



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE: ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

KEC's 84th Annual Meeting of the Membership took place at Lake City Church on May 16, 2022. More than 150 member households attended the event. Congratulations to our grand prize winner, Jennifer Vest, Coeur d'Alene, who won a \$300 bill credit. Sheryl Puckett, Bayview, and David Amonson, Coeur d'Alene, were the winners of runner up prizes. More than 30 other prizes were awarded at the meeting. Thank you to our vendors for donating the prizes.

Annual Meeting Minutes

KEC is accepting comments on the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes through August 1, 2022. Draft 2022 Annual Meeting minutes are posted at www.kec.com and printed copies are also available at the KEC office. Comments may be submitted by **Email:** cec@cec.com or **Mail:** Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Attn: General Manager, 2451 W. Dakota Ave. Hayden, ID 83835.

Election Update

We had two board seats up for election. Districts 1 and At-Large were contested elections with two candidates each. Congratulations to District 1 director Tim Meyer and District At-Large director Roger Tinkey who were re-elected by the membership. After the Annual Meeting, the board held a meeting to appoint the following officers: Bill Swick, Chair; Tim Meyer, Vice Chair; Roger Tinkey, Secretary; and Dave Bobbitt, Audit Committee Chair.

Election Prizes

Members who cast their votes online and have a SmartHub account were entered into a drawing for a \$300 KEC bill credit. Congratulations to winner Kelly Leatham, Rathdrum. Those voting by mail or online without a SmartHub account were entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 KEC bill credits. Congratulations to winners:

- Daryl Foreman, Rathdrum
- Thomas Haney, Hayden
- Joe Worley, Rathdrum



Employee Spotlight: Karen Neorr

Karen Neorr is KEC's Real Estate Specialist and has worked for KEC for more than one year.

What made you interested in working for KEC? How did you prepare for work in this field?

I was ready for a career change and, when I learned about the job at KEC, I was interested because I had heard that KEC treats its employees well. Before working for KEC, I worked 10 years as a forester for the State of Idaho. In my role there I learned quite a bit about real estate transactions and am grateful that on-the-job training prepared me very well for my job here at KEC. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degree from Seattle University and a Master of Science in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho.

Tell us about your role as Real Estate Specialist.

You might think by my title that I am a realtor, but that is not the case. Everything I do in my role contributes to our mission to provide reliable power to our members through the establishment of easements on properties where our equipment is installed. When KEC installs equipment to provide electric service we must have access to that equipment to conduct maintenance, repairs and right-of-way or vegetation clearing. An easement protects the rights of all parties—giving KEC the legal right to operate and ensuring members' property rights are protected. In addition, we need these rights to persist as long as our facilities are present.

What does a day look like for you?

I enjoy the variety in my job and work with various departments within KEC. This could include assisting KEC in its efforts to acquire and sell land. As an example, we recently purchased four acres of land for our future Boekel substation and my time was spent providing purchase offers, securing appraisals, negotiating with landowners and finalizing sale paperwork. Once that property was acquired, we focused on selling a previously purchased five-acre property that was no longer needed.

I work with our operations and member services departments daily on member electric service modifications and new service installations. I ensure



we have the necessary easement rights that allow us to install and maintain our equipment for these projects. On larger projects, such as the upcoming proposed Spirit Lake East FEMA grant project, I'm working with KEC's operations department to coordinate with the affected landowners. This includes providing members with project information and working with them to secure needed electric easements. I've also worked with the operations and engineering departments to secure easement rights for specialized KEC projects such as our new headquarters building, transmission line easements to our newly acquired Boekel substation property and the recent overhead to underground conversion at Black Lake.

What is the biggest challenge in your job?

The real estate growth that has been occurring in our service area equates to a lot of applications for new electric service. With more than 1,000 applications annually, ensuring KEC has easement rights on each property where we have equipment is a big job.

What is the best part of your job?

The people! I absolutely love the KEC staff members that I get to work with daily. KEC employees work hard and take pride in a job well done. I am grateful I get the opportunity to work with such a dedicated, supportive, forward-thinking and caring team. Additionally, my daily interactions with KEC members are just as rewarding and it feels good to be part of the team that gets to provide them with an essential service: dependable power.

Operation Round Up® Grants Awarded to Our Community

Operation Round Up® is supported by KEC members who voluntarily “round up” their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar to help our neighbors in need. The extra pennies go into the Kootenai Electric Trust fund, which distributes grants to worthy causes in KEC’s service territory. Through this program, more than \$1.2 million has been invested in our community.



In May 2022, the Trust Board awarded Operation Round Up® grants to the following organizations:

- \$2,500 to the Confluence Project, which connects students to North Idaho’s lakes, streams, mountains and aquifer through a combination of on-site studies and classroom work. The grant will be used for the 2022-2023 school year for field trips about water quality, snow science, ground water and more.
- \$2,500 to Fosterful to help support volunteer recruitment and training. Fosterful provides well-trained, loving adults to be onsite at child welfare offices to comfort and care for children who have just been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.
- \$2,500 to Idaho Drug Free Youth to help hold the Idaho Youth Summit, a four-day camp-style conference, which assists youth with coping skills, substance use prevention, team building and leadership skills.
- \$1,500 to the Natural Connections Academy, a private school for 3rd-5th graders in Worley, to purchase curriculum.

To apply for a grant, please visit www.kec.com for the online application. Applications are due July 29, 2022. 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/in SmartHub or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.



Always assume a downed power line is energized and stay away.

**STAY BACK.
STAY SAFE.**

NEWS BRIEFS

WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Below are 10 KEC account numbers. If you find yours, contact us at 208.765.1200 to receive a \$50 bill credit.

**1699098, 1282913, 1619454,
1769933, 1815388, 1844219,
1837272, 1819944, 1854760,
1432588**

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—call Constance Felten at 208.292.3211 for details.

STAY IN THE KNOW: Keep Your Contact Information Updated with Us

At KEC, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members. We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by logging into SmartHub and visiting "settings" or "manage notifications." If you are not enrolled in SmartHub or have questions you may also contact us at 208.765.1200 or kec@kec.com.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

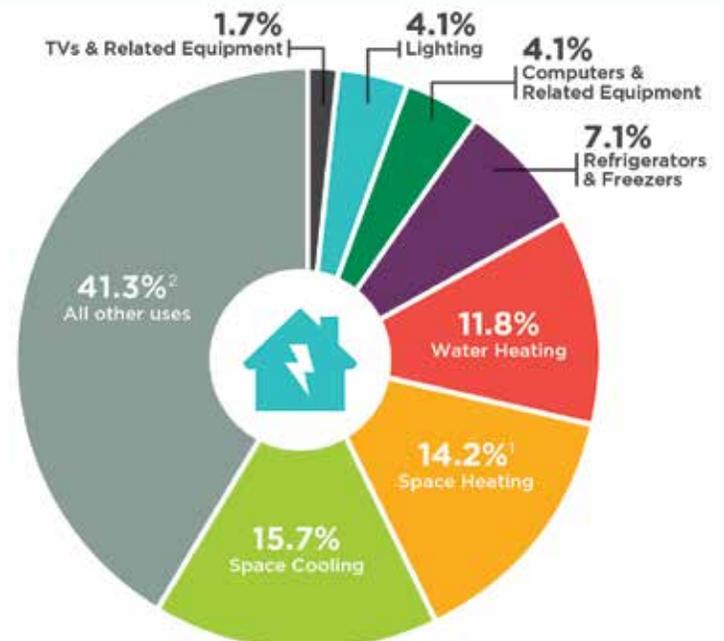
The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021