

Wind & Solar Project Approval Checklist

Interconnecting a UL 1741 Listed Inverter-Based Small Generating Facility No Larger than 10kW

- ☑ Member receives Application for Interconnecting an Inverter-Based Small Generating Facility No Larger than 10kW ("Application") along with Terms and Conditions for Interconnecting an Inverter-Based Small Generating Facility No Larger than 10kW
- ☑ Member works with vendor to choose a system and complete application
- ☑ Member returns completed Application, one-line diagram, and \$325 application and processing fee to FreeState Electric Cooperative (FEC)
- ☑ FreeState issues a Work Order WO# _____
- ☑ FreeState approves or denies Application within 30 days
- ☑ FreeState returns a signed copy of Application to Member along with a Small Generating Facility Certificate of Completion
- ☑ FreeState completes upgrade of service (if required) and invoices Member for upgrade cost
- ☑ Member/Electrician completes installation of Small Generating Facility
- ☑ Small Generating Facility is inspected by electrical inspector as required by local code or by a Professional Engineer or electrician licensed in the state of Kansas (See Terms and Conditions for details)
- ☑ Member returns completed Small Generating Facility Certificate of Completion to FreeState
- ☑ FreeState representative inspects Small Generating Facility
- ☑ FreeState installs proper electric meter
- ☑ FreeState approves parallel operation of Small Generating Facility and returns signed Small Generating Facility Certificate of Completion to Member

Protect Your Investment

BY MATTHEW LAMBERT, ENERGY USE COORDINATOR



Matt Lambert

FreeState Electric Cooperative has received applications for new wind and solar Co-Generation Projects. Co-generation projects include any project

generating electricity along with the grid, usually solar or wind. It is also known as net metering.

Some of these projects have been built by installers before the approval process needed through FreeState Electric has been completed. Failure to get approval before building could become a significant safety and monetary hazard if your application does not meet our guidelines.

Most home renewable projects

Failure to get approval before building could become a significant safety and monetary hazard if your application does not meet our guidelines

rely on a connection to the electric grid to both operate and provide the necessary return on investment. Grid connection is necessary to obtain power when your co-generation is not producing and to push any excess generation back onto the grid.

The bottom line is FreeState must approve all applications for grid interconnection.

FreeState encourages all members to check with the co-op to make sure protocol is followed when installing home renewable projects such as wind turbines or solar panels. Application approval for your Co-Generation Project will help protect you, your investment in renewable energies, and our employees.

Please refer to member checklist to the left for step-by-step instructions in completing your Co-Generation Project application and installation.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact matthew.lambert@freestate.coop or call 800-794-1989.

Have Questions about Solar Energy? Ask Your Co-op!

Did you know FreeState Electric has an educational solar panel system at each office location?

We invite our members to schedule a tour with our Energy Use Coordinator Matt Lambert to learn more about solar energy, FreeState Electric's generation portfolio and home renewable projects. To schedule a tour, please email matthew.lambert@freestate.coop or call 800-794-1989.

FreeState Electric built solar panels at both co-op locations to help educate members on how they work.



Give Safety a Shot this Hunting Season

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season. FreeState Electric urges hunters to take precautions when preparing for hunting and be aware of potential electrical hazards while hunting. A few moments devoted to safety can help prevent an accident with utility equipment.

Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency. Always carry emergency supplies—cell phone, whistle and flashlight, for example—in the event

of an accident.

Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.

Obeys all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location of a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.

When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you do not make contact with any overhead electrical equipment. Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and healthy. When setting up a stand, keep at least three points of contact while you climb.

Never shoot nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system and can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby.

Keeping the Cooperative Commitment to Education

FreeState Electric member **REED SAGE**, of Maple Hill, received the CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Sage is an active member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity having served in several leadership roles. He is also a member of the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Club and completed an internship with American AgCredit. Sage plans to graduate in May 2019 and would like a career in the ag credit industry.

"The CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships are one way CoBank contributes to the education of future agricultural leaders with an interest in a career in finance or banking at Kansas State University," states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center.

CoBank Outstanding Student Scholarships were also awarded to the following Kansas electric cooperative members: Aubrey Davis, Wheatland Electric Cooperative member, a senior in agricultural economics; Hannah Eilert, Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative member, a senior in agribusiness; and Kristin Stiebe, Midwest Energy member, a senior in agribusiness.



(Left to right) Reed Sage; Hannah Eilert; Tobias Carson, CoBank Senior Relationship Manager; Kristin Stiebe; and Aubrey Davis at the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet.

This scholarship has awarded over \$74,000 since 2006. To be eligible for a scholarship, students must be a sophomore, junior or senior in high academic standing in K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics at the time the scholarship is received.

