



PowerLines

December 2018 | KEC MEMBER NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Happy Holidays from KEC

Eighty years ago, we became your electric cooperative. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the leadership of our board of directors, KEC had another successful year. To show our appreciation for your membership in our cooperative, we have a holiday surprise. Below are 80 account numbers (for the number of years we've been in operation). If you find your number, call us at 208.765.1200 and we'll credit your bill \$50.

1594910	1309557	1352252	1305504	1376285	1812978	1825567	1277170
1305542	1830209	1582061	1835093	1686148	1822144	1830276	1636997
1670582	1832132	1406271	1826408	1836147	1271963	1823203	1825830
1281049	1238442	1835982	1815802	1604375	1789320	1837828	1820279
1834829	1296220	1830133	1360730	1540452	1354216	1426617	1833383
1830972	1498406	1819826	1537764	1833976	1337551	1270242	1440955
1292522	1836423	1290095	1818192	1778009	1823684	1317435	1835085
1828133	1828116	1685950	1572030	1558894	1837387	1837447	1819022
1714789	1757275	1819966	1720923	1836896	1552456	1707100	1499850
1525840	1836804	1831207	1823002	1828224	1805265	1833734	1829165

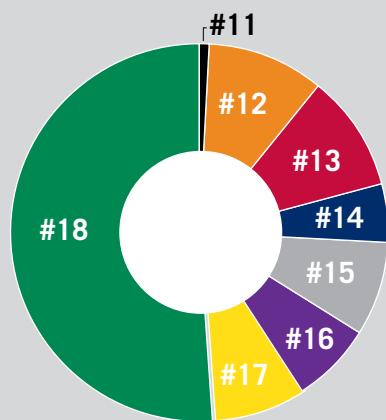
On behalf of KEC's employees and Board of Directors, we'd like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to another year serving you.

Doug Elliott,
KEC General Manager

MORE ABOUT OUR ACCOUNT NUMBERS

The account numbers placed in the newsletter each month are randomly generated by our customer information computer system.

Members must call to claim their numbers in the newsletter each month. Occasionally, we receive calls from members who believe the numbers starting with #18 might be over represented. In fact, more than 50% of our members have an account number that starts with #18. See graph to the right for a breakdown of the account numbers in our system.



Power Outage Reminders and Tips

Winter weather has arrived and that means the potential for weather-related power outages. Power outages are usually infrequent and brief, but there are times, due to the weather and acts of nature, when your electricity may be interrupted. KEC crews are on call 24 hours a day and ready to be dispatched throughout our service territory.

