Kootenai Electric COOPERATIVE

PowerLines

March 2019 | KEC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Thank You to the 2018 KEC Board of Directors

The KEC Board of Directors determines policy and direction of the Cooperative. The seven-member board is elected by the KEC membership and spends approximately 60 days a year on Cooperative-related activities. Thank you to the Board for their dedication and years of service:

- Bill Swick, Chair, 10 years
- Tim Meyer, Vice Chair, 3 years
- Roger Tinkey, Secretary, 9 years
- Jim Robbins, 7 years [1271090]
- Dave Bobbitt, Audit Committee Chair, 5 years
- Todd Hoffman, 5 years
- Crystal Musselman, 1 year

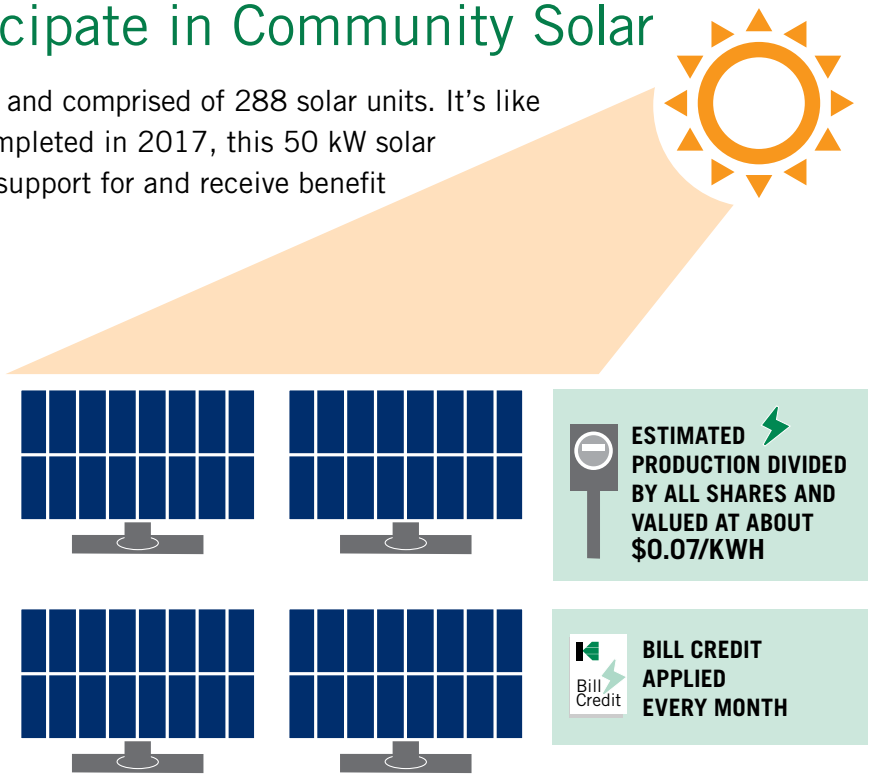
Photo above (front to back, left to right): Todd Hoffman; Dave Bobbitt; Roger Tinkey; Jim Robbins; Crystal Musselman; Tim Meyer; Doug Elliott, KEC General Manager; and Bill Swick.

There is Still Time to Participate in Community Solar

KEC's Community Solar Project is located in Worley and comprised of 288 solar units. It's like a community garden, planted with solar panels. Completed in 2017, this 50 kW solar array allows participating KEC members to provide support for and receive benefit from locally sited solar generation.

HOW IT WORKS

- Members may purchase individual units, which represent a portion of the energy produced by the solar array.
- For 2019, each unit costs $456. Members can purchase up to five units.
- Each unit is expected to generate about 234 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. Participating members receive bill credits for the energy created by their unit(s). [1835853]



Employee Spotlight: Thomas Maddalone

Thomas Maddalone

Digging Safely

In my role as KEC's Safety Director, I'm responsible for the Cooperative's safety programs and emergency preparedness. Part of my work in safety includes investigating damage caused to KEC's property. This can happen when a car runs into a pole, an excavator digs up our lines or a number of other accidents. In many cases, KEC pursues reimbursement for damages others cause to our facilities.

One way you can avoid these accidents is by calling 811 before you dig. If you're planning any digging projects around your home, be sure to pick up the phone before the shovel. The problem these days is that you don't really know what you're going to dig into. It could be a buried electrical utility line, or even a water, telephone or gas line. In any case, it would be unpleasant and downright dangerous and it could cost you serious money. If you damage a utility line, Idaho state law allows the utility to bill you for that damage. [1838575]

Idaho's One Call utility locator service can identify any active utility lines hiding beneath the surface where you plan to dig. Allow 48 hours for the lines to be located. Call 811, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may also visit www.call811.com for more information. Underground lines are marked with colors according to the utility. Red means electric, blue means water, green means sewer, and yellow means gas or oil.

811 Know what's **below.** **Call** before you dig.

If you have any questions I'd be happy to talk with you more about this. Just give me a call at 208.292.3243.

