

KPP LIGHTNING ROUND

Nov / Dec 2025

KPP Launches Scholarship Program

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

KPP Energy is proud to announce the launch of a scholarship program designed to invest in the future workforce of Kansas public power communities. This initiative reflects KPP's long-standing commitment to being a trusted leader, a true partner to member cities, and a champion for costeffective electricity—all while helping our communities thrive. By supporting local students, KPP demonstrates its belief that the strength of public power



extends far beyond infrastructure: it lives in the people who will shape and lead our industry in the decades ahead. The scholarship program also builds new connections among KPP staff, school counselors, city leadership, and civic organizations, underscoring that we are all working together toward shared goals.

Program Overview

Beginning this academic year, KPP Energy will award up to six one-time scholarships—three for undergraduate study and three for students entering a line worker program. Eligible individuals must be high-school seniors who live in households receiving electric service from a KPP member city and who plan to pursue full-time enrollment in the upcoming fall semester.

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KPP Launches Scholarship Program

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Undergraduate scholarship applicants must intend to study in fields aligned with the electric industry such as engineering, energy management, electrical technology, mathematics, science, accounting, communications, or economics. Line worker applicants must plan to enroll in an approved technical college offering a powerline or electrical line worker program.

Selection Process

KPP will begin working with high-school guidance counselors each January to distribute application materials. Applications will be accepted through April 15. After an initial eligibility review, qualified applicants will be evaluated on a 100-point rubric that includes academic readiness, alignment of field of study with industry needs, financial need, and community engagement.

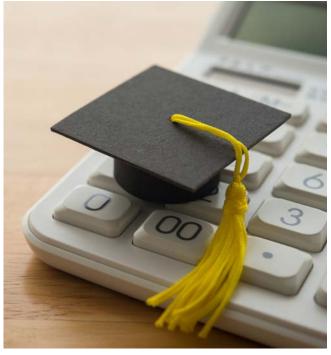
Finalists will be presented to the KPP Board for approval, with an emphasis on maintaining equitable representation across member communities. Award recipients will receive recognition at their school's award assembly whenever possible, followed by scholarship payment directly to the student's institution upon verification of full-time enrollment.

Spreading the Word

KPP Energy will begin outreach to school counselors as early as January to ensure students and families are aware of this opportunity. A full scholarship packet—including program guidelines and the application—will also be shared with member utilities and posted on the KPP Energy website.

Our hope is that the scholarship program has long-term implications for public power communities by helping to retain young talent, support local economic development and contributing to the vitality of our member cities. It is an investment in the future of public power and the communities that make KPP strong. We look forward to celebrating our first class of scholarship recipients and to continuing this important work for years to come.















FROM OUR KPP ENERGY FAMILY TO YOURS— HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As the year comes to a close, we extend our sincere thanks to our members. We hope your season is filled with celebration, connection, and cheer.

PACE Solar Project Ramping Up

JAMES GING, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



The KPP PACE solar projects are ramping up as key engineering and procurement milestones are being achieved. It has been a slow process to date as holdups on site evaluation hit some snags and experienced weather delays. That is behind us now allowing for engineering to progress.

As of December 19, 2025, all seven PACE Solar sites have reached 30% civil design completion, with Issued for Permit (IFP) and Issued for Construction (IFC) packages expected between December 22 and December 29. This will allow the Priority Power staff to get appropriate local permitting as well as issue RFP to contractors. The goal is to begin civil work in January. Electrical engineering is also wrapping up, with IFP and drawing packages received for all sites and IFC completion anticipated by December 22.

On the procurement front, major equipment orders, including 480V 125kV string inverters with disconnects, have been placed, and delivery is scheduled for May 26, 2026. On December 9, Siemens submitted engineering documentation which is currently being reviewed by Castillio Engineering. Orders have been confirmed for Wellington, Hillsboro, Greensburg, and Ellinwood.

Additionally, Data Acquisition Systems (DAS) hardware from Also Energy have been quoted with an estimated lead time of eight weeks. Pile and racking procurement is moving forward after resolving design discrepancies, with quotes expected on December 19 and December 22. Lead times are projected at 14 weeks for piles and 16-18 weeks for trackers.

Construction schedules have been adjusted to accommodate the current lead times on Pile and Tracker equipment. The Final Module delivery has also been adjusted to accommodate the construction schedule. All Pace Solar sites are targeting mechanical completion by June 2026, substantial completion by July 2026, and final completion by August 2026.

