

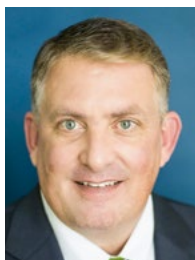
THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT
DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER

NEWS



FROM THE MANAGER

Reducing Peak Demand Benefits Everyone



Kevin Brownlee

As we move into August, I want to remind members that taking steps to reduce electricity use during peak demand hours continues to make a real difference.

Every summer, Butler Electric experiences its highest demand for electricity during July and August, particularly between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

During these few hours each day, the cost of purchasing power is significantly higher. In fact, more than half of Butler Electric's annual wholesale power costs are tied to electricity used during these peak periods.

When our members work together to shift or reduce their electricity use during these hours, it helps control costs for the cooperative and ultimately benefits all members. Even small changes can have a meaningful impact.

Here are a few simple ways to lower your energy use during peak hours:

- ▶ Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day to help keep your home cooler.
- ▶ Set your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away or during peak hours. A programmable or smart thermostat can make these adjustments automatically.
- ▶ Make sure your HVAC system is operating efficiently by changing air filters regularly and scheduling routine maintenance.
- ▶ Keep your outdoor air conditioning unit clean and

free of grass, leaves, and other debris to help it operate more efficiently.

- ▶ Check weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors to prevent cool air from escaping.
- ▶ Delay using large appliances such as clothes dryers, ovens, dishwashers and EV chargers until after 6 p.m. whenever possible.
- ▶ If you're considering home improvements, adding insulation, sealing air leaks or planting shade trees can improve your home's efficiency and reduce cooling costs.

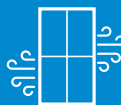
Summer's extreme temperatures don't just increase electricity use — they also place additional demand on the electric grid. By using electricity wisely during peak hours, you're helping Butler Electric continue providing safe, reliable and affordable service while keeping costs as low as possible.

Thank you for doing your part this summer. We appreciate your continued partnership and commitment to using energy efficiently. If you have questions about your electric bill, our demand rate or ways to improve your home's energy efficiency, our team is always happy to help.

Beat the Peak

TIME OF USE MATTERS!

Use these tips to decrease your demand. Lower demand even more by **NOT** operating electrical appliances like dishwashers, dryers and ovens between **3-6 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY.**



Controlling air leaks can extend the life of your home, conserve energy, save money and increase comfort.



Replace traditional lightbulbs with LEDs and save up to 80% on lighting costs.

78°

For every degree you set your thermostat higher than 78 F, you could save up to 8% on your energy bill.

Butler Sends Bootsma to Explore the

Bootsma Selected as Youth Leadership Council Representative



JARRETT BOOTSMA, who will be a senior this fall at Wichita Northwest High, recently represented Butler Electric Cooperative at the 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held from June 13-19. During their time in Washington, D.C., students deepened their understanding of America's electric cooperatives and developed their leadership

skills while connecting with peers from across the cooperative network.

This year, the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative joined with the Kansas-Hawaii delegation. These 32 standout student representatives, 27 from Kansas, four from Hawaii, and one from Maine, were hand-selected through an application process.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a speech from Trooper Ben, a welcome from other notable Youth Tour Alumni, and dinner, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. The tour was led by Senator

Brenda Dietrich and Representative Tobias Schlingensiepen, along with Peter Barstad, director of policy in the Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft's office. After returning to the hotel, students had the opportunity to get to know each other better with icebreaker activities.

In Washington, D.C., students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and The People's House – A White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

On June 18, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, NRECA President Mike Partin, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi, and Brynn Lee Hirata, the 2026 National Youth Leadership Council Spokesperson. This year's NRECA Youth Tour brought together around 2,100 delegates and chaperones across 44 states to Washington, D.C. This attendance represents a record of almost 700 cooperatives, bringing attendance back to pre-pandemic levels.

