



POWERLINES

General Manager's Message: *Looking Forward to 2012*



Happy New Year! With the holidays behind us we are busy at KEC working on plans and projects for 2012. I'd like to tell you a little about those I'm most excited about.

Are you interested in paying for your electricity as you use it or in not paying a deposit? If so, you might like our new SMART Pay program. We plan to launch it early this year and it will allow participating members to track their electric usage and pay for it as they use it. Research shows consumers participating in such programs tend to save energy because they are more aware of their usage. As part of our Member's Choice program we're working to give our members more options in how they pay and when. This is just another one of those choices. Watch for more information next month.

We have a busy year planned in system upgrades and substation construction to improve your reliability. Our remodel of the Prairie Substation in Post Falls is nearly complete and we will begin construction of our Julia Street Substation in the Coeur d'Alene area. This area was previously served through an Avista substation. The upgrade and construction of these substations have an added benefit of saving money by eliminating some of the delivery charges that are incurred when KEC is a tenant of Avista substations.



KEC's Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project south of Coeur d'Alene is nearly complete.

We anticipate the construction of our Fighting Creek Landfill Gas Project to be complete in March. We hope it will be generating renewable electricity shortly after from the methane gas produced at the landfill. As you can see in the photo above the building housing the generators is nearly complete.

We're continuing to look for new ways to communicate with you on what's happening at KEC including email and our web site and please take the time to check out our Facebook page. At KEC our members are our priority and I'm looking forward to another year of serving you!

Doug Elliott
KEC General Manager

Save the Date!

The 2012 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24. We will be holding the meeting in the evening this year. Learn more about the election process on the back page and look for details about the Annual Meeting in the coming months. [1401452]



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Become a fan by clicking "like" at www.facebook.com/KootenaiElectric.



WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY REMINDERS

With below freezing temperatures, snow and possibly wind in the forecast there is the potential for weather-related power outages. KEC has its crews on call 24 hours a day and ready to be dispatched throughout our service territory. The following are a few reminders and safety tips for winter storms.

For Cold Weather:

- Do not sit in an idling car in the garage to get warm. Never use a camp stove or charcoal grill indoors to generate heat.
- Consider opening kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer room air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Let cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat in your home set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

Power Outage Safety:

- Stay away from power lines on the ground. Always assume downed lines are energized even if the lines are sagging or broken. Call KEC at 1.877.744.1055 right away to report them.
- Do not attempt to remove trees or limbs from lines. [1261021]
- In the case of large outages in rural/limited access areas where snow removal has not been consistent, members should be prepared for lengthy outages.
- When shoveling snow off the roof – look up and be sure there are no power lines above you.
- If you are able, keep your driveway plowed to help our crews have better access to your property. This can make a difference in how long your power is out.
- Unplug electronic equipment such as TVs, computers and microwaves. Turn off all appliances that were on when the power went out.
- Leave an outside light on so repair crews will know when power is back on.

Kootenai Electric Trust Distributes 4th Quarter Grants

The Kootenai Electric Trust Board granted their fourth quarter disbursement of 2011 Operation Round Up® funds. The Trust Board received 14 grant requests and awarded more than \$15,000 to eight of the applicants. The following received funding:

- \$5,000 to Project Share for local energy assistance.
- \$1,788 to the Bayview Community Center Foundation for a dishwasher, range and microwave oven.
- \$1,575 to the Coeur d'Alene School District to purchase number rack demonstration models for kindergarten and first grade math.
- \$1,000 to Parents Reaching Out to Parents to help families who have children with disabilities in times of emergencies.
- \$1,500 to Post Falls High School's Link program to fund a freshmen mentoring program.

- \$1,000 to Post Falls High School's Robotics Team to keep the program available for students.
- \$2,500 to the Post Falls Senior Center to purchase tables for their lunch program.
- \$1,000 to a KEC member with cancer to help purchase a medically-necessary bed.

Application Deadline

The next Operation Round Up® grant applications are due at the KEC office by Monday, January 30, 2012. Applications are available in the office or at www.kec.com.

Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up® or who would like to begin contributing may simply "opt-out" or "opt-in" on their bill or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.

WHERE'S MY ACCOUNT NUMBER?