Generator and On-Site Generation Reminders

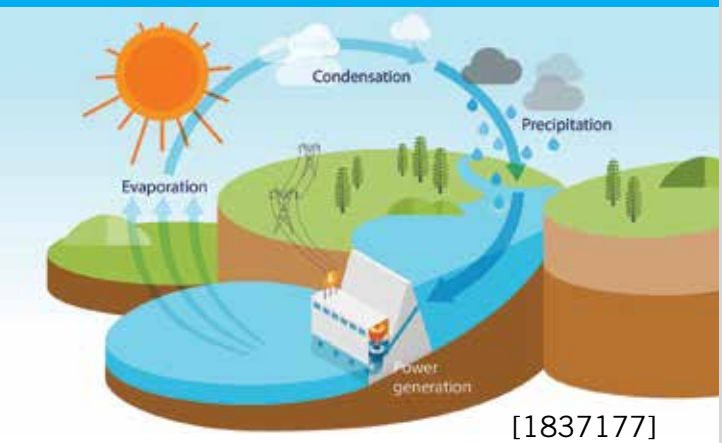
Generators can cause serious safety problems if improperly installed and could cause injury to KEC workers and the general public. All backup generator installations should have a transfer switch installed in accordance with the requirements of the National Electric Code.

For the safety of KEC employees and the public, we track where backup generators are installed on our system and require members who have installed generators to contact us (this requirement includes any on-site generation, like wind and solar).

Transfer switch installations must be inspected by the State Electrical Inspector and we request that members provide KEC with a copy of the State Electrical Permit for the transfer switch installation.

Traditional transfer switches are wired into your home's electrical panel. An alternative is GenerLink™, a transfer switch installed behind your meter. When you connect a portable generator to GenerLink™ and start it up, GenerLink™ automatically disconnects from the electric utility grid, preventing the possibility of back feed. This device is approved by KEC and installed by a licensed electrical contractor. Unlike some traditional transfer switches that require you to pre-select which circuits the generator will service, with GenerLink™ you have access to every circuit in your panel. You can run 120 or 240 volt appliances up to your generator's capacity. GenerLink™ gives you the flexibility to choose how you use your power. **For more information about generators and transfer switches please contact us at 208.765.1200.**

HYDROPOWER in the Northwest



[1837177]

Renewable. Each year, rain and snow replenish the supply. It is the nation's most abundant source of renewable energy.

Efficient. Hydropower plants at dams convert about 90 percent of the energy in falling water into electrical energy. By comparison, fossil-fueled plants lose more than half of the energy content of their fuel as waste heat and gases.

Clean. Hydropower produces no emissions. There are no gases or waste products that contribute to air pollution.

Secure. Water from our rivers is largely a domestic resource that is not subject to disruptions from foreign suppliers, cost fluctuations in power markets, international political crises or transportation outages.

Flexible. By adjusting the amount of water flowing through the dams, hydropower can be increased or decreased very quickly to meet changes in demand for power. This meets a fundamental requirement of all electric grids, which is that demand must exactly match supply at all times to keep the system stable.

Accommodating. Hydropower is a great "backup" for wind and solar power — for example it can be ramped up to meet demand when the wind is not blowing, and dialed down at times of high winds.

Affordable. This is because the "fuel" — water — is free, which keeps operating costs low and protects against fluctuations in fuel prices. Over the years, the dams have consistently provided some of the nation's most affordable electricity.

WWW.BPA.GOV/HYDROFLOWSHERE

NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION DETAILS

Join us for the 2019 KEC Annual Meeting on May 13, at Lake City Church in Coeur d'Alene. Registration begins at 5 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6 p.m. Annual Meeting attendees will be entered to win one of many prizes and will also receive a meal voucher good at select area restaurants. Please note: the 2019 director election will be conducted by mail and online only. Watch your mailbox next month for more details about the Annual Meeting and director election.

KEC GOLF CLASSIC

The 20th Annual KEC Golf Classic is set for Friday, June 28, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. The tournament starts at 2 p.m. and proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Operation Round Up® Scholarship Program. If you're interested in playing golf, the registration cost includes green fees, a golf cart and drinks. The early-bird cost (before April 30) per team is $700 and includes a banner sponsorship. Individuals can play for $140 each, if they sign up and pay before April 30. For more information call 208.292.3270. [1639225]

SURVEY BILL CREDIT WINNER

In November 2018 KEC mailed a random sample of members a satisfaction survey. We offered a chance to win a $300 bill credit to all members who took the survey. Congratulations to winners Richard and Deborah Schmidt of Hayden. Thank you to all the members who participated in the survey.

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.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

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

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: you don't have to be an energy expert to do this! There are several easy ways to save energy if you're willing to take a hands-on approach. Here are three projects you can do now to start saving. [1835493]

Make the Most of Your Water Heater.
Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7-16% annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about $20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk.
The average American family spends $2,000 annually on energy bills but, unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk. Apply the caulk in one continuous stream and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors.
One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure they can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative