

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 83 Years

February 2023

Drawing Winner

CARLIS LINDSEY is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Carlis, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by February 28, 2023 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Do You Qualify for LIEAP?

Do you qualify for help with your electric bill? The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded utility assistance program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. The application period began January 3, 2023 and ends March 30, 2023.

Persons Eligible

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.

2. Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.

The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 1-800-432-0043 or by applying online at: <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/eas/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx>

Checklist of Questions When Considering EV Ownership

Whether you're looking to buy a new or a used electric vehicle, here are some questions you will want to know when making that decision.

WHAT IS THE VEHICLE'S OPERATING RANGE?

Since current electric vehicles are now able to run for more than 200 miles on a charge, range anxiety is less of a factor than it was a few years ago. Make sure the range will be sufficient for your daily commute and weekend activities. It is better to overestimate your needs because the EV's mileage will vary with temperature and speed.

More energy will be required at highway speeds than around town. An EV's range drops significantly in cold weather when running the heater. Battery range decreases in the summer as well with the air conditioning running.

WHAT ARE THE WAYS TO CHARGE A VEHICLE AT HOME?

The vehicle can be plugged into a standard 120-volt wall outlet for Level 1 charging, but it can take anywhere from eight to nearly 24 hours for a full charge for this most basic charging level. This level takes the longest amount of time to charge, for instance, it can add about four miles of range per hour of charging. All vehicles typically come with an adapter to plug into a standard outlet.

Level 2 is another charging option that is about three to five times faster than Level 1, but installation of an external device is necessary. It requires a 240-volt outlet to accommodate Level 2 charging but can charge a drained EV battery in as few as four hours, depending on the model.

If you decide to purchase a used electric vehicle, make sure that the seller includes the charging cord. Charging devices can be pretty expensive items, with costs between \$300 and \$600 typically.

If buying the electric car from a private party, it may be worth asking if the seller would sell their Level 2 charger. Level 2 chargers cost about \$500-600 new, and they are fairly easy to install as long as you have a 240-volt power outlet.

IS YOUR HOME READY FOR AN EV CHARGER?

A charging outlet will need to be located near the EV parking spot at your home. The most ideal location for a charger is in a garage so the exposure to the elements is limited and unwanted access is prevented.

High-amperage charging systems may require significant electrical upgrades to your home, as well as the transformer that supplies power to your home, so it is important to contact an electrician and Ark Valley before purchasing an EV charging unit.

EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day an EV is charged can have an impact on the grid and your monthly costs. By contacting Ark Valley about your EV charging needs, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption and help you avoid charging during peak periods when energy costs are the highest.

WHERE ARE PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS LOCATED?

Even when buying one of the longer-range EV models on the market, there will be times when it will need charged away from home. To locate a public charging station to use, there are multiple websites and apps that feature interactive maps that show station locations and provide details about what type of charging they support.

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Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of December on December 20, 2022.

General Manager, Jackie Holmberg, made a presentation to the Board concerning the accrued property taxes assessed by county for 2022 and compared them to the 2021 and 2020 assessments. On average, the system-wide property taxes decreased four and sixty-six hundredths of a percent (-4.66%) from \$623,721.26 to \$594,660.14. The largest percentage decrease was Barton County at eleven and fifty-six hundredths of a percent (-11.56%). The largest percentage increase in property tax assessment was Ellsworth County at zero and thirty-three hundredths of a percent (0.33%).

The Board reviewed in depth a proposed 2023 Annual Budget, including a line-by-line analysis of estimated expenses, revenue assumptions, the payroll and benefits adjustment, and proposed capital expenditures. Trustees asked numerous questions concerning the estimates of monthly revenue, expenses, and carry over items from unfinished 2022 capital expenditures. The approved 2023 Annual Budget anticipates the Cooperative's projected operating revenue to be approximately \$13,741,000 for 2023, while the anticipated total cost for electrical service is projected to be approximately \$12,802,214. This leaves an expected total 2023 margin of approximately \$1,203,786, which will be returned to the members in the form of capital credit retirements.

The Annual Budget is a planning document used to project Ark Valley's monthly revenues and expenses. The Board and management regularly examine costs throughout the year to determine if the Cooperative is running efficiently. If unforeseen cost overruns would occur in one area of the Cooperative's budget, or if revenues would decline unexpectedly, spending could be adjusted accordingly so the Cooperative could remain on stable financial footing.

Checklist of Questions When Considering EV Ownership

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Level 2 public charging stations are typically installed at retail parking lots, public parking garages and other community locations you would typically be stopped at for longer periods of time. If you want the fastest charging level, Level 3 chargers, also known as DC Fast Charge, are usually located at high-traffic public area, such as gas stations. They have the capability of charging a battery up to 80 percent of its capacity in around 30-60 minutes.

DO ALL ELECTRIC CARS CHARGE AT THE SAME RATE?

Electric cars don't necessarily charge at the same rate, and bigger battery packs usually mean more time to charge. For instance, earlier Nissan Leaf electric cars offered a 6.6-kW onboard charger as an extra-cost option on the base S trim level. Without this charger, Level 2 top-off can take twice as long. Newer electric vehicles and their batteries will top off their charge much quicker.

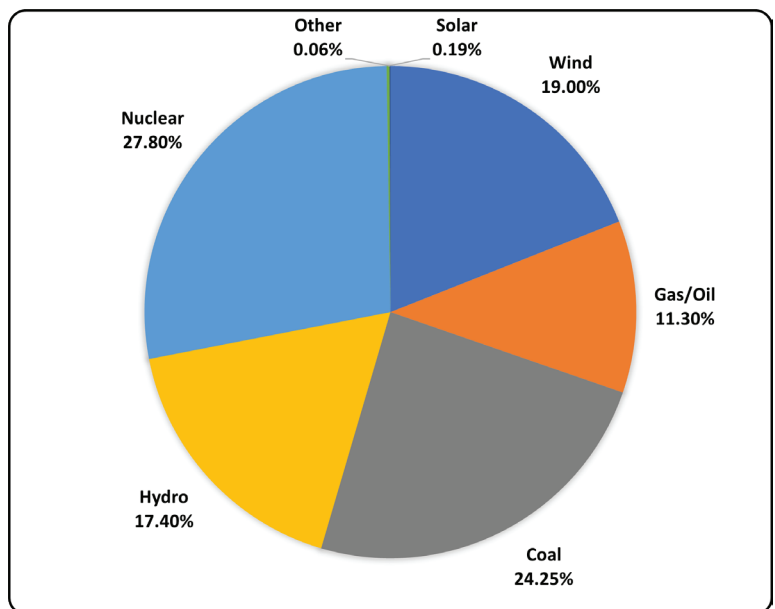
If you plan to top off your electric car at work, or if you plan on regular, brief visits to public charging stations, consider an electric vehicle that charges quickly. If you plan to charge overnight at home or all day at work, this may not be a significant factor, and it may mean you can save money with a cheaper used electric car.

HOW LONG WILL AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY LAST?

How long a battery can last depends on several factors, so there isn't a straightforward answer. Data shows that the more energy used from the battery between charges shortens the battery's life, so regular short charging sessions are encouraged rather than depleting the battery.

These are a few other common conditions that may possibly contribute to shorter battery life: high temperatures, overcharging, frequent quick accelerations, frequent driving with battery less than half charged.

2022 Power Supply Resources



Non-Greenhouse-Gas-Emitting Resources: 64.4%

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.