Students had the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. Additionally, delegates met with Chief of Staff Krisann Pearce from Congressman Derek



Nation's Capital

Schmidt's office; Legislative Assistant Rylee Rosamond and intern Hayden Napierala (a 2023 Youth Tour alumna) from Congressman Tracey Mann's office; and intern Cappi Hoeting (a 2022 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp alumna) from Senator Moran's office. During these discussions, they asked thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

"I was incredibly inspired by learning the real American origin stories of leaders like Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Roger Marshall," Bootsma said. "It's easy to look at Capitol Hill and assume everyone in power just began there, predestined to wear a tailored suit and hold a gavel. But hearing about the hustle and hard work it takes to represent a state on the national level proved that extraordinary paths are forged by extraordinary everyday people."

Beyond the educational experiences, students enjoyed unique opportunities to bond with peers from across the country — trading pins with other state delegations and taking in the sights during a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

Reflecting on his experience, Bootsma shared, "The most impactful part of this trip was experiencing a real revelation about the effect I have on the people around me. It was equally humbling and inspiring to discover the actual weight of my own words and actions. It turns out, the effort that you put out into the world every day makes a real difference in the lives of others."

At the conclusion of the conference, the delegates elected the 2027 NRECA Youth Leadership Council representatives for Kansas, Hawaii, and Maine. Representing Kansas is Butler's



Jarrett Bootsma speaks at NRECA Youth Day as the Kansas Youth Leadership Council representative. "The memory forever branded into my brain is walking out onto a stage in front of 1,700 people," he said. "Sure, I only had the microphone for about 10 seconds, but delivering those words with unapologetic passion and confidence felt like a lifetime. It was a massive adrenaline rush, a defining moment in my life, and surely an experience I would not soon forget."

very own Jarrett Bootsma. Cambell Donahoe, sponsored by Kaua'i Island Utility of Lihue, Hawaii, will represent Hawaii, and Leo Whittemore, sponsored by Eastern Maine Electric of Calais, Maine, will represent Maine. Alongside 41 other student leaders from across the country, Bootsma, Donahoe, and Whittemore will assist at PowerXchange, NRECA's Annual Meeting, to be held in San Diego, California, in February 2027. We are proud of Jarrett for this outstanding achievement and look forward to working with him further as he embarks on this journey.

Students who participated in the 2026 Youth Tour are also eligible to apply for the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship. For more information about Youth Tour and other Butler Electric youth programs, please contact Dakota Smith, dsmith@butler.coop, and stay tuned for Youth Leadership Program applications to open for the 2026-2027 school year.



FAR LEFT: Jarrett Bootsma sits in the "oval office" of The People's House – A White House Experience.

SECOND AND THIRD FROM LEFT: Jarrett Bootsma, along with other Youth Tour delegates, meet and visit with Senator Jerry Moran.

LEFT: Jarrett Bootsma poses with the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

KAI FOWLER

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

If you've worked with **KAI FOWLER** for any length of time, you already know what to expect: He shows up, he does the work, and he does it without complaint. That's been true since he joined the cooperative back in 2005, and it hasn't changed.

Kai is currently keeping busy with service orders and maintenance, the kind of day-to-day work that keeps the lights on for our members. He's built solid relationships out in the field over the years, and members know they can count on him. Kai's pretty laid back, but don't let that fool you. When something needs to get done, it gets done.

Twenty years on the job, and it turns out the man's also got some dance moves. We're so glad he's on our team.

EXTREME HEAT CAN BE DANGEROUS.

Keep these safety tips in mind.

- ▶ Stay hydrated, drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
- ▶ Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.
- ▶ Check on neighbors, family members and friends who may be more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.
- ▶ Never leave children or pets in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity — adding symbols, numbers and capital letters — password length is equally important. Longer passwords or passphrases are generally harder to crack than short, complex ones. Create a memorable phrase with several unrelated words, avoid using personal information, use a unique password for each account, and enable multi-factor authentication whenever possible. SOURCE: CISA



SAFETY TIP

Heading to college? Never charge your phone under a pillow, on bedding or in bed with you. It can overheat and cause burns or start a fire. Instead, set up a dedicated charging station on a hard surface in your room.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



HAPPY LABOR DAY

In observance of the holiday,
our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can push your air conditioner hard, making now a good time to check the air filter. A dirty filter restricts airflow, reduces efficiency and increases wear. Inspect it monthly during heavy use and replace it when dirty to help your system run better, improve indoor air quality and keep your home comfortable. SOURCE: NRECA

