



KEC Community Solar Project Update

To date KEC has sold 20 percent of the units in the Community Solar Project. Locally, solar energy varies significantly from winter to summer



and as we move into the spring we look forward to increased energy production. The 50KW-solar array is located in Worley and members may purchase individual units for \$475. Each unit represents a portion of the energy produced by the solar array. The solar array is divided into 288 units and each unit is expected to generate approximately 234 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. Members can purchase up to five units on a first come, first served basis. [1832201]

It works like this: KEC takes care of the maintenance and insurance. Members purchase units that represent ownership in a portion of the energy produced by the solar

array for the 25-year expected life of the system. The energy production generated by the system each month will be divided into 288 units and members will receive a kWh credit on their bills according to the number of units they own.

What happens if you move: You may keep your unit(s) as long as you stay within KEC's service territory. If you move outside of the service territory, you may transfer the unit(s) to another active KEC member or KEC will buy back the unit(s) at a pro-rated price.

Contact us at 208.765.1200 or kec@kec.com to sign up.

Board Authorizes Capital Credit Retirement

In December 2017, after reviewing the financial health of the Cooperative, the Board of Directors authorized the retirement of up to \$900,000 in capital credits originally allocated in 1989 and a portion of 1990. These capital credits will be returned (paid back) to members based on their electric use or patronage with the Cooperative during that period. Checks will be mailed to eligible members in March.

About Capital Credits

When you signed up to receive electric service from KEC, you became a member—and an owner—of an electric cooperative. Being a member-owner of an electric cooperative is very different from being a customer of an investor-owned utility. Electric cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis. As such, proceeds that exceed KEC's cost of doing business belong to you, our member-owners, and are called margins. These margins are also called "capital credits" and represent

your share of KEC's equity. That share is based on how much your electric use contributed to margins.

Periodically, the KEC Board of Directors retires capital credits that are no longer needed to maintain the financial health of the Cooperative. When this occurs, money is returned to our member-owners based on the contributions they made to the Cooperative's margins. **For more information or to watch our video on this topic visit www.kec.com or call 208.765.1200.**

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Doug Elliott

How Can We Better Serve You?

We are always looking for better ways to serve you. It's amazing

what we learn through listening and observation. New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of members when their introduction follows market research.

SmartHub App for Our Members

Here at Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC), we've provided members with a mobile application called SmartHub. The SmartHub app is free and available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. It allows members to report outages, receive outage updates, pay bills and receive real-time updates on energy use. If you haven't already downloaded the app I would encourage you to do so. This mobile service is a new way of connecting with our members, like the member services representatives

you reach when you call us, or who greet you from behind the counters at our office. They help us offer the quality services you expect us to provide.

Smart Pay Billing Option

Another service we offer members is a pre-paid billing option called Smart Pay. It gives you the flexibility to prepay for your electricity as frequently as you would like.

Members can view their account balance and see their energy use through SmartHub or a KEC-provided in-home display. Participating members tell us having a current view of their energy use helps their families conserve. In fact, on average members on Smart Pay use 8% less energy than members on traditional billing! Smart Pay also has a lower Service Availability Charge, which adds to the savings. Another benefit of Smart Pay is it doesn't require

a deposit. If you are currently on traditional billing with a deposit and you switch to Smart Pay you can unlock the deposit and use it toward energy purchases. You can go back to traditional billing at any time, however, you must have a zero balance

and may be subject to deposit requirements. Helping members save energy is one of our primary goals and offering the Smart Pay program gives members another choice to manage their energy use.

Join Us for KEC's Annual Meeting

We also like to have face time with our members; our Annual Meeting is another way for us to do that and for you to learn more about your electric cooperative. We hope you'll make plans now to join us on Monday, April 30, at Lake City Church for an evening of co-op business, gifts and prizes. [1833777]

We're Ready to Listen

So, how do we serve you better in 2018? I believe it's by listening. In our office, on the phone, through social media and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, drop in and see us, we're always glad to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug".