Interconnection activities are progressing, with SGS Engineering completing site surveys between December 15 and December 19. The interconnections and medium-voltage overhead engineering will be finalized by January 16, 2026. Transformers for Hillsboro, Greensburg, Marion, and Ellinwood are ready for delivery, while Winfield and Clay Center are expected to be ready by year end.







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Honoring the Dedicated Leadership of Gus Collins and Scott Glaves

LONGTIME KPP BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At the recent KPP Annual Membership Committee meeting, members took time to recognize two leaders whose service and commitment have helped shape the organization over the past decade: Gus Collins and Scott Glaves. Both were honored for their exceptional contributions to KPP through their service on the KPP Board of Directors and their leadership of KPP Energy.

Gus Collins, Director of Utilities for the City of Winfield, and Scott Glaves, Superintendent of Utilities for Clay Center Public Utilities, each served two four-year terms on the KPP Board of Directors, providing steady guidance during periods of growth, change, and opportunity. Over eight years of board service, both brought thoughtful leadership, institutional knowledge, and a strong commitment to KPP's mission of delivering value, reliability, and innovation to its members. Their willingness to dedicate time and expertise ensured that member needs remained at the forefront of board discussions and strategic decision-making.

In addition to their board service, both leaders also served as President of KPP Energy for two years. In this role, Gus and Scott played a critical part in advancing KPP Energy's operations, strengthening relationships, and supporting sound energy strategies on behalf of member communities. Their leadership helped reinforce KPP Energy's focus on reliability, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

KPP extends its sincere appreciation to Gus and Scott for their leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to the KPP membership.











Membership Adopts 2026 Rates

RATES APPROVED AT THE KPP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 12

KPP Energy base rates have been established for calendar year 2026 following their approval by the KPP Membership Committee on December 12th. As members are aware, the two main goals of the agency as laid out in the KPP mission statement are to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

The process for setting the KPP budget and rates begins in earnest during the summer months. Following the introduction of the rates at the November Rate Forum – held this year on November 7th – staff refines and updates calculations for the rates following consideration and feedback provided by the KPP Board of Directors. As a matter of procedure, the KPP Board of Directors approves the annual budget each year. Meanwhile, it is the KPP Membership Committee that actually approves the rates.

KPP rates are calculated by looking at expenses in four main categories:

- Capacity
- Transmission
- Energy
- Administration & General

For 2026, total operating revenue is estimated to be just shy of \$55 million. The vast majority of revenue is needed to cover the cost of energy, capacity and transmission – over 93% of the KPP budget. Energy, capacity and transmission each make up about a third of these operating costs (see Figure 1 at right).

The largest expected increase in cost for 2026 is capacity. KPP's capacity costs are anticipated to increase by \$1 million next year and that trend, unfortunately, is expected to continue due to industry and market conditions largely

outside of KPP control. In addition, transmission costs continue to rise as well as more and more investment is made in upgrading the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) transmission grid.

Expected energy costs are lower in 2026. In addition, administrative and general costs – the one area where KPP has greater control – remain flat for next year. However, KPP also anticipates selling less energy in the next calendar year.

The KPP Membership Committee approved a 2026 overall average energy cost of \$71.83 per megawatthour (MWh) for 2026, a slight increase over costs in 2025. KPP staff and Board remain laser-focused on affordability and reliability.

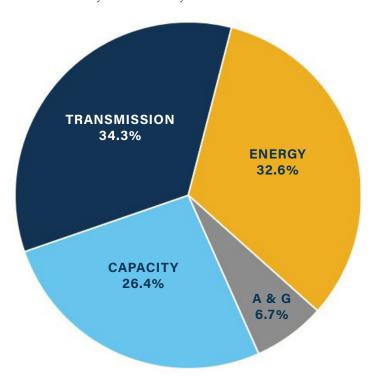


Figure 1: KPP 2026 Rates by Category





Space, the Final Frontier?

ERIC ALEXANDER, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER



Science fiction movies have always been one of my favorite genres. I still have vivid memories being at the movie theater watching Luke Skywalker firing that suspenseful shot that destroyed the Death Star (even though, by his own admission, it shouldn't have been that

hard... just like shooting womp rats out of his T-16 back home). Then, with all the tech experts concerned about computers developing a mind of their own (Skynet), who could forget 2001, A Space Odyssey when the mission's AI computer HAL 9000 disobeyed orders by refusing to open the pod bay door. "I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that".

