

Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

January 2026

Making energy work for YOU

Space Heaters Have Their Place, But Think Safety First

As temperatures drop this winter, space heaters can be a great way to economically warm one room without turning up the thermostat. But the qualities that make space heaters helpful – the ability to quickly heat up a room – means you need to consider safety before, and during, space heater use.

If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, please take a moment to review these safety tips.

Three-Foot Rule -

Whether you are using a space heater in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, always keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials. Things like furniture, curtains, throw



Flammable materials should never be placed within three feet of a portable space heater, and heaters should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet - never into a power strip or extension cord.

blankets and pet beds should be at least three feet away from a space heater, and always keep the heater on a level floor and on a non-flammable surface.

No Extension Cords - Never use an extension cord or power strip when plugging in a space heater, as it

can cause overheating. Space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged into that outlet to prevent overloading.

Be Aware - Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater and allow it to cool before moving it.

Youth Tour Trip, Scholarship Applications Due Jan. 31

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.



(Above) The 2025 Youth Tour Trip winners, Dom and Broady, pose in front of the capitol.

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 Energy employees are not eligible for the trip.

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 by Jan. 31.



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30764-1-0263

Community Fund Awards \$77,881 to Local Groups

Midwest Energy's Community Fund recently awarded 74 grants of \$50 to \$1,000 and five Impact Grants of \$5,000 each, to a variety of local organizations.

Midwest Energy's Community Fund benefits charitable, educational and nonprofit organizations in the Midwest Energy service area. Five customer committees review charitable requests, and allocate funds based on meter count to activities that focus on youth, arts, education,

libraries, community events or other community priorities. Impact Grant applicants must match the award with funds from the community.

Community Fund grants are awarded each spring and fall. For the Fall 2025 awards, 132 applicants requested \$111,691; an additional 32 Impact Grant applicants requested \$160,000. This round included 27 first-time applicants. Midwest Energy distributed \$52,881 to 95 projects, and \$25,000 to five Impact Grant applicants, totaling \$77,881.

Application deadlines for the Community Fund are March 1 and Oct. 1, and Impact Grant Programs are due Aug. 1.

The application deadline for the Spring 2026 funding round is March 1. Visit www.mwenergy.com under the "Community" tab for details, and to apply. Requests for tangible items, long-lived community assets, or improvements to permanent assets are preferred over requests for expendable items (such as fireworks or event prizes).

Impact Grant Awards (\$5,000 Each)

USD 315 Colby Schools:
Playground upgrades, Colby Elementary

City of Plevna:
Auditorium re-roof project

Women Who Lead, Hays:
Upgrades at Sunrise Park

Plainville Recreation Commission:
Fitness center equipment

Greeley County Economic Development:
Museum restoration project

Community Fund Awards (\$50 - \$1,000 Each)

Midwest Energy Service Area	Number Approved/ Requested	Requested Dollars	Approved Dollars
Colby	23 of 29	\$27,400	\$13,340
Great Bend	24 of 38	\$30,850	\$11,303
Hays	23 of 34	\$30,268	\$19,669
Phillipsburg	9 of 9	\$7,050	\$4,594
Scott City	16 of 22	\$16,122	\$3,975

Electric Rate Changes Effective Feb. 1

Midwest Energy's electric rates will change beginning Feb. 1. The total energy charge for residential customers will decrease from 5.4 cents to 5.1 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). At the same time, summer demand will increase from \$4 per kilowatt (kW) to \$6 per kW and the non-summer demand increases from \$2 per kW to \$3 per kW.

Several line items on bills will be renamed. 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. Itemizing delivery charges on bills will save Midwest Energy customers roughly \$2.5 million per year every year, without changing customer rates.

To learn more about these changes or view bill impacts for other rate classes, visit our website at www.mwenergy.com.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

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

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