CoBank, Arthur Capper Cooperative Center Demonstrate Co-op Principles

CoBank is a national non-profit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services, including FreeState Electric. In the past, FreeState Electric has participated in CoBank's Sharing Success program. Through this program, CoBank matches contributions by the cooperative dollar-for-dollar, from the minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000 to support local charitable groups.

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center provides research-based information, education and assistance to people with and interested in cooperative businesses.

As a cooperative, and similar to the efforts of FreeState Electric, the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and CoBank prioritize education, training and information, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, to help aid in the development of young leaders in the community.



FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
800-794-1989
www.freestate.coop

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East & West District Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase Energy Star®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/productfinder for a full list of efficient products.

FROM THE CEO Driven By Member Engagement



Steve Foss

As our first official year as FreeState wraps up, I want to give you a sneak peek at what we are working on to solidify the future of your rural electric

cooperative, and how you—our member-owners—will continue to drive us.

As the business world and the electric industry continue to evolve, we understand the need to shift our strategy to include more direct member contact and engagement. We know you want more control over your energy and account options. As a distributive cooperative, we believe we can provide you with significant advantages, localized solutions and innovative member-focused programs.

Why? Because moving forward, FreeState is committed to a strategy that keeps our co-op member-centric. Our members have always been our priority but we are taking a step further as we move forward as FreeState. Our strategy not only provides transparency and accountability but a focus on delivering information and communication with members. You don't just pay your

bill, you are an active participant in keeping the cooperative informed on what you value.

Our number one goal at FreeState is to provide you affordable, safe, and reliable service. All the strategy we develop stems from that very purpose, but it takes more than the cooperative to make that happen. It takes each of you, as well.

We plan to reach out in 2018 to find out what it is you need and value. FreeState is your cooperative. You drive the direction we move by the folks you elect to our board of directors. We are here to help save you money and provide you with electricity that is vital to our way of life. We want to be your trusted energy partner.

We helped turn your lights on more than 70 years ago, and even today we continue to not only power your homes and communities, but empower members to improve their quality of life. As we continue to move forward, we know it takes more than electricity, and we are committed to providing you with the best service, products and options.

As always, if you have any questions, we encourage you to contact us at 800-794-1989 or customerservice@freestate.coop.

ATTENTION High School Students

FreeState Electric will select four students to take an all-expense paid trip in the summer of 2018.

Two winners will be chosen to join over 1,800 delegates to represent FreeState in Washington D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, from June 7 to 14, 2018, and two winners will be chosen to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 13 to 19, 2018.

For more information or to apply, visit freestate.coop or call 800-794-1989. Applications are due Feb. 14, 2018.

Upcoming Holiday Office Closings

Our offices will be closed **Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26, 2017**, for Christmas and **Monday, Jan. 1, 2018**, for New Year's Day.

FreeState wishes all our members a joyful and safe holiday season.



FREE Calendar



Support your co-op's hard-working line crew all year round with a 2018 FreeState Electric Cooperative calendar. Pick up your FREE copy at your local co-op office.

Local Businesses Attend Energy Fair

FreeState Electric held its first Community Energy Fair on Oct. 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. in Topeka. Eleven local businesses from across our service territory participated to provide FreeState members with home efficiency and energy conservation tips.

"This event is just one way we hope to help our members," said Steve Foss, chief executive officer. "Events like these not only provide valuable information to our members, but serve the community by showcasing local vendors who have products or services that can be of value to our members."

At the event, FreeState also collected an additional 410 pounds of soap donations for the last week of the Cooperative Soap Drive. All donations will be divided



Members meet with Cromwell Solar representative to learn more about solar energy.

and given to area food pantries to help those in need throughout our communities.

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations who participated: Comfort Plus, Cromwell Solar, Ed Bozarth Chevrolet, Good Energy Solutions, Green Factor Insulation, Ground Source, Inc., Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Spray Foam Insulation, Heinen Plumbing, Heating and Electric Services, Inc., and FreeState Electric.

5 Seasonal Safety Tips Space Heater Safety

Space heaters are commonly used to stay warm during the winter as they are quick to heat a room and localize it. However, with the convenience comes danger when not used properly.

"More than 32 percent of home heating fires are caused by space heaters," said Matt Lambert, FreeState Electric's energy use coordinator. "Even worse, 80 percent of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters."

To avoid potential hazards when using space heaters take the following precautions:

1 Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition before using your space heater.

2 Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a **level, hard, non-flammable floor surface**—NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops.

3 Keep space heaters at least three feet from combustible liquids and flammable items like fuel, spray cans, paint, draperies, blankets and sofas.

4 Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.

5 Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off and unplug your space heater before leaving the room or going to bed.

Try Our Member-Friendly Automated Menu

Last February, FreeState Electric installed a new phone system to improve reliability, flexibility, emergency preparedness and offer enhanced features that allow us to better serve you, our members. The new phone system allows us to offer our members a full menu of options to make anything from reporting an outage to updating your account information quick and easy!



