



cve@caneyvalley.com  
www.caneyvalley.com

For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



# TheVoice

## Caney Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

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### Contact Us

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Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
620-758-2262, Fax: 620-758-2926  
cve@caneyvalley.com

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for June is \$.00809 /kilowatt hour. This amounts to an additional \$.09 per 1,000 kilowatt hours.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kwh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# Doing Homework Key to Safe, Smart Solar Installations

In the United States, solar energy helps power households, and a new solar project is installed every 4 minutes, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. Lower costs for solar panels, concern for the environment, and energy tax credits are driving the solar market.

For a savvy consumer, an investment in a residential solar system demands answers to important questions, but wading through the mountain of information can be daunting. That is why doing research is a smart move before you invest in a solar system.

### Learn About Solar System Requirements

First of all, learn how solar works and then assess whether the installation site on your roof or at another location on your property is suitable for a solar system. Problems, such as your roof's size or pitch or your site's orientation to the sun, as well as its close proximity to large, shade-producing trees, may prevent the installation of a solar system.

Once you determine that solar technology will work for your home, partner with Caney Valley Electric to learn your responsibilities to ensure that your chosen solar company installs safe,

correctly sized, approved equipment that will be connected to the grid. Not only does the approved solar equipment protect you and your family, but it also protects utility workers from safety hazards when they work on the line. In addition, the correctly sized equipment ensures that your power will match the voltage and frequency of the electricity flowing through the electric facilities that serve your home.

### Weigh the Costs

Even with tax credits, solar energy is not cheap. An investment in a solar system requires the purchase of equipment, insurance and maintenance, and the payback for the consumer can take years. A savvy consumer considers all costs.

If your monthly bill averages less than \$150 per month, it is wise to consider other ways to save money. Reductions in your monthly bill could result from energy-saving practices, such as buying Energy Star appliances, using LED lightbulbs, adding insulation or weather stripping to your home, and lowering or raising your thermostat as the seasons change.

To determine if a solar system will meet your expectations for savings,

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# Check the WEATHER Before You Go

More than 72%  
of lightning fatalities  
occur from  
June through August.

## From 2006 through 2021

- ▶ 446 people were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S.
- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of the deaths happened while people were enjoying outdoor leisure activities such as fishing, camping and running.

June, July and August are the peak months for lightning across the U.S.

- ▶ More than 72% of lightning deaths occurred in these months.
- ▶ Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than any other day of the week.

Lightning often strikes away from heavy rain; it can happen up to 10 miles away from rainfall.

**TO PREVENT LIGHTNING-RELATED TRAGEDIES, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS.**

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY COUNCIL

## Stay Safe While Spending Time Outdoors

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

### Pools and Hot Tubs

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

### Boating and Swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

### While Recreating

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year.\* Nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities — 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

### During a Storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides a free app to check local weather and receive weather alerts during severe conditions.

### When Playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric co-op and a crew will address the issue safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric co-op to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

### Avoid Releasing Balloons

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with balloons. Metallic balloons if released or accidentally let go can get caught in a power line or other utility equipment and cause a major power outage. In fact, avoid releasing any type of balloon as they can interfere with power lines, substations and aircraft. Plus, birds, turtles and other animals commonly mistake balloons for food, which can harm or kill them.

\*ANALYSIS OF LIGHTNING-RELATED DEATHS IN THE U.S., 2006-2021



# BEAT THE PEAK



For the next four months, we are asking you to participate in the “Peak Control” program. This voluntary program can help hold down the wholesale power costs incurred by the cooperative.

The peak demand for electricity recorded in July and August drives a major part of the wholesale power billing process for the eight off-peak months that follow, October through May. The lower the peak demand registered, the lower demand charges will be. Keeping the peak demand low in June and September is also important.

Please take time to review the key parts of Peak Control listed below. Contact our office at 620-758-2261 or 800-310-8911 if you have any questions. Thank you for your participation in this program.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Peak Control

- ▶ **WHAT IS PEAK CONTROL?** Peak control is a voluntary program in which our cooperative members can participate to hold down electricity costs.
- ▶ **WHAT CAN MEMBERS DO TO PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?** You can participate by voluntarily reducing your use of electric equipment and appliances that require larger amounts of electricity.

- ▶ **WHEN DO MEMBERS NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?** During the hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday from June 1 through Sept. 30. The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley during those two months drives the electricity billings from our wholesale supplier for the following eight months, October through May. Be aware of days that have high temperatures forecasted above 90 degrees; these are the type of days when peak demands usually occur. Be especially careful when using large amounts of electricity on warm days.
- ▶ **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN PEAK CONTROL?** By helping hold the line for the kilowatt demand charges on Caney Valley’s wholesale electric bill, you will also limit the amount of the resulting power cost adjustment charges added to your electric bill. Please contact our office for any questions you may have about the Peak Control program.

**Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley during those two months drives the electricity billings from our wholesale supplier for the following eight months, October through May.**

## Doing Homework Key to Safe, Smart Solar Installations

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ask your solar provider to project how much electricity a correctly sized solar system will produce per year (measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWhs) and compare that amount to your annual electricity usage (kWhs). Co-op staff can use the results of that comparison to give you an estimated monthly bill breakdown, including costs associated with your home being connected to the grid for a reliable flow of electricity whenever the sun is not shining.

Maintenance of your solar system is another expense. According to the website [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov), "Solar energy systems require periodic inspections and routine maintenance to keep them operating efficiently" and "from time to time, components may need repair or replacement." Consider the cost of a qualified technician to do the work, too.

Don't forget to check for state and federal tax credits for the installation of a solar system. A tax credit is not a check in the mail right after you buy your system ([www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)). The tax credit is subtracted from the amount you owe when you file your income tax return the following year. Because your solar purchase information is applied to your income tax form, you must keep records of qualifying expenses. If you decide to lease a solar system, the tax credit goes to the lessor, not to you.

### Find a Trustworthy Solar Provider

The Better Business Bureau reports that issues with solar installations can be numerous and serious. It recommends doing comparison shopping with several providers, making sure the solar company has a proven track record, talking to previous customers

to get honest perspectives about what to expect from the installer, and understanding the terms of the warranty. Also, make sure that your solar provider is licensed to perform the installation.

Installing a home solar system has associated risks and benefits. It is important that consumers do their homework to determine if a solar system is actually a good investment for them.

**ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY,**  
GENERAL MANAGER

### Outages for APRIL 2023

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred in April.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
4/5	Grenola area	65	1 hr 20 min	Broken jumper on Hwy 160
4/7	Cambridge area	30	1 hr	Phase & neutral wrapped together
4/10	Longton substation	357	2 hr 30 min	Power supplier off
4/19	Dexter area	23	4 hr 25 min	Big tree fell on line
4/20	Moline area	38	2 hr 40 min	Top of pole burnt off
4/20	Havana area	37	2 hr 20 min	Big tree fell on line

### Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	March 2023	March 2022
Meters Billed	5,233	5,263
kWh Purchased	5,065,458	5,147,941
Cost Per kWh	0.0707	0.00766
kWh Sold	4,701,162	5,106,097
Total Revenue	\$ 744,051	\$ 815,570
Purchased Power	\$ 359,593	\$ 393,958
Operating Expenses	\$ 306,623	\$ 283,012
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 73,018	\$ 70,929
Interest Expenses	\$ 42,443	\$ 42,161
Other Expenses	\$ 100	\$ -2,287
Operating Margins	\$ 37,727	\$ 27,798
Non-Operating Margins	\$ 32,187	\$ 48,205
Total Working Margins	\$ -5,540	\$ 76,003
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 97,776	\$ 61,302

## Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint,

complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Sec'y for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).