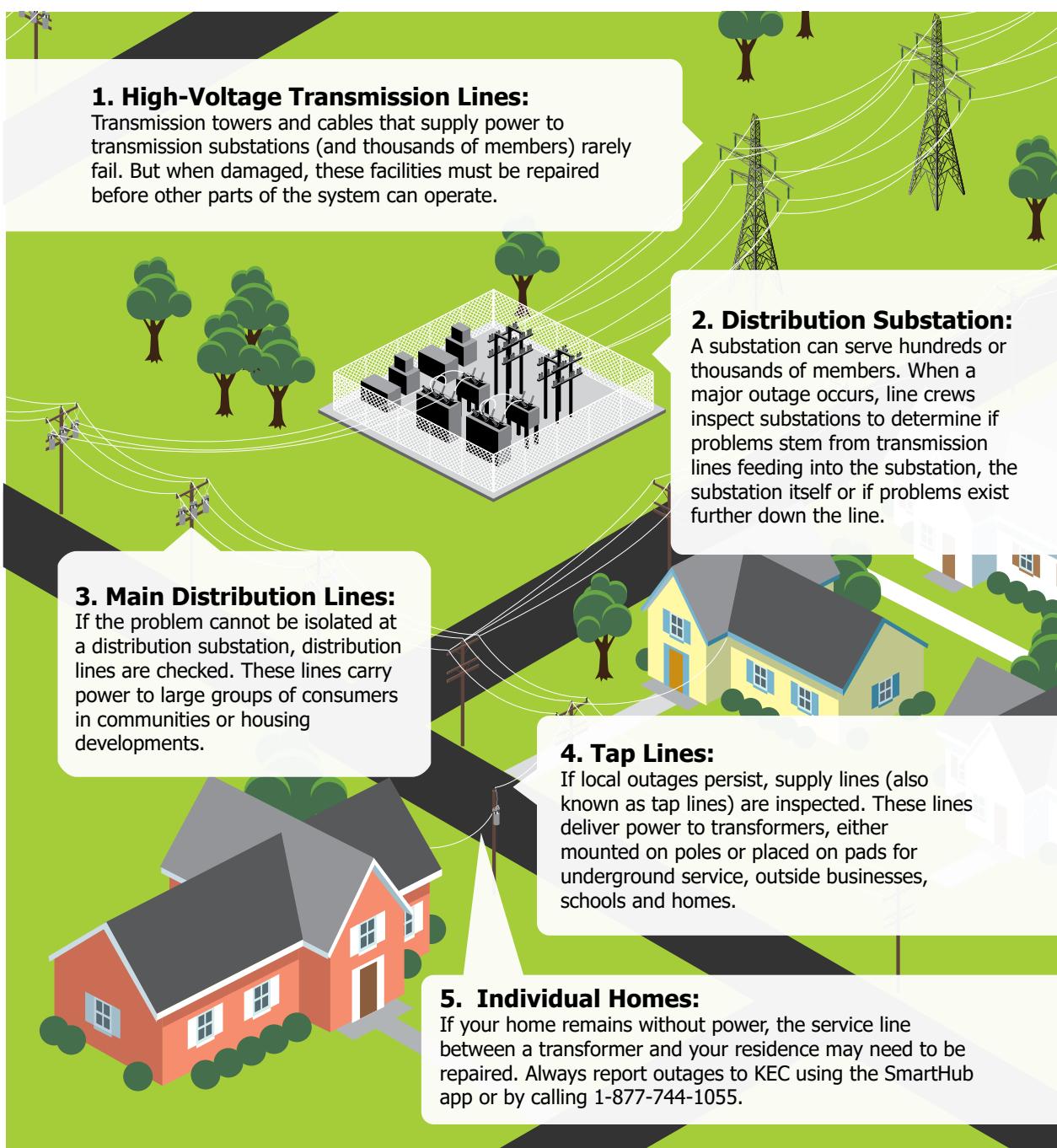
What you should do when the power goes out: Please contact KEC to report the outage. KEC's outage reporting system will also let you know if we are already aware of the outage and provide updates, such as estimated restoration time if available. There are two ways to report outages: Use our SmartHub app (create an account or log in to the app) where you can also receive outage notifications or call 1.877.744.1055. Follow us on Facebook for power outage updates or visit our online outage map at www.kec.com.

Remember, stay away from power lines on the ground. Always assume downed lines are energized even if the lines are sagging or broken.

Restoration Process

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long hours to restore electricity safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Learn more about how this works in the graphic to the right. If you have any questions, contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200.

Powering Up After an Outage



Carbon-Free Energy Options

Although 96.6% of the power KEC sells is carbon-free, some members would like the option to be 100% carbon-free in their energy purchases. KEC is now offering two carbon-free energy options. In short, these programs allow carbon-conscious members to offset all or a portion of their power purchases with carbon-free resources. Participation in these programs lowers your carbon footprint without having to purchase or maintain equipment. As an added bonus, all contributions collected through these programs are placed into a reserve fund for future renewable energy projects. Please note: these programs are voluntary and the participating members fully cover the program costs. By signing up, members agree to pay for the program selected in addition to their monthly electric bill. Learn more about the programs below. Contact us at 208.765.1200 or kec@kec.com to sign up.



