

Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

December 2025

Making energy work for YOU

New Electric Rates Taking Effect Feb. 1, 2026

During an open meeting on Nov. 17, Midwest Energy's Board of Directors approved electric rate changes to go into effect Feb. 1, 2026. The rates see the average residential customer's bill increase annually an average of 5.4 percent, or just over \$6 per month, each year over three years. Some rate classes will see larger bill impacts than others.

Two rate groups, General Service Medium and Standard Irrigation (M System), would see slight decreases in average bills.

Also notable in this rate case is the renaming of several line items on all customer bills, which do not affect

rates. Today's "Customer Charge" becomes "Electric Fixed Delivery Charge," while the "Demand Charge" splits to become "Generation Demand Charge" and "Delivery Demand Charge." The Energy Charge is also split, with "Energy Delivery Charge" added. These changes follow updates to Kansas tax statutes in 2023, which allows separately itemized delivery charges to be removed from the taxable basis for Kansas sales tax. These bill changes will save Midwest Energy customers roughly \$2.5 million per year every year, without changing customer rates. For more information, visit our website at www.mwenergy.com.

Three New Directors Elected to Midwest Energy Board

Election results for the 2025 Board of Directors election were announced at Midwest Energy's Annual Meeting in October. Three new board members were elected.

Christian Wilson of Colby was seated for District 1. A native of Colby, Mr. Wilson is the Executive of Operations for Frahm Farmland, Inc., responsible for strategic leadership and day-to-day

farm management. He holds a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University, and a master's in agribusiness from Kansas State University.

Chad Ringwald of Ellinwood was seated for District 3. A fifth-generation farmer in Rice County, he is a partner in TriAg Farms, a family farm that has been in central Kansas for 130 years. He attended Kansas State University, majoring in agribusiness.

Kerry Froetschner of Rozel was seated for District 5. Mr. Froetschner is a fourth-generation farmer, operating

a family farm and ranch in Pawnee County. He serves on several farm and co-op boards, including Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 Board, and the Pawnee County Co-op Association and Golden Plains Co-op Boards.

Midwest Energy's Board has nine members. The three new Board members join two other relative newcomers, Judy Thurman of Hays, seated in 2024, and Emily Campbell of Hoxie, seated in 2023.

Midwest Energy's nine-member Board of Directors serve three-year terms of office. To learn more about Director elections, visit www.mwenergy.com > About > Board of Directors Elections.



Wilson



Ringwald



Froetschner



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Departing Directors Gave Decades of Service

Three long-serving Directors left Midwest Energy's Board recently, leaving after a combined 98 years of service.

John Blackwell of Lamed had served on Midwest Energy's Board since 1989. In his 36 years on the Board, he served stints as Chair and Vice-Chair, and served many years as Midwest Energy's representative on the Board of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. He earned several Director certificates from NRECA, including the highest level, Director Gold.

Keith Miller of Great Bend served on Midwest Energy's Board since

1992, serving 33 years. Keith served many roles on the Board, while



Blackwell



Miller



Frahm

Lon Frahm of Colby served on Midwest Energy's Board since 1996, serving for 29 years. Active in Leadership Kansas and rural health issues, as well as serving as Commissioner of the Kansas Humanities Council, he also championed development of rural leaders in agriculture.

"These Directors have served our members well during their many years of service on the Board," said Midwest Energy's CEO, Pat Parke. "Their guidance has helped shaped our co-op into a strong enterprise, well-positioned to serve our customers for decades to come."

simultaneously juggling service on other Boards including Kansas and American Farm Bureau, and represented Kansas on several overseas ag export delegations. He also earned several credentials from NRECA, including Director Gold.

Youth Tour Trip, Scholarship Applications Open

Midwest Energy is now accepting applications for the 2026 Youth Tour Trip and Scholarships.

The week-long Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., allows students to experience our nation's capitol, all while meeting other students from across the country. The trip will be from June 13-19, 2026.

To be eligible to apply, students must be juniors in high school, live in or attend school in a Midwest Energy service area, and their parents/guardians must receive electric and/or natural gas service from Midwest

Energy. Children of Midwest employees are not eligible to apply.

Midwest Energy will also be

awarding 18 high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships to a secondary education program of their choice. These awards will be paid directly to the student. The eligibility criteria is the same as the trip, but

the scholarships are only available to high school seniors.

Interested or know someone who is? Apply at www.mwenergy.com under the Community tab. Applications are due Jan. 31, 2026.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

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