

# Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

October 2022

Making energy work for YOU

## National Co-op Month: Seven Principles in Action

October is National Co-op Month. Co-ops strive to adhere to seven “cooperative principles,” which help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community.

The first principle is *Voluntary and Open Membership*, which means that Midwest Energy is a voluntary organization open to all people who use the co-op’s electric and/or natural gas service and are willing to accept membership. The second principle, *Democratic Member Control*, gives customer-owners a voice in the cooperative’s decisions.

The third cooperative principle is *Members’ Economic Participation*.

As a cooperative, Midwest Energy does not have shareholders. Any margins the co-op earns are returned to our customers in the form of capital credits, on a roughly 20-year cycle. In 2022, Midwest Energy returned over \$6 million in capital credits to our customers.

The fourth cooperative principle, *Autonomy and Independence*, recognizes that co-ops elect their Board of Directors (Midwest

Energy mailed ballots for its 2022 Board of Directors election in mid-September). Through the fifth principle, *Education, Training and Information*, cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they

addressing legislative issues that could negatively impact the co-op. Co-ops work together for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and other

community support. For example, the Midwest Energy Community Fund awards roughly \$120,000 in grants each year to schools, non-profit groups and other organizations throughout its service area, enriching the lives of its members.

Co-ops also support local jobs. First, Midwest Energy keeps electric and gas rates as low as possible to encourage

growth, and second by keeping profits local and paying local property taxes, which support community services and schools. Midwest Energy pays significant property taxes - \$9.3 million was paid in 2021 to 44 counties.

Midwest also looks out for the community through our energy savings program, How\$mart. Since its inception in 2007, How\$mart has invested more than *Continued*

### 7 Cooperative Principles

-  **1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**
-  **2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**
-  **3 MEMBERS’ ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**
-  **4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**
-  **5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION**
-  **6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**
-  **7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops.

The sixth principle, *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*, and the seventh, *Concern for Community*, go hand in hand. Cooperatives often exist in rural areas with low population densities, and neighboring cooperatives often support one another with restoring power after storms, negotiating agreements, and



MIDWEST  
ENERGY, INC.

30764-1-0190

# Cold Weather Rule Goes Into Effect Nov. 1

Midwest Energy complies with the terms of the Kansas Corporation Commission's Cold Weather Rule (CWR). The CWR is in effect from Nov. 1 through March 31.



The CWR allows for special payments and disconnection procedures for any Kansas residential electric or natural gas customer with an unpaid balance during the cold weather period. The CWR prohibits disconnection of service when the local National Weather Service forecasts temperatures to fall below 35 degrees in the next 48 hours. To prevent disconnection when it's 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected, customers must make payment arrangements with Midwest Energy.

For residential customers to avoid service disconnection or to restore service during the CWR period, they must:

1. Contact Midwest Energy and inform the co-op of

inability to pay the bill in full;

2. Provide sufficient information to Midwest Energy to allow the company to make payment arrangements;

3. Make an initial payment of 1/12 the past due amount, plus 1/12 of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fees, plus any applicable deposit, and enter into an 11-month plan for payment of the remainder (or enter into a payment plan as negotiated with Midwest Energy for payment of the past due amount);

4. Apply for any assistance funds for which the customer is eligible. This can include governmental assistance, as well as private programs such as Midwest Customers Care (MCC). Customers must authorize Midwest Energy to send a copy of all bills and notices to a third party.

Midwest Energy will send written notice 10 days before disconnection, plus attempt a phone call or personal contact 48 hours before disconnection.

To learn more about the CWR, visit [www.kcc.ks.gov](http://www.kcc.ks.gov). Learn more about MCC at [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com).

## Seven Co-op Principles

\$12 million into members' homes and businesses for energy efficiency improvements. In addition to providing work for local contractors, these improvements annually save enough electricity to power 560 homes, enough gas to heat 899 homes, and prevent more than 9,700 tons of carbon dioxide from reaching the atmosphere.

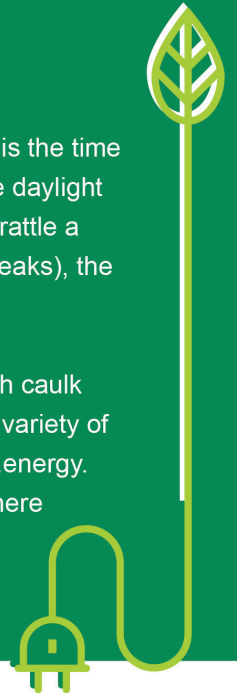
Customers can also gain insights into their energy usage by using Customer Connect. Launched in summer 2021 and accessible by logging into your Midwest Energy account at [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com), the program allows users to view energy usage in monthly, weekly, daily or even 15-minute increments. This program allows customers to configure usage alerts, letting them know when usage targets are reached. By understanding usage habits, customers can more easily reach their energy savings goals.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver) to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



Atwood, KS • Colby, KS • Great Bend, KS • Hays, KS

Phillipsburg, KS • Scott City, KS • WaKeeney, KS

**1-800-222-3121**  
**[www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com)**



 Printed on Partially Re-Cycled Paper 

**1330 Canterbury • Hays, Kansas 67601**