How it works: Since 96.6% of the power KEC sells is already carbon-free, each month KEC will offset 3.4% of your carbon-based power with carbon-free energy. The dollar amount will vary month-to-month based on your electric use. For example: if you use 1,000 kWh per month, you would offset 34 kWh (or an additional \$2.42 per month).



How it works: This program allows you to purchase a fixed block of carbon-free energy offsets. The average KEC member uses 1,000 kWh per month and would need to purchase three blocks to offset their carbon-based power. Each block is \$1 per month and roughly equivalent to 13 kWh of carbon-free energy. Use this program to partially or fully reduce your carbon footprint, or go above and beyond and help reduce your friends' and neighbors' carbon footprints by purchasing additional blocks.

Interested in how these programs may affect your bill? Use the Carbon-Free Energy Bill Calculator at www.kec.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS/CLOSURES

- Dec. 14, 2018: open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Dec. 24, 2018: open 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Dec. 25, 2018: office closed
- Jan. 1, 2019: office closed

BYLAWS AVAILABLE ONLINE

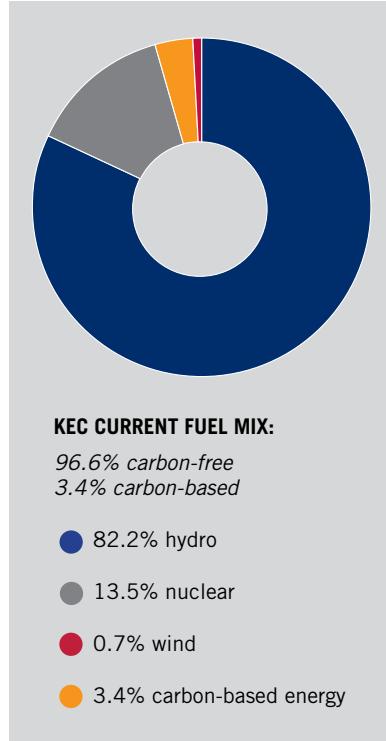
KEC is governed by a set of rules called Bylaws. The Bylaws outline how we conduct business. Some of the Bylaws also outline our relationship with you, our members. Changes and revisions, if any, are presented

to the membership and approved at the Annual Meeting. For a copy of KEC's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation visit www.kec.com or call our office at 208.765.1200 and we will mail you a copy.

COMMERCIAL RATE CHANGE

KEC's commercial rates have been re-aligned to more accurately reflect the fixed cost of providing service to commercial members. These changes are effective with the January 2019 billings. Visit www.kec.com to view rate schedules or contact us at 208.765.1200.

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Tips for Purchasing New Appliances

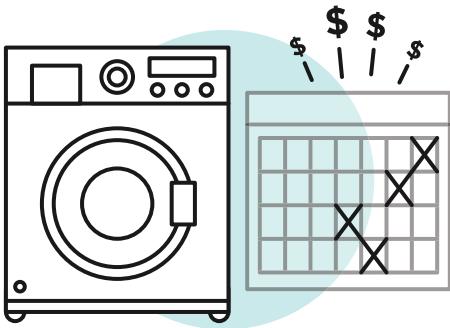
When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:



Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)



Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance (see example on the right). The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- Once you choose your make and model, compare prices. Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- Recycle or sell your old appliance. Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE CHANGES

KEC rebates will be changing next year. If you were planning to take advantage of one of our rebates, now is the time to make your purchase. The new rebates will be effective Jan. 1, 2019 and posted at www.kec.com.

GATE LOCKS AND COMBOS

If KEC equipment is behind a locked gate on your property, please be sure we have either a key or combination to that lock so crews have access during outages and other work. Failure to provide KEC with this can slow down the outage restoration process. Also, please keep us updated if you change the locks or combinations. KEC can provide members with a lock to interlock with their own so we can access our equipment. Call 208.765.1200 for details.

Kootenai Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity–Affirmative Action Employer

