



**LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# The Powerline

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Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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**LJEC & KAW VALLEY ALLIANCE UPDATE**

## Consolidating Services & Systems Integrations

This month's update regarding our working alliance with Kaw Valley Electric is more of a thank you to two long-time employees who have recently retired.

**BOB FUNK** with LJEC and **VAUGHN KIRKLAND** with Kaw Valley have both retired allowing the accounting and engineering departments to be consolidated at both cooperatives.

Funk retired in January after 25-years at LJEC. He saw tremendous growth during his tenure at LJEC. He was proud to be involved in matters such as refinancing projects that saved the coop a substantial amount of money.

Kirkland's tenure with Kaw Valley extended over a 24-year period. He saw tremendous growth at Kaw Valley and was instrumental in improving the reliability and keeping Kaw Valley's system updated.



Bob Funk



Vaughn Kirkland

Both of these long-time employees deserve our thanks. Without them, our cooperatives would not be in the position to serve you as well as we do. Please make sure to thank them if you see them out and about!

**Systems Integration**

**JOSEPH FRIDLINGTON**, LJEC's Technology Administrator, has been working with both cooperatives to integrate IT systems. As the alliance moves forward (with a potential consolida-

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## Mark Your Calendars for April 28!

The Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the McLouth Elementary School Purple Gymnasium (registration in the adjacent cafeteria) located at 217 Summit Street in McLouth.

This is your chance to catch up on the business of your cooperative from the previous year. An in-depth discussion regarding the current working alliance and potential consolidation will also take place. We'll also have a brief presentation about new programs and services at LJEC.

**You don't want to miss it!**

April 2015						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# Think Smart About Your Home's Efficiency

There has been a significant push in the development and installation of renewable energy sources for residential homes in the past decade. While renewable energy can, and will, play a bigger and bigger role in efficiency and offsetting the cost of future environmental regulations, there are many other elements regarding to your home's efficiency that could make a substantial impact on your bill.

We are pleased to announce another service offered through the cooperative that is aimed at saving you money on your electric bill. LJEC has partnered with Good Energy Solutions (GES) to offer home energy evaluations.



Infrared Thermography can be added to your home evaluation for \$100 and captures air leakage pathways through thermal images.

together with recommendations for individual issues that can be addressed.

LJEC members can take advantage of this important tool for just \$200. This service normally goes for \$600. GES is offering this special pricing for co-op members only.

Signing up for an in-home evaluation is easy! You can visit [www.goodenergysolutions.com/contact](http://www.goodenergysolutions.com/contact) and fill out the contact information page or simply call them toll-free at 800-554-9182. Make sure to mention

you are with Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative to ensure you receive the substantial discount offered only to co-op members.

## What is Included?

Your evaluation begins with a Builder Performance Institute (BPI) certified professional visiting your home and completing a comprehensive assessment of the efficiency of your home.

- ▶ **Lighting Analysis**—Review of your home's existing lighting and potential savings solutions.
- ▶ **Insulation Inspection**—Examination of your attic, walls and rim joist insulation levels and recommendations on how you can improve the overall comfort of your home, including potential savings.
- ▶ **Blower Door Test**—This test will quantify airflow, measure heating/cooling air losses and pinpoint specific leaks.
- ▶ **Combustion Analysis**—Analysis of combustible flue gas at the furnace and water heater and will determine carbon monoxide levels (if any).

## Comprehensive Report

You will be provided with a comprehensive report including all results of your home's existing efficiency