To access FreeState's full menu of options call 800-794-1989. When calling, you will hear four prompts. Use the guide below to navigate FreeState's member-friendly automated menu options and find the prompt best suited for your needs.

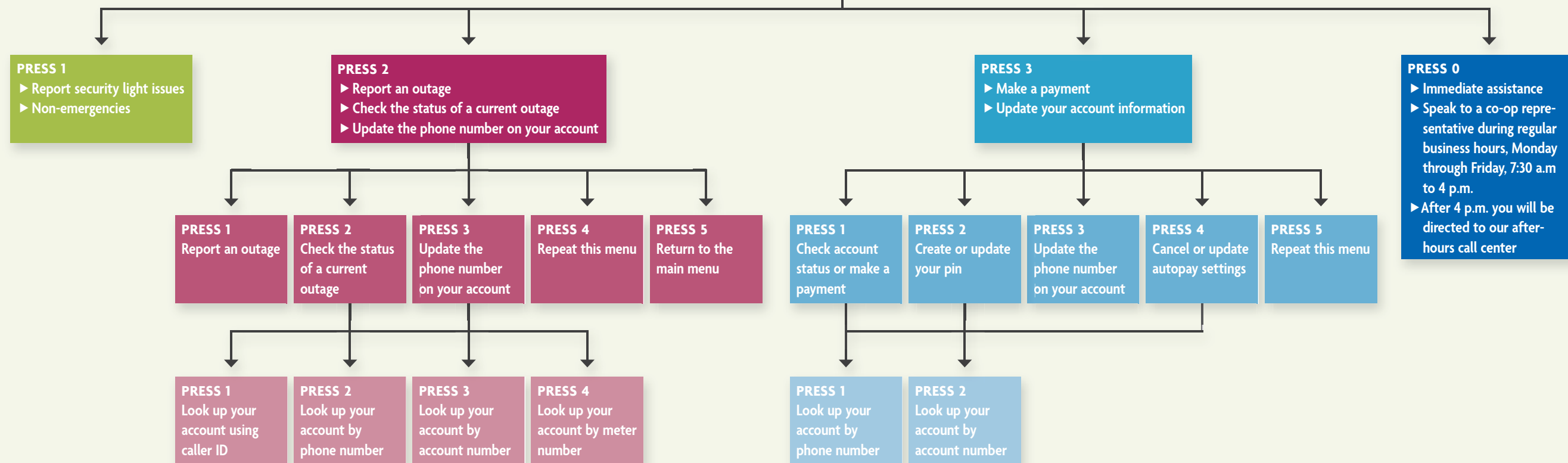
Please listen carefully to the prompts so we can direct your call to the appropriate extension. You can also call FreeState's direct payment line at 877-853-6120 to pay an account.

The new phone system has offered flexibility for our staff who often work in the field and to set up critical business operations outside of the office in the event of an emergency; increased reliability by ensuring members no longer receive a busy signal; and enhanced the features available to our members.

For more information about the services FreeState Electric offers, please visit our website at www.freestate.coop.

User Guide to Automated Phone Menu Options

CALL FREESTATE ELECTRIC AT 800-794-1989



Happy Holidays

from our co-op family to yours

Joe Ackley	Traci DePriest	Brad Heideman	John Malone	Chelsea Renyer	Randy Wager
Dan Adox	Brent Edgcomb	Adam Hernandez	Danny Mehrhoff	Randy Richards	Grant Walker
Britton Anderson	Melanie Eichman	Paul Herring	Michelle Meyer	Bobby Riedel	Jeff Werner
Darren Anderson	Sarah Farlee	Wesley Hotthaus	Tom Mitchell	Kelsey Schmidt	Lindsey West
Bryce Best	Ron Forshee	Jim Holwick	Jordann Moody	Noah Schreck	Mitch West
Tanner Bristol	Steve Foss	Kim Howbert	Frank Ortega	Justin Seele	Kasey Whitaker
Derrick Brown	Mathew Frye	Jerry Ireland, Jr.	Ken Ottensmeier	Bryce Shaver	Gary Willits
Sarah Broxterman	David Gechter	Mike Jones	Desiree LaForge	Scott Sheperd	Scott Wright
Jessica Bryan	Loren Goss	Michael Kay	Chris Parr	Tim Smoots	Eric Wylie
Corey Calvert	Kyle Hallgren	Greg Kramer	Zane Peak	Paula Spreer	
Jeremy Cameron	Scott Halverson	Matt Lambert	Jacob Pineau	Zach Sterling	
Dustin Crotinger	John Hamm	Dean Lasher	Jennifer Ping	Whitney Turek	
Rod Crowder	Curtis Havenstein	Nolan Lewis	Mark Raines	Brooks Vaughn	