

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Heatwave and Facility Updates

This summer's heatwave is likely still fresh in your mind, so I'd like to share some information with you about how KEC manages increased demand on our system. First, know that I have great confidence in KEC's electric distribution system. The cooperative's substations and feeders performed without capacity issues or power supplier and transmission constraints during the heatwave in late June and early July. With the unprecedented temperatures, some isolated areas on the distribution system experienced outages due to extreme load above what was forecasted in KEC's engineering model. However, KEC staff was able to adjust equipment settings and restore power to accommodate the load. This allowed KEC to avoid blackouts affecting our members.

You might find it interesting to know that KEC's system demand peaked at 110.9 megawatts on June 29, 2021, at 3 p.m. The National Weather Service in Spokane

recorded the temperature reaching 109 degrees at the Spokane International Airport just after 4 p.m. that same day.

This is an all-time new peak demand for KEC load in the summer and is nearly equal to the 111.2 megawatt system peak for winter set in 2019.

So how does KEC plan for extreme weather demands on our system? KEC uses historical data to forecast load increases on the system and develop construction work plans for future periods. These work plans identify areas where new infrastructure will be needed to meet the growing needs of the membership. KEC routinely designs and makes improvements to the system to deliver dependable power in these growth areas. Some examples of recent improvements KEC is making to our system include:



Doug Elliott

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Save the Date: KEC's Member Appreciation Event

We hope you can join us for KEC's Member Appreciation Event on Saturday, September 11, 2021, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Bluegrass Park in Coeur d'Alene at 6071 N. Courcelles Pkwy. Join us for free food, ice cream and gifts, as well as these fun activities for the whole family:

- Inflatable slides and other fun activities
- Safety demonstrations
- Bucket truck rides
- Music with a DJ



If you have any questions, please contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200.

ABOUT OPERATION ROUND UP®

When neighbors are in need, we take action through Operation Round Up® grants. Last year, 20 local non-profits and community groups received more than \$50,000 to help with everything from energy payment assistance to various health care and school programs.

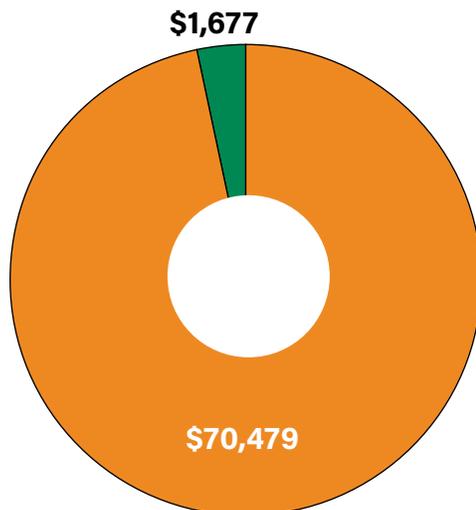
Participating in Operation Round Up® is easy. The average monthly member contribution is 50 cents and together our members have generated more than \$1.2 million since November 2002.

Are you “rounding up” your KEC bill? If not, we need your help! The program is easy. Each month, KEC “rounds up” the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar. The donations are placed in the Kootenai Electric Trust and a volunteer board of members (see board member list to the right) determines how to allocate the funds to our community. They award grants to local non-profit organizations including schools, food banks, senior centers and more. KEC also helps local students pay for college. We have supported more than 200 students with college scholarships over the last 15 years. These scholarships help educate and strengthen our community.

Start “rounding up” your KEC bill by logging in to your KEC SmartHub account and click under the Billing and Payments tab. You may also visit www.kec.com or contact us at cec@cec.com or 208.765.1200.

2020 OPERATION ROUND UP® ANNUAL REPORT

COLLECTED FUNDS:
\$73,475



■ Grants and scholarships ■ Administrative Costs

A sampling of 2020 grants:

- \$7,500 to KEC’s Project Share program. These funds are available to KEC members who qualify for help paying their energy bills.
- \$7,500 to KEC’s Project Share/COVID relief program. These funds are available to KEC members affected by the pandemic who qualify for help paying their energy bills.
- \$2,500 to Safe Passage to support the Children’s Advocacy Center.
- \$2,500 to the Hayden Senior Center for their nutrition program.
- \$2,365 to Timberlake Fire Protection District to purchase a dump tank and wildland fire packs.
- \$2,000 to Heart Reach, a food bank, to purchase Thanksgiving dinners for local families in need.

Independent Accountant’s Report Conducted by Magnuson, McHugh & Company, P.A.