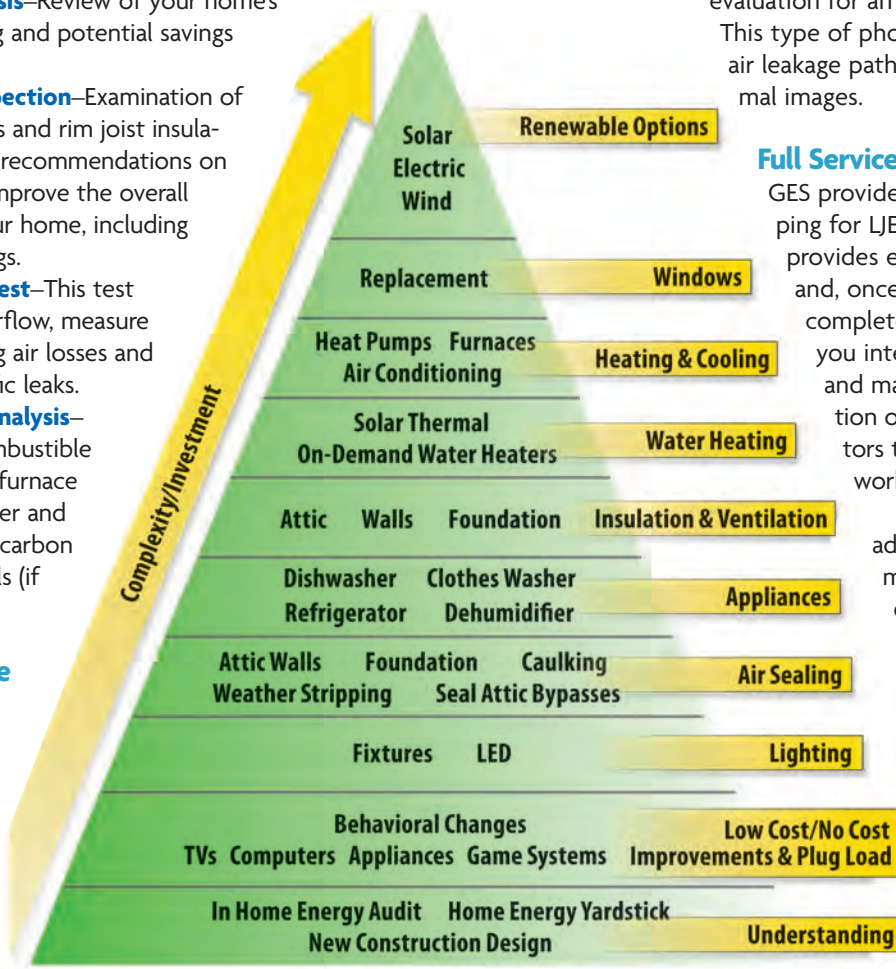
## Infrared Photography Available

Infrared Thermography can be provided with your home evaluation for an additional \$100. This type of photography captures air leakage pathways through thermal images.

## Full Service

GES provides one-stop shopping for LJEC members. GES provides evaluation services and, once your report is complete, GES can help you interpret the results and make recommendation on capable contractors to complete the work recommended.

If you would like additional information or have question about a home energy evaluation, please contact Shannon Crouse at LJEC (888-796-6111 or [shannonc@ljec.coop](mailto:shannonc@ljec.coop)) or contact Good Energy Solutions at 800-554-9182.



# Help Us Serve You Better!

## LJEC Needs Your Updated Contact Information

There are times when LJEC needs to get in touch with you. Reasons typically include service problems, billing questions, or safety issues. But perhaps the most important reason we would contact you, from your perspective, would be regarding planned outages.

We do our best to keep planned outages to a minimum and do try to contact members when those outages are going to occur. Unfortunately, there are times when the contact information we have on file is outdated. Keeping an updated phone number and/or email address is very important for you and for the cooperative as it allows us to communicate valuable information in case of an outage or emergency.

In the future, LJEC will be able to notify members of outages that occur unexpectedly. For now, if there is a substantial outage, you can always

You can find the phone number we have on file at the bottom left hand side of your monthly bill.

check the outage map that is located on our website at [www.ljec.coop](http://www.ljec.coop).

The contact information you provide to LJEC is confidential. We do not sell or share our members' information with other organizations unless it is a subcontractor providing services for LJEC (such as a member survey).

Update your contact information quickly and easily by calling and speaking to any of the LJEC member service representatives at 888-796-6111 or email your information to Traci DePriest [tdepriest@ljec.coop](mailto:tdepriest@ljec.coop).

## Systems Integrations

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tion in the future) it is important that IT systems at both cooperatives mirror each other to allow for more efficient transfer (and sharing) of information.