Doug Elliott
KEC General Manager



Efficient Kitchen Lighting

Kitchen sizes and styles have changed dramatically through the years. In the past, a simple florescent ring placed in the center of the ceiling operated by a single switch was the norm. Now, lighting is an integral part of home decor and function, particularly in a focal area such as the kitchen. *Lighting accounts for up to 15 percent of a home's energy budget* and since the kitchen still remains the heart of the home, it makes good sense to focus here. Try these tips to make your kitchen lighting more efficient:

Tip 1: Layering Effect

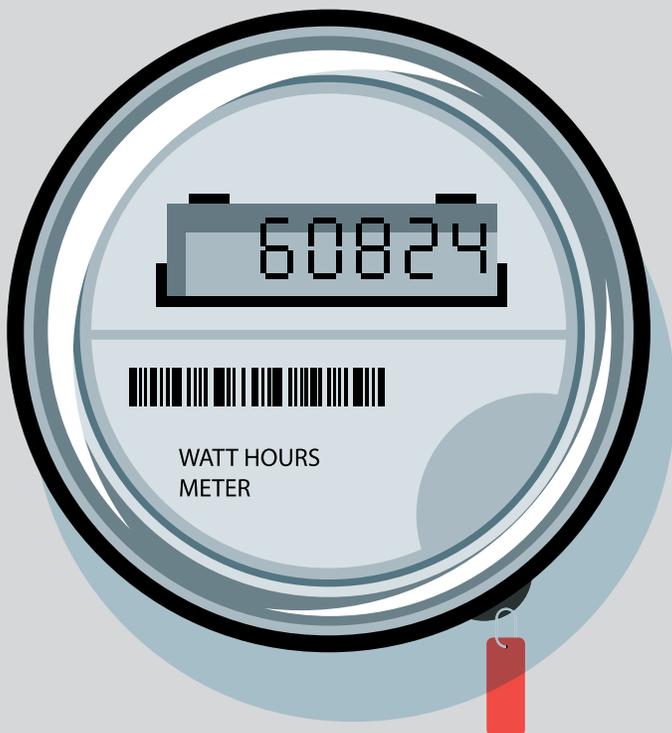
The effect of a single overhead light source can be too much light in one area and not enough in others. You can solve this problem by layering different types of light from different sources. Task lighting, such as under-counter lighting, illuminates a particular work surface without a shadowing effect. When installing the lights, place them toward the front of the cabinet so they illuminate the whole countertop rather than the wall. Most types of under-counter lights can be plugged into a standard outlet. Overhead lights,

whether from a central fixture, track lights or recessed, can offer indirect illumination and complement the task lights. Where possible, utilize ENERGY STAR® and LED options.

Tip 2: Shining a Light on Flexibility

Efficient lighting in the kitchen does not necessarily mean more lights, but rather more versatile lighting. Dimmer switches create more flexible lighting options for existing lights. By placing different sets of lights on dimmer switches, you increase your options, minimize the energy used for lighting and thereby allow for greater energy efficiency. [1623234]

DON'T FORGET! KEC sells LED bulbs at our office for as little as \$1.25 each. Stop by and pick some up or call us at 208.765.1200 and we can answer your lighting questions.



Do Not Tamper With Your Meter

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electric rates for other co-op members.

-  Never break a meter seal.
-  Never open a meter base.
-  Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with a meter, please contact us immediately.

About Your Service Voltage

Did you know the voltage levels that KEC provides to you are governed by a national standard?

When members call and report a power quality problem, one of the first things we look at is whether the voltage meets the standards set by the American National Standards Institute, or ANSI. ANSI C84.1 is the standard for regulating electric service voltage levels. [1745893]

Sometimes members have the misconception that their voltage should always be 120 volts or 240 volts. In reality, there is a range for acceptable voltage. The reason for this is electric loads on a grid change by time of day and with the season. These changes create variances in voltage. At KEC, we

routinely analyze our electrical system and evaluate its ability to provide power to our members within the ranges specified by the standard. When that analysis forecasts a problem maintaining this voltage in the future, necessary upgrades are made well in advance. The graphic to the right gives the ranges for typical household voltage at the meter base and at the outlet.

If you have questions about other service voltage ranges or your power quality, contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200. [1267961]



At the Meter Base

Service Voltage	Normal Range
120V	114-126
240V	228-252



At the Outlet

Service Voltage	Normal Range
120V	110-126
240V	220-252

2018 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION DETAILS

Mark your calendars for the 2018 KEC Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 30, at Lake City Church in Coeur d'Alene.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6 p.m. Attend the Annual Meeting to be entered to win one of many prizes. Don't forget to pick up your member meal voucher (good at select area restaurants) at the meeting. Watch your mailbox next month for more details about the Annual Meeting and director election.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—please call Constance Felten at 208.292.3211 for details. [1281541]

POWER OUTAGE UPDATES

Would you like to receive KEC alerts for power outages affecting service at your residence or business? KEC offers this service at no cost. You can receive your outage updates by either text message or email. Please be aware power outage alerts are

sent out 24/7 and some cell phone providers charge for text messages. To sign up, log in to your KEC account at www.kec.com or download the SmartHub app.

WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Six KEC account numbers are hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill.