Each month we include four KEC member account numbers throughout the newsletter. If you find yours you'll receive a \$50 energy credit. We often receive calls from members wondering when their number will be included. Here's how it works: we use our member information and billing software to randomly generate four numbers each month. The software picks these numbers from the more than 22,000 member account numbers we have. That means on any given month you have a 4 in 22,000 chance of getting your number in the newsletter.

If you haven't seen your number yet you'll now have another opportunity! Starting this month we will also be including two account numbers each month on our Facebook page. Check out our Facebook page and become a fan by clicking "like" at www.facebook.com/KootenaiElectric. We will provide updates on new programs and services, member discount offers, energy efficiency tips and rebates, power outage information and more.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 18

Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded by the Kootenai Electric Trust to KEC members or their children who are either seniors in high school or currently enrolled in college or an accredited training institution for the fall of 2012. The scholarships will be awarded based on need and academic achievement. [1813327]

Applications will be considered and winners selected by members of the Kootenai Electric Trust Board of Directors which disburses Operation Round Up® funds contributed by KEC members. Applications are available at www.kec.com, in the KEC office or by calling 208.292.3270.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend KEC's monthly Board of Directors meeting. Meeting dates vary each month. Call Terry Brown at 208.292.3211 to learn more.

SEEKING KEC MEMBERS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA OPINION COMMITTEE

Are you a social media user? If so we'd like your help! KEC continues to expand our communication with members using social media and the web. We would like to hear from our members using social media on how we can improve. We're creating a Member Opinion Committee to help us make social media best serve our membership. The committee will meet face to face and then move to an online forum. If you are interested contact Erika Neff at 208.292.3270 or eneff@kec.com for more information.



Heating with electricity?
Heating is 60% of your utility bill.
Replace your baseboards now.

One of the best energy saving moves you can make: **replace your baseboards with Convectair** Apero heaters. Replacement is easy! Use your existing baseboard wiring for a simple, safe and low cost installation.

Top 6 reasons why you should change to Convectair heaters :

6. Electronic thermostat in the heater.
5. Perfect consistent temperature throughout the room.
4. Better heat distribution.
3. Greater comfort.
2. Minimal heat loss through walls.
1. **Lower heating costs.**

CONVECTAIR

ACCOUNT FEE CHANGES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2012

On February 1, 2012, KEC will implement changes to our account fee and charges policy. The fees and charges policy is in place to recover costs which are not included in the rate base. This means these costs are not attributed to all members and assists in maintaining lower rates. An example of changes to our account fees and charges include [1429561]:

Existing	Account Fees & Charges	Effective February 1, 2012
2 times the calculated cost of average usage during the prior 12 months for Traditional Billing.	Deposit	2 times the calculated cost of highest usage during the prior 36 months for Traditional Billing.
1%	Past Due Account	\$5.00 minimum or 2% of past due amount for Traditional Billing.
\$0	Stop Payment Request on KEC Check	\$35.00
\$20.00	Declined Automatic Reoccurring Credit Card Transaction	\$25.00
\$20.00	Declined Automatic Reoccurring Electronic Funds Transfer Transaction	\$25.00
\$0	Door Notification of Impending Disconnection	\$40.00

While over 90% of our members will not be affected by this implementation, we want to provide plenty of notice to any member who might be affected by this change so they may work to prevent being impacted. A full listing of KEC account fees and charges can be found at www.kec.com. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 208.765.1200.

Visit Us Online:

www.kec.com

Call Us:

208.765.1200

Email Us:

kec@kec.com

Physical and Mailing Address:

2451 W. Dakota Ave.
Hayden, ID 83835



2012 Election Process: Vote By Mail or at the Annual Meeting

For the second year KEC members will have the opportunity to vote by mail for Board of Director positions and proposed bylaw changes. When you vote by mail you have a chance to win one of two \$250 energy credits!



Early this spring we will mail your ballot packet so you can review candidate information and proposed bylaw changes. Then you can decide if you want to vote by mail with the postage-paid return envelope or if you want to vote at the Annual Meeting.

We will have a mechanism in place to ensure no member votes more than once and what's important is members have a voice in their electric cooperative. The final votes will be tabulated at the Annual Meeting by members of the Credentials and Elections Committee and the results will be announced there and in our June newsletter.

The election process is governed by the KEC bylaws which are located at www.kec.com or by calling us at 208.765.1200.