Kootenai Electric Trust Board Members

Jay Baker
District 1

Jessica Bacon Wourms
Secretary/Treasurer
District 2

Jim Kehrer
District 3

Joe Piedmont
District 4

Fred Muhs
District 5

Tom Craig Zajicek
Chair
District At-Large

Cheri Zao
Vice Chair
District At-Large

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.

Employee Spotlight: Lance Teal

Lance Teal is a foreman. He has worked for KEC for 13 years.

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

I sort of fell into linework and have always enjoyed the trade. I started out at KEC as a groundman and then was able to complete my apprenticeship here too. From there I moved up to a journeyman and now I've been a foreman for about a year. Prior to KEC, I worked for a telecommunications company doing construction work for about 12 years.

What does a day look like for you as a foreman at KEC?

The rapid growth in our area is leading to a significant number of new subdivisions. This year alone KEC is working on more than 54 new subdivision projects totaling over 2,100 units. To meet these demands, my crew is responsible for much of the underground new construction work in our service territory. As the foreman, I help organize the jobs and ready the crew for the work. I also coordinate with builders/developers, contractors and other utilities, such as water, sewer, communications/cable and natural gas.

Photo below: The main line trench in the Brookshire subdivision in Rathdrum before it was backfilled.



Tell us about the process to get electric utility equipment installed in a subdivision.

It probably isn't a surprise to anyone in our area that subdivisions large and small are going in all across Kootenai County. The installation of utilities is a big part of the subdivision construction process. The electric "backbone" is used to distribute power throughout the subdivision. The electric backbone process starts when a builder or developer applies for electric service with KEC. A computer aided design (CAD) drawing of the subdivision is generally included with the application showing the subdivision layout and design. From there, one of KEC's project engineering technicians will take the CAD design and complete a power design for the subdivision. This includes working with KEC's engineering department to conduct a load calculation to ensure equipment is appropriately sized for current and future growth. Once the power design is complete, KEC works with the builder/developer and municipalities to agree on the electric equipment placement and street lighting. When those details are finalized, KEC's team uses computer software to determine the equipment needed to complete the project and the cost. A contract is written between KEC and the builder/developer and KEC's operations department takes over the construction part of the project.

The construction of the electric backbone in a subdivision is a multi-step process.

Continued on the back page.

NEWS BRIEFS

HOLIDAY AND OFFICE CLOSURE

- The KEC office will be closed between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 19 for a staff meeting.
- The KEC office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Before you start any digging project be sure to call 811. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 gets underground utility-owned lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

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

WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Below are 11 KEC account numbers (we added an extra number due to the duplicate in last month's newsletter). If you find yours contact us at 208.765.1200 to receive a \$50 bill credit.

**1800037, 1298904, 1846620, 1850707, 1847301,
1494260, 1492415, 1823090, 1847552, 1237245,
1666999**

General Manager's Message Continued

- Several voltage conversion projects in various stages of design or construction. These projects were identified in KEC's 2021-2024 construction work plan to provide increased capacity on our distribution system.
- The design of a new substation to provide new load serving ability and contingency support to existing substations in the northern part of the KEC system.

Through all this, KEC continues to provide exceptional service to its members amid near record growth. In 2020, the cooperative invested approximately \$18 million in capital construction, extended service to more than 1,100 new members, and advanced several other major projects benefiting the cooperative's membership.

Headquarters Building Update

When I last updated you on KEC's new headquarters, I shared that KEC had purchased a piece of property in Rathdrum. Since that time, KEC staff has been busy working on the architectural engineering portion of the project. I expect we will have some renderings to show the membership soon. I continue to anticipate construction commencing in spring 2022, with the new headquarters open for business by mid-2023. Watch for more details about the headquarters design in next month's newsletter.

Employee Spotlight Continued

We start by digging trenches across the future streets and placing conduit during excavation so electric services can run across the streets. Once the streets are paved, a main line trench is opened and PVC conduit is placed. Other utilities come in around our conduit and then the trench is backfilled. Once the sidewalks are poured, transformers and splice boxes are placed and then we install the wire. The very last thing we do is put in streetlights. By that time, some of the houses are under construction in the subdivision. My crew can spend up to three months in a subdivision completing construction.

What is the biggest challenge in your job?

Right now, keeping up with the influx of work. Our workload is pretty heavy and requires teamwork and organization to get it all completed.

What is the best part of your job?

From new construction to restoring power during an outage, I find the work very rewarding. My crew and coworkers make my day.