

The CIRCUIT



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

November 2016



Ark Valley Electric would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and also remind members that the office will be closed on November 24th & 25th. If you need to report an outage, please call 1-888-297-9212.

Veterans Day is November 11th



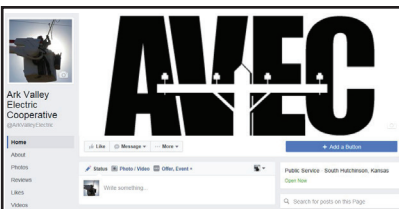
Ark Valley would like to take the time to thank all the military veterans for their service.

Drawing Winner

AARON TATRO is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Aaron, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by November 30, 2016 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

We're On Facebook!



Like our page and get updates on outages and other information.

Electric Heat Pump Efficiency

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, consumers are willing to pay for comfort in the form of heat.

In these colder months when the temperatures dip and the need to heat your home rises, it makes sense to determine the most efficient heating method.

When the price of propane is low, it may appear that propane is less costly to heat your home than electricity, but propane furnaces are only 90% efficient. What may surprise most consumers is that the least efficient electric heating system delivers 100% efficient heat. Electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters, baseboard heating) delivers every single Btu (British thermal unit) in a kilowatt-hour as usable heat.

Although electric resistance heat is efficient, we do not recommend it as your sole heating source. While we are proud to offer a reliable source of electricity, we don't want to empty your wallet.

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250% energy efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. If you have central air conditioning, you have already experienced this process in reverse when your unit pumps heat out of your home in the summer. If you have ever stood next to the outdoor components you know the air conditioning system is exhausting very hot air. In winter, it simply does the opposite, moving heat into your home. Air source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near freezing or dip below. The typical back-up is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual fuel propane option.

Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350%+ efficiencies of a geothermal (water source) heat pump. The additional advantage of geothermal systems is that it can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year, as well as the lower electric rate and rebates offered by Ark Valley.

At Ark Valley, we believe it is our responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts regardless of fuel type so you can get the most from your energy dollars. We are committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and lifestyle and hope you will consult with your local co-op before making any big home-heating decisions.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting on September 26, 2016.

For the second year in a row, the peaking generator Ark Valley installed has saved its members money. In order for the Cooperative to reduce peak electricity costs from its electric provider, KEPCo, Ark Valley installed a peak generator to run when KEPCo's highest operating costs are anticipated. By operating its peaking generator during these high use periods, Ark Valley lowers its peak demand, which is a factor

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Cold Weather Rule Starts

(1). The provisions of the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) establishes the disconnection procedures for any Residential Customer of the Cooperative throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15.

(2). A Cooperative will not disconnect a Customer's service between November 15 and March 15 when the local Hutchinson News Weather Page forecasts the temperature will drop below 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period unless:

- (a). It is at the Customer's request;
- (b). The service is abandoned;
- (c). A dangerous condition exists on the Customer's premises;
- (d). The Customer violates any rule of the Cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the Customer or other persons, or the physical integrity of the Cooperative's delivery system; or
- (e). The Customer causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or diversion or use of (meter bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the Customer's premises. In any of these situations, the Cooperative may disconnect the service immediately. Services disconnected under (c), (d), or (e) above may be restored as soon as possible after the physical problems as defined in (c), (d) and (e) above have been corrected

(3). Responsibilities of the Cooperative.

The Cooperative will:

Send one written notice mailed first class at least five (5) days prior to termination of service. A Customer may not be disconnected until a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature is predicted by the Hutchinson News Weather Page.

On the day of disconnection, the Cooperative must receive a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature from the Hutchinson News Weather Page. If the temperature is then forecast to be below the activating temperature, the disconnection may not be carried out and the Cooperative must wait for another 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature, but will not be required to repeat procedures prior to disconnection.

The Cooperative will, in the five (5) day written notice, also inform the Customer that disconnection can be avoided by bringing the Customer's electric bill current.



...Highlights Continued

used by KEPCo to set the Cooperative's demand charges all year around. Because it utilized the peaking generator during the hottest months out of the year, Ark Valley will receive an estimated annual savings in its power bill of \$163,700 from June 2016 through May 2017.

Board of Trustees member Joe Seiwert is Ark Valley's designated representative to KEPCo, which is the Cooperative's electric provider. He reported to the Board that Wolf Creek, one of the power plants that generates electricity for KEPCo, was just 22 days shy of the scheduled refuel outage when it was taken off line in a controlled shutdown and operated for a nearly record amount of time for continuous use. Because nuclear electricity is so cost efficient, KEPCo members, such as Ark Valley, have received a significant benefit in the form of less expensive energy for its lengthy generation.

Out of the 864 electric distribution cooperatives in America, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has designated Ark Valley as one of only 88 rural electric cooperatives from across the country to have earned the distinction of being a 5 Star Co-op. Ark Valley will be recognized at the NRECA Regional Meeting with this honor.

ATTENTION High School Juniors & Seniors

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering two scholarships and one all-expense-paid trip to the Cooperative Youth Tour for qualified juniors or seniors.

You Could Win:

- ▶ **First Place:** A \$1,000 College Scholarship and a **FREE** trip to Washington, D.C.
- ▶ **Second Place:** A \$500 Scholarship.

Eligibility: The student must be either a high school junior or senior and his/her parent(s) must be a member of Ark Valley. Ark Valley members may nominate students whom they know are eligible.

To Apply: 1. Submit a written copy of a 5-10 min. speech on the present and future value of the electric co-op to its members and community. **OR** 2. Submit a multimedia video or power point on a list of topics provided on the application. Finalists will be asked to present to a panel of Board Members and Co-op staff.

Essays, videos, and power points must be received at Ark Valley by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2016.

For More Information: Contact Misty Koonse, Youth Tour Coordinator, at (620)-662-6661 before November 23, 2016.



Brooke McNickle attends 2015 Youth Tour

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.