

# THE OUTLET

The Official Member Newsletter of CORE Electric Cooperative

June 2024

## Make safety a priority

At CORE, we prioritize safety above all else for our members, employees and communities, especially during National Safety Month. As a valued CORE member, you can learn how to ensure your own safety this month and beyond.

### Check your surroundings

- Always call 811 for utility locates if you plan to dig. Not calling runs the risk of hitting a buried line while digging. Hitting any utility line will not only disrupt your service, but could cause serious injury or death and require costly repairs.
- Look up. If you plan on working with equipment or tall tools (ladders, excavators, etc.), ensure you are clear of any overhead powerlines.

### Be aware

CORE infrastructure includes transformers, meters, meter pedestals, meter poles, exposed wire and powerlines.

- If you see a downed powerline, do not approach it. Move away and stay at least 50 feet from the line and anything touching the line. Always assume that powerlines are energized and can pose a serious danger to people, animals and property. Downed powerlines should be reported to CORE immediately by calling (800) 322-9540. Do not drive over downed powerlines.
- Follow the space stipulations posted on and around high-voltage electrical equipment. Accessibility is important. With a clear and open work environment, workers have the space to safely inspect equipment and gain access in case of an emergency or power outage.

### Be proactive

Many CORE members live in areas with high wildfire risk. The best way to stay safe and increase the survivability of your home is to mitigate the risks.



- Create a defensible space surrounding your home by removing debris, dead vegetation and flammable items.
- Report excessive vegetation or vegetation that comes in contact with lines or transformers, or appears singed, browned or scorched by lines and equipment. CORE will take care of it, free of charge to our members.

### Be prepared

Have a plan in place in case of power outages.

- Prepare an emergency kit with flashlights, spare batteries, first aid kit and emergency contact numbers. If you have a medical device that requires power 24/7, have a generator ready or a safe place to go.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed as much as possible to retain the cold. Move food from the refrigerator to your freezer.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to use the manual release in case you need to get your vehicle out.

If you encounter a downed powerline or other equipment, call CORE at (800) 322-9540. For additional tips on how you can keep your home safe, visit [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > News and Resources > Electrical Safety.

## Considering rooftop solar?

By the end of 2023, nearly 9,000 CORE members had rooftop solar systems interconnected to our grid, accounting for more than 52 megawatts of potential power. CORE welcomes additional generation interconnections and wants members considering rooftop solar to be aware of the following:

### Does CORE require a contract with specific rooftop solar vendors?

CORE does not require a contract with any rooftop solar vendor for solar panel installation within our service area, nor do we require any members to obtain rooftop solar generation. We accept all interconnection applications that meet the criteria listed in our Small Generation Interconnection Procedure (SGIP) or Qualifying Facility Large Generation Interconnection Procedure (LGIP).

### Are there any rooftop solar companies CORE is affiliated with?

We do not have agreements of any type with any solar providers granting either exclusive or non-exclusive business within our service area, nor have we authorized any solar contractors to speak on our behalf.

### Who do I contact at CORE if I have any questions?

Contact our Engineering Services department at (800) 332-9540. We will provide any interested member an information packet that includes an explanation of Net Metering versus Qualified Facility billings, as well as links to our Small Generation Interconnection Procedure. This packet provides answers to most questions regarding generation interconnections and is essential reading for any CORE member considering rooftop solar.

For more information about rooftop solar, visit [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > **My Cooperative > Renewables/Solar > Understanding Solar.**

## Simple tips to keep your house energy-efficient

With the summer heat upon us, here are some tips to stay cool and save on your next bill:

- Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows during the day.
- Keep your thermostat at a higher temperature setting when not at home.
- Unplug electronics. Even when turned off, many electronics continue to draw power. Unplug devices or use power strips with an on/off switch to easily disconnect multiple devices at once.
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your thermostat. The thermostat can sense heat and run the air conditioner longer than necessary.
- Change the filter on your heating and cooling equipment.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs. LED bulbs consume less energy and last longer.

Learn more at [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > **News and Resources > Energy Efficiency.**

## New small QF tariff

CORE's Board of Directors has approved a new Small Qualifying Facilities tariff that streamlines administration for small member-owned generators too large for net metering. The full tariff is available at [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > **My Cooperative > Rates and Regulations.**

## Pole maintenance scheduled

As part of our pole maintenance program, CORE is in the process of testing our electric utility poles. Our contractor, Osmose Utilities Services, will perform this work between **June 4, 2024 and August 1, 2024**, with work beginning in the Sedalia district.

More updates can be found [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > **News and Resources > CORE News.**

## 2023 Annual Report

2023 was a pivotal year for CORE. Take a look back in our 2023 Annual Report, which covers the many exciting developments, at [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > **My Cooperative > 2023 Annual Report.**

## New Lobby Hours

The lobby hours at all CORE offices are now **8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.**