland is here to help.

We will be sharing more details about the solar projects in the coming months.

Rest assured, we are working hard behind the scenes to help meet the needs of our consumer-members every day.



PROPERTY: From page 1

during normal working hours, Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact our office at 620-724-8251.

Heartland right-of-way

All property owners with Heartland utility poles and powerlines have granted the co-op a standard utility easement, that provides us with legal right-of-way to the area beneath and around powerlines. This right-of-way corridor is a minimum of 30 feet wide, and extends 15 feet on either side of the utility pole's centerline. This area needs to be free of trees, underbrush, and other vegetation in order to provide Heartland crews with access, and to reduce power outages. Property owners and Heartland share the responsibility of making sure this corridor is clear.

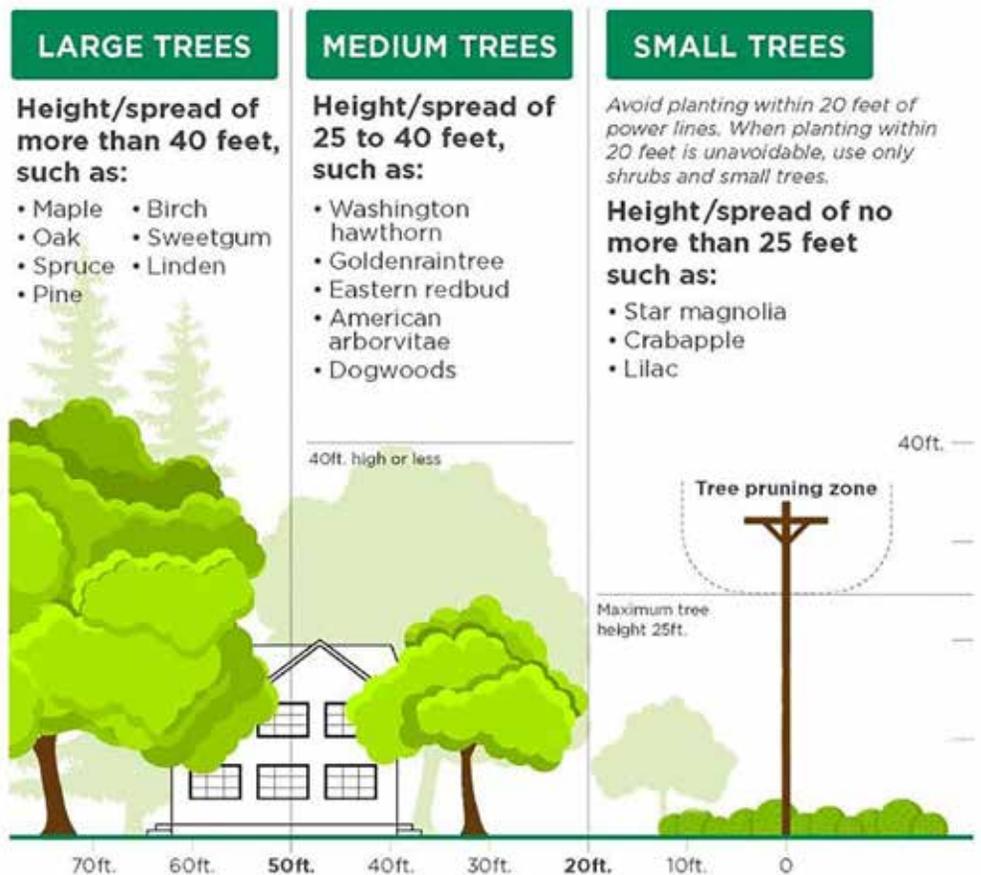
Right of way management in part depends on our members. As a locally-owned electric cooperative, we respect the rights of property owners. (We understand because we live here too.) Please remember that tree trimming and right of way maintenance is crucial to keeping the lights on for you and your neighbors. One of the primary causes of outages, whether during snow and ice, or our fierce Kansas thunderstorms, is trees coming in contact with powerlines.

When a new Heartland member requests that powerlines be built to provide service to a new location, it is the member's responsibility to clear the initial right-of-way to Heartland's specifications before construction begins.

Heartland works with local contractors to help maintain the right-of-way corridor. These partners include tree trimming crews and companies that specialize in spraying herbicide on unwanted vegetation. Co-op partners also dig around poles annually to inspect for rot and other conditions that indicate poles should be replaced.

Meter access

Heartland Rural Electric's meters include technology allowing them to be read without physical access to the meter. These meters are efficient and accurate, but even with remote reading capabilities, the member is responsible for keeping the meter clear of obstructions and providing



Heartland with access to the meter.

When applying for electric service with Heartland, each member signs a membership document granting the cooperative access to the electric meter. The meter is the property of Heartland Electric and we require access to read the meter in order to bill for services rendered and ensure accurate readings. Providing access to the meters allows our staff to conduct routine maintenance and to access the meters on an as needed basis to obtain a manual reading. Easy accessibility to the meter at your service location is required in order for our employees to do their job safely and efficiently. Additionally, if there is an emergency, such as a house fire, we need to have access in order to remove the meter or cut the line from the transformer. This is for the safety of everyone.

Member responsibilities

■ The National Electric Safety Code requires an unobstructed working space that extends from the floor or ground to a minimum height of 6 feet, 6 inches. For electrical equipment mounted higher than 6 feet, 6 inches, this space shall extend to the top of the equipment. There shall be a minimum distance of three feet of unobstructed working space, measured from the meter face, in front of all electric meters.

■ Cooperative personnel are strangers

and their presence in your "territory" can provoke a pet. If you have a dog, or access to your service is through a locked gate, we may ask you to make sure that your dog is locked up and the gate is unlocked. We may ask you to confine pets indoors when maintenance is required.

■ Clear tall grass, shrubs, fencing, leaves, snow, icicles, etc. that may hide or damage the meter.



Brush, weeds, and other unwanted vegetation can make it difficult for Heartland crews to do necessary work around utility poles.



110 N. Enterprise Drive
PO Box 40
Girard, KS 66743

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRAdMar Corp

Electricity brings everyday value to us all

Most of us don't think much about the electricity we use. We expect the lights to turn on when we flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

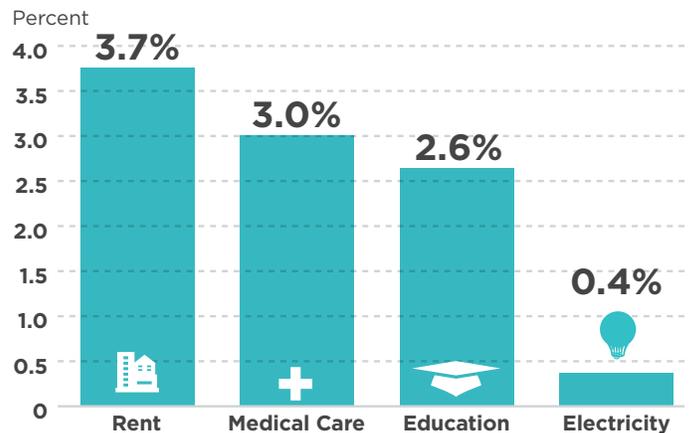
Most of us have a cell phone to stay connected, and we pay for access to dozens of TV channels so we can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value.