Space was once just a playground for imaginary tales and science fiction. But last month a milestone was reached when an Nvidia-backed startup named Starcloud launched a satellite carrying an array of Nvidia graphic processing units running NanoGPT, marking the first AI model to be trained in space. The model was learning how to speak Shakespearean English - the initial conversation is pictured below. However,

Above: Ezra Feilden, StarCloud Chief Technology Officer, X capture

Starcloud's achievement is neither a publicity stunt nor an attempt to get their name in the Guinness Book of Records. Technology companies are looking up and predicting that the endless supply of solar power and temperatures slightly above absolute zero will solve the major issues of building data centers on earth.

Starting with Google, their CEO Sundar Pichai recently interviewed on Fox Business Sunday discussing Google's new moonshot idea, project Suncatcher. When describing Google's vision of putting data centers closer to the sun, Sundar said "We can better harness the energy from the sun that's hundreds of trillion times the energy than we produce today," As far as a timeline, Google plans to put small racks in orbit starting in 2027 to test the strategy and scale up from there. Sundar predicts a decade from now, data centers in space will be the normal way to build these power and water hungry facilities.

Another person who has shown interest is Elon Musk. In a tweet on X (I'll always call it Twitter), Musk stated that SpaceX's heavy-lift launch vehicle named Starship should be able to deliver 300 – 500 gigawatts of solar-powered AI Satellites to orbit a year! To gauge that magnitude, compare that to the total U.S. utility-scale electricity generation capacity in 2024 of just over 1,200 gigawatts.¹

Lastly, I'd be remiss not mentioning that Jeff Bezos' company Blue Origin has been working for over a year on plans to put data centers in space. Bezos feels that gigawatt scale data centers will be built in space within the next decade or two. However, before anyone can move forward with this kind of scale, there are still just a few small technical challenges to

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Space, the Final Frontier?

overcome. To name a few, there are radiation impacts on equipment, deployment and maintenance costs, thermal management, data transfer rates and satellite positioning. While some of these are highly complex problems, technology companies arguably have some of the smartest people on earth working for them and deep pockets to derive solutions.

So, what does this mean for the trillions of dollars of infrastructure supporting data centers here on earth? If space load is meant to reduce our carbon footprint on earth, will this space load replace our terrestrial load or be additive? Will terrestrial data centers be a redundant backup in case space data centers get knocked offline by, let's say, huge spaceships like in Independence Day? Will Elon have a fleet of solar powered humanoid influencers just dancing around space making TikTok posts, waiting to perform maintenance work on these facilities?



What seemed like a fantasy not too long ago is quickly becoming a reality. Who knows, maybe in the not-too-distant future the next thing we'll be reading about is human transport pods reducing the need for automobiles and their carbon footprint. Let's just

hope they figure out how to recognize different types of DNA during the regeneration process, so we don't end up like Jeff Goldblum in *The Fly*.

1. U.S. Energy Information Administration, (October 2025). Electric Power Annual 2024. Electric Power Annual with final 2024 data



Helping You Stay Current: Updating Your Parallel-Generation Regulations to Match New Kansas Statutes

LESLIE ATHERTON, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES



Following last year's
Kansas Legislative session,
municipal electric utilities
now operate under
an updated statutory
framework for customerowned distributed
generation. For many
communities, that means
local solar or DG regulations

are due for a thoughtful overhaul. The bright side: KPP Energy is ready to help you make the needed updates with confidence and clarity.

Recent changes to Kansas state statute require municipal utilities to provide parallel generation, ensure DG systems are right-sized for customer load, and allow a cumulative DG capacity of up to 6% of a utility's peak demand (with an annual escalator). Many long-standing local policies still reflect older thresholds like 1% or 4% caps, 25-kW blanket system limits, or net-metering structures that no longer pass legal muster. Some even treat excess generation as a "donation," which the statute now explicitly prohibits.

Parallel Generation

Parallel generation also brings its own billing requirements. Utilities must credit customers for energy they deliver back to the system at the monthly system average cost of energy, a value provided on your KPP invoices. This number changes each month, which means billing systems must update with it. If this sounds like a lot of moving parts, that's because it is. But you don't have to navigate it alone.

How KPP Can Assist You

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1. Full Policy Review and Redline Support

We'll walk through your existing net-metering or DG provisions, identify conflicts with current statute, and flag operational, financial, or legal risks. In many cases, we recommend rescinding outdated net-metering policies and replacing them with modern Interconnection Standards for Parallel Operation.

