Current Comments

November 2025

Making energy work for YOU

November is Utility Scam Awareness MonthKnow the warning signs of utility scams and trust your instincts

Midwest Energy joins more than 150 U.S. and Canadian utilities as part of Utilities United Against Scams. During Scam Awareness Month this November, we encourage all members to learn how to identify and avoid utility scams. Protecting yourself starts with awareness.

Protect your personal information. Never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (banking account information, debit or credit card information) to anyone initiating contact with you, whether by phone, in-person, or email, claiming to be with Midwest Energy. Never give out information or provide any payments to unexpected callers. When in doubt, hang up and call Midwest Energy at 1-800-222-3121.

Take your time. Do not be rushed. If someone calls or emails saying you have to pay your bill immediately to avoid disconnection, tell them you would like to verify that they are actually with Midwest Energy at I-800-222-3121. Beware if a caller exhibits impatience, annoyance, or anger when you question their authority. While a scammer will discourage you from hanging up and calling, a real Midwest Energy employee will encourage you to do so for your own peace of mind.

Only pay using verified payment methods. Be suspicious if the caller is requiring the use of a specific payment option, like a prepaid money card or gift card. Midwest Energy doesn't accept gift cards for payment! Customers can pay using a variety of methods, including in-person at our offices, online, or through bank drafts. Note that some payment options including credit and debit cards, Venmo, Apple Pay, Google Pay and PayPal do incur a \$3.95 service fee. However, Midwest Energy will never require a certain payment type. Never pay

online using any other website except www.mwenergy.

Report any scams to Midwest Energy. If you receive a scam call, document what the scammer told you, including the name they provided you, the date and time you spoke with them, their caller ID number, the method and amount of payment they requested, and any other details that might aid in an investigation. Midwest Energy can request known scam numbers to be disconnected. These disconnections help protect other customers from becoming victims.

Electric Rate Change Vote is Nov. 17

Midwest Energy's Board of Directors will consider and vote on proposed rate changes affecting all electric rate classes on Monday, Nov. 17 at 1 pm at the Midwest Energy office, 1330 Canterbury Dr., Hays, Kan. All customers are invited to attend the open meeting.

Details on the proposed changes can be found at:

https://www.mwenergy.com/ residential/electric-rate-change

Or scan the QR code!





School Districts MWE Awards Internship Donations to

Midwest Energy recently announced five donations of \$2,000 each to local school internship programs. This year's recipients are:

- USD 103 Cheylin
- USD 271 Stockton
- USD 274 Oakley
- USD 325 Phillipsburg
- USD 412 Hoxie

Through the programs, school districts work with local businesses to hire high school students for a

paid in-school or after school internship during the 2025-2026 school year. Interns are fully engaged in hands-on projects in a professional work environment, allowing them to develop skills. The funds can be used for a variety of things including program administration, internship wages, and intern training.

"We believe that our youth should be shown local opportunities for careers during their school years

that could develop into lifelong careers within our local communities," Key Accounts and Member Services Manager James Wright said.

The donations are made possible through the Co-Bank Sharing Success and Midwest Energy. Applications for the 2026-2027 program will be due next September. Educators interested in the program should contact Wright at jwright@ mwenergy.com.

From 2020 to 2023, the Centers for Disease Control reported an average of 530 Americans died from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning each year.

Over the same period, 18 Kansans died due to accidental CO poisoning, with hundreds more taken to emergency rooms for CO exposure. A review of news articles from that period shows that the leading causes of Kansas deaths were people running gasolinepowered portable generators inside the home, and improperly vented natural gas appliances.

Symptoms of CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. These symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches. High levels of CO can be fatal, killing in iust minutes.

Because CO has no odor or taste, the **only** way to detect the pres-



Simple carbon monxide detectors are widely available at hardware and department stores, as well as online, starting at \$12. Detectors are good for roughly 10 years.

ence of carbon monoxide is with a CO detector. They're available at hardware and department stores, as well as online, for as little as \$12. In some communities such as Hays, local fire departments provide and even install new CO detectors free of charge for citizens unable to purchase one. Contact your local fire department to see if they participate in a similar program.

CO detectors are good for around 10 years of service and should be installed in a central location on every level of the home. Test your CO alarms monthly.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Once outside, call 911, and then Midwest Energy at 1-800-222-3121. Do not re-enter the home until told it is safe to do so.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

Atwood, KS . Colby, KS . Great Bend, KS . Hays, KS



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