

Sept. / Oct. 2026

2026 KPP Energy Annual Conference

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 - WICHITA, KANSAS

There are plenty of ways to measure the success of an annual conference. You can count registrations, evaluate speakers, review survey results or tally how many tacos disappeared before trivia even started.

But perhaps the best measure is simpler: Did people learn something useful, make a connection and leave glad they came? By those measures, the 2026 KPP Energy Annual Conference was a success.

Held September 17 at KPP Energy headquarters in Wichita, this year's conference welcomed 102 daytime attendees, including 71 representatives from KPP member cities, a 27% increase in member participation over 2025.

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Above: Kansas Senate Majority Leader Chase Blasi

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Above: Hillsboro Mayor Lou Thurston

2026 KPP Energy Annual Conference

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Throughout the day, speakers brought timely information, practical insight and new perspectives to the room. Keynote speaker Dr. Jen Golbeck’s “Building Trust Between Humans and AI” was the clear standout in post-conference feedback. Ninety percent of survey respondents rated the session “excellent,” and more than half named it the most valuable session of the day.

Bryan Black, Nathan Eberline, Chris Myers and Scot Loyd also shared their expertise, while KPP Energy staff provided updates on work happening across the organization and membership.

One of this year’s new additions, the Connection Challenge, encouraged attendees to move around the room, meet someone new and learn more about their fellow KPP members. It quickly became a favorite, with several survey respondents asking us to bring it back next year and, importantly, give them more time to finish!

After the daytime program, attendees traded presentations for Tacos & Trivia and an evening together at KPP headquarters. The evening event was another highlight in the survey feedback and gave everyone a chance to relax and enjoy time together.

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Above: Leslie Stephan (Mount Hope) & Nikki DeLuna (Mount Hope)



Above: KPP Energy 2026 Board President Tim Johnson (Augusta)



Above: LKM Executive Director Nathan Eberline



Above: Kimberly Gencur Svaty & Colin Hansen



2026 KPP Energy Annual Conference

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Above: Hunter Pope & Dave Warner (Augusta)



Above: Celebrating a successful KPP Trivia Night answer



Above: Bryan Black, Deep Fission

A special thank you to the 21 attendees who completed our post-conference survey. The conference earned an average overall rating of 4.67 out of 5, with 100% of respondents rating the conference a 4 or 5. Attendees also praised the single-day format, KPP staff presentations, food and beverages, merch tent and evening event.

We appreciate the compliments, but we value the suggestions just as much. Your feedback helps us understand what worked, what we can improve and what you want to see in the future.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended, presented, participated and helped make the day a success. The agenda may give us a reason to gather, but the people in the room are what make the KPP Energy Annual Conference worth coming back to each year.



Above: Attendees listen to keynote speaker Jen Golbeck



Above: Eric Alexander & Heather Starnes



Public Power Week: Celebrating Our Members

KPP MEMBERS STAND OUT AGAIN DURING PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Public Power Week, held this year on October 4–10, provided an opportunity to recognize the people, communities, and local utilities that make public power special.

This year, KPP Energy shifted away from its traditional Public Power Week competition and instead focused on celebrating and sharing the efforts of our member communities. Throughout the week, KPP's Facebook page highlighted activities from several communities, showcasing the many creative ways our members celebrated.

From Hillsboro's football-themed video, coloring contest, and school visits to the Lucas food drive and scavenger hunt, members found meaningful ways to engage their communities. Oxford highlighted its utility employees and hosted an electricity-themed library story time, while Augusta shared educational information about electrical safety and the journey of electricity from generation to the customer's home.

Other celebrations included staff and group photos shared by Clay Center, Glasco, St. Marys, and Udall, and Winfield's combined recognition of public power and public natural gas services. These contributions helped put faces to the people who serve our member communities every day.

In addition to these activities, thirteen KPP member communities formally recognized Public Power Week by adopting proclamations: Augusta, Burlington, Clay Center, Glasco, Greensburg, Hillsboro, Kingman, Lucas, Mulvane, Oxford, Udall, Wellington, and Winfield. These proclamations demonstrated local support for community-owned utilities and acknowledged the essential services they provide.

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Above: The City of Hillsboro's football-themed Public Power Week video featured a local cheer team, including Council Member Ronald Wilkens.



Above: City of Glasco crew



Above: City of St. Marys crew



Public Power Week: Celebrating Our Members

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Across these activities, one message stood out: public power is about more than electricity. It's about local people serving their neighbors, investing in their communities, and taking pride in the work they do every day.

Thank you to every member community that adopted a proclamation, participated in activities, shared photos, or helped spread the word. KPP Energy was proud to showcase your efforts and celebrate the people who make public power possible. While Public Power Week provides a special opportunity to shine a spotlight on our members, the public power story deserves to be told year-round. We look forward to continuing to share the people, accomplishments, and stories that make our member communities special.



Above: The City of Augusta Electric Distribution and Production crews



Above: City of Oxford crew creatively spell out "OXFORD" **Right:** The City of Udall crew

FOR PUBLIC POWER WEEK
Community Powered by People

OCTOBER 5-9

Bring in food items and be entered for a chance to **WIN!**

GRAND PRIZE: Mini Projector
with Wi-Fi & Bluetooth 5.4, 1080P 4K Support Full HD, Auto Keystone 360° Portable Home Cinema Smart Projector for iOS/Android X1

ITEMS NEEDED FOR DONATION:

Canned meat	Tuna or Chicken Helper
Pasta	Soups
Rice	Cereal
Sauces	Canned fruit

Together we can make a difference!

Above: City of Lucas Food Drive for Public Power Week **Below:** The Clay Center Public Utilities crew



Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Don't Take the Bait

NICK ENSLINGER, DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a campaign led each year since 2004 jointly by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA). This year, CISA presents the theme: “Securing the Next 250” while NCA presents the theme:

“Don’t Make It Easy for Them.”

Both themes make the same point. Attackers rarely need to be clever; they need us to be predictable and comfortable. For municipal utilities, small, consistent habits protect more than city systems; they protect the power, water, and services that residents depend on every day.

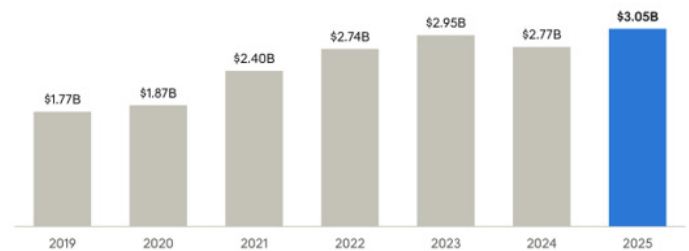
Phishing Is Still the Front Door

Phishing remains the most common way attackers get in, and phishing has become much harder to spot. AI tools now produce messages with no typos, a professional tone, and personal details pulled from public sources. Therefore, the old advice to “look for bad grammar or misspelled words” no longer works.

The energy sector is always a favored target, and public power communities are no exception. Cities move large payments, rely on trusted vendor relationships, and operate critical infrastructure, often with small IT teams using limited resources. Industry researchers rank energy among the sectors most hit by QR-code phishing, which rose about 400% between 2023 and 2025.

Reported business email compromise losses keep climbing

U.S. losses reported to the FBI, in billions of dollars: up 72% from 2019 to 2025



Source: FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) annual reports, 2019–2025

Business email compromise, the payment-redirection scam behind several examples below, is the costliest form of phishing the FBI tracks. Reported losses topped \$3 billion in 2025, and many victims never report at all.

What Phishing Looks Like Today

- **Fake invoices and payment changes.** An email that appears to come from a known vendor, contractor, or even KPP Energy asks you to update banking details or pay an invoice to a new account.
- **QR codes (“quishing”).** A message says your email password or MFA is expiring and asks you to scan a code with your phone, which moves the attack off normal protected city devices.
- **MFA bypass sign-in pages.** A convincing email login page captures your password, your MFA code, and your session, letting the attacker in because you unknowingly approved the prompt.
- **Voice and text impersonation.** A call or text, sometimes using an AI-cloned voice, claims to be the city manager, a department head, or IT and asks for an urgent favor, a gift card or a code.

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Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Don't Take the Bait

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- **Shared-document lures.** A “council packet,” “rate study,” or “utility bill” link from a familiar name leads to a sign-in page instead of a file.

It Happens to Communities Like Ours

Payment fraud

- **Pittsburg, California (2026).** After attackers compromised city email, staff sent a single ACH payment of \$913,839.81 to an account spoofing a known vendor. Police froze the account and recovered most of the funds.
- **Sebewaing Light and Water, Michigan (2024).** This public utility sent \$189,483.92 to a scammer posing as one of its suppliers.

Ransomware

- **Lansing Board of Water & Light, Michigan (2016).** An employee opened an email with an infected attachment, shutting down the utility’s email, accounting, and phone systems, including its outage-reporting line. The utility paid a \$25,000 ransom, and total response costs reached \$2.4 million.
- **Riviera Beach, Florida (2019).** An employee clicked an email link that let attackers upload malware, knocking out city email and preventing 911 dispatchers from entering calls into the computer system. The city agreed to pay a \$600,000 ransom to recover systems.

None of these started with sophisticated hacking. Each began with one email that looked routine.

Good Habits That Keep Us Safe

1. **Pause on urgency.** Pressure to act now, keep it quiet, or skip normal process is the clearest warning sign.
2. **Verify payment and banking changes by phone.** Call a number you already have on file, never one listed in the email.

3. **Never approve an MFA prompt you didn’t start.** Unexpected prompts mean someone has your password; report it right away.
4. **Be cautious with QR codes in email.** Legitimate account notices will not ask you to scan a code to keep your account.
5. **Check before you sign in.** Open email, banking, and vendor portals from your bookmarks rather than from links in a message. Spoofed domains can sometimes be hard to spot.
6. **Confirm unusual requests from leadership.** A quick call to the person costs seconds and stops most impersonation scams.
7. **Keep devices updated.** Install updates when prompted on both city devices and personal devices you use.
8. **Limit what you share publicly.** Titles, travel plans, and vendor names on social media give attackers material for convincing lures.

When in Doubt, Report It

If something feels off, report it to your IT department or IT provider, then delete it. If enabled in your organization, Outlook has a “Report” button that will notify both Microsoft and your IT department, speeding the resolution to protect others. If you already clicked a link, entered a password, or approved a prompt, contact IT immediately; speed matters far more than embarrassment.

Reporting a suspicious message is always the right call, even when it turns out to be legitimate. If a message claiming to be from an entity seems unusual, call using a known contact number to confirm before acting. Let’s not make it easy for them.



Lucas: A Community That Figures It Out

EPISODE 3 OF KPP'S MEMBER SPOTLIGHT VIDEO SERIES

"Part of living in a small town is knowing that every single person is your neighbor."

That idea runs throughout Episode 3 of KPP Energy's video series, featuring the City of Lucas. The story is one of neighbors seeing what their community needs and deciding they can build it together.

When local families wanted more things to do closer to home, a group of residents turned their attention to a dilapidated building on Main Street. With volunteers, donations and plenty of determination, they repaired the roof and façade and kept going. They never borrowed money, and within 18 months, the Lucas Community Theater was showing movies. They still remember the first one and the packed house that came to see it.

That same community spirit is visible throughout Lucas. The city has zero empty storefronts, a remarkable accomplishment for a community of 333. Art galleries and studios have brought new purpose to buildings along Main Street, while agriculture and industry remain important pieces of the community's identity.

Great Plains Manufacturing is another major part of the Lucas story. What began with a single employee has grown to more than 120, providing reliable jobs and creating infrastructure needs that have grown along with the company. The video highlights how closely connected those pieces are in a community the size of Lucas. When infrastructure is strengthened