2. Model Ordinance and Resolution Templates

In most cases, we can provide ready-to-adopt language for councils or utility boards, ensuring clarity, consistency, and compliance.

3. Billing and Administrative Guidance

Need help incorporating the monthly system-average cost of energy into your billing system? Tracking cumulative DG capacity? Sizing systems according to the new statutory formula? We've got you covered.

4. Member-Focused Education for Staff and Governing Bodies

KPP staff can present to governing bodies, help you prepare public-facing FAQs, or support you in explaining why these changes matter to reliability and fairness. Why This Matters

Having and updating your DG regulations keeps your utility in compliance, but it also builds trust with customers exploring rooftop solar or other technologies. Clear, lawful, well-structured interconnection rules protect your system, ensure equitable cost recovery, and support safe parallel operation for everyone connected to your grid. If your community hasn't yet reviewed its DG policy or simply doesn't have one, now is the perfect time. Reach out to Director of Member Services, Leslie Atherton, for help bringing your policies into alignment with state statute.





November & December Board Meetings Review

COLIN HANSEN, CEO / GENERAL MANAGER



The KPP Energy Board of Directors held their regular monthly meetings on November 20th and December 12th at the KPP Energy offices in Wichita. A summary of highlights from each meeting is provided here.

November 20th Board Meeting October 2025 ECA Analysis

Chief Operating Officer James Ging walked Board members through the October 2025 ECA presentation. October costs were over budget by \$420,423.

Transmission costs were below budget \$117,255; energy costs were above budget \$177,173; and capacity costs were above budget \$360,532. In terms of sales, demand was above budget by 1%, and energy came in right on budget. This resulted in an actual ECA of \$0.00044 versus budgeted negative \$0.00671.

Generator Repair Fund Update

Mike Shook, Director of Energy Services, informed the Board that two applications for assistance from the Generator Repair Fund have been received. One is from Wellington for the repair of their boiler feed pump, and the other is from Winfield for their steam control valve rack and steam leak.

2026 KPP Budget

CEO Colin Hansen and COO James Ging provided Board members an update to the 2026 budget proposal that was presented at the November 7th Rate Forum. Updates to the 2026 budget included Dogwood's approved 2026 budget, a projected winter capacity sale of \$300,000,

revised billing determinants, and the Tenaska forecast update.

Availability Payments

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Hansen provided a brief presentation regarding staff's proposal for Availability Payments to support memberowned capacity and incentivize resource availability

KPP Scholarship Program

Director of Member Services Leslie Atherton provided information to the Board about the roll-out of KPP's scholarship program. The program will offer annually three (3) \$1,000 undergraduate scholarships and three (3) \$1,000 line worker scholarships. Recipients must be high school seniors living in a household receiving electric service from a KPP member community.

December 12th Board Meeting CEO Report

CEO Colin Hansen provided an industry update to the Board which included discussion about recent Congressional developments and two recent announcements regarding the development of nuclear energy in Kansas and the surrounding region. He also reported on an initiative to visit the KPP membership. In 2026, there were over 82 in-person site visits to member cities by the KPP staff. Each KPP city was visited a minimum of two times.

2026 KPP Budget Approval

COO James Ging provided an update to the Board on the 2026 budget proposal for their consideration and approval. Updates since the rate forum included a decrease in expenses of almost \$800,000 and a decrease in revenue by around \$700,000, as a result of the latest integrated market forecast, gas futures estimates, Dogwood's approved 2026 budget, and revised billing determinants. The Board approved the 2026 Budget as presented.





Event Calendar

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 8, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

MARCH 19, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

APRIL 16, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

APRIL 18, 2026

Lineworker Appreciation Day

APRIL 22 - 24, 2026

KMU Conference

APRIL 23, 2026

KPP Member Appreciation Event

MAY 21, 2026

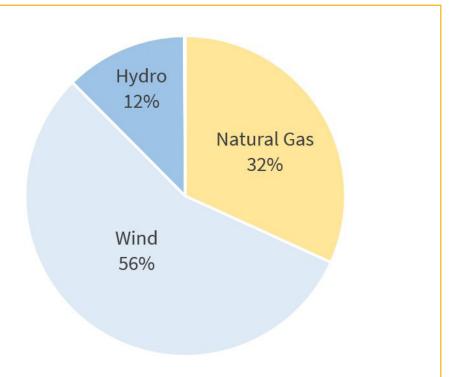
KPP Board Meeting

JUNE 18, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

KPP Resources by Fuel Source

NOVEMBER 2025



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