Additional systems at both cooperatives are being mirrored to assist in an easy transition, should the membership vote to consolidate the two cooperatives in April 2016.

- ▶ Accounting Practices
- ▶ Board Reporting
- ▶ Inventory Tracking
- ▶ Mapping Systems
- ▶ New OSHA Compliance Rules
- ▶ Outage Reporting

In future articles, we will begin outlining the savings that both cooperatives are realizing since the working alliance was formed. We'll also examine potential long-term savings with not only the working alliance but also the possible consolidation.

You are encouraged to contact LJEC with any questions regarding the alliance and/or potential consolidation. Contact Chris Parr at 888-796-6111 or [chrisp@ljec.coop](mailto:chrisp@ljec.coop).

# Paying Our Share—2014 LJEC Property Tax Review

LJEC received its 2014 tax bills from the counties in which the cooperative owns and maintains property (line and infrastructure). The cooperative saw a drop in this year's taxes, due to the Kansas Department of Revenue changing their methodology of appraising electric cooperatives versus other utilities.

Through payment of property taxes, rural electric cooperatives share the cost of the state's educational system, highways and city and county facilities such as roads, libraries, parks and hospitals.

Paying our share of taxes is one way LJEC and nearly 1,000 other rural electric cooperatives help build a stronger America.

LJEC strives to maintain our rates while facing increases such as these.

Material prices throughout all aspects of the cooperative business continue to rise.

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact us at 888-796-6111.

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 Yr % change
Leavenworth	162,062.78	199,028.77	199,144.50	187,711.80	171,468.99	5.80%
Jefferson	293,229.22	355,973.73	363,399.48	360,577.17	296,326.20	1.10%
Jackson	32,298.13	40,902.42	38,885.30	38,591.46	32,953.82	2.00%
Atchison	8,829.83	10,640.37	10,568.51	10,057.00	8,958.32	1.40%
Douglas	253.80	310.56	634.88	557.42	479.48	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>496,373.76</b>	<b>606,855.85</b>	<b>612,602.67</b>	<b>597,494.85</b>	<b>510,186.81</b>	<b>2.80%</b>
Ft Leavenworth	196,722.58	204,941.94	204,229.50	206,896.60	125,444.52	-36.20%

*(Taxes paid at Fort Leavenworth do not affect the bottom line of the cooperative as these taxes are reimbursed through a monthly payment LJEC receives from the government.)*

## Co-op Present at Topeka Farm Show



Gov. Brownback and his folks stopped by the booth LJEC shared with four other electric cooperatives at the Topeka Farm Show.

Five electric co-ops joined forces to sponsor a booth at the Topeka Farm Show Jan. 6-8.

LJEC along with fellow co-ops, Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, Kaw Valley, and Lyon-Coffey Electric used the opportunity to interact with members and the public.

More than 300 exhibitors participated in the event which drew nearly 30,000 attendees at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka. One of those visitors was Governor Sam Brownback. He attended the event with his parents who are members of Heartland.

The co-ops' booth featured energy efficiency tips and the importance of attic insulation.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

# Attention High School Juniors Win an All-Expense-Paid Trip!

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour—June 11-18, 2015

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp—July 11-17, 2015

LJEC is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips for high school juniors whose parents or guardians are LJEC members.

LJEC will send one student to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 11-18 and two students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 11-17.

Complete the application below by **March 16**. Applicants will be mailed a contest packet and will need to complete a quiz and a personal interview at the LJEC offices on Sunday, March 22, 2015.



Above: Leah Parsons poses in front of the U.S. Capitol during the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year's tour is June 11-18, 2015.



Left: Tamara Drinkard (left) and Madison Erzen enjoy the view of the Elk River during the 2014 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. This year's camp is July 11-17, 2015.

## 2015 LJEC Youth Tour Application

Return applications by March 16 to LJEC, P.O. Box 70, McLouth, KS 66054

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant (must be a current high school junior) to enter the 2015 Youth Tour competition sponsored by LJEC.

Signature of Parent/Guardian (Must be an LJEC Member) \_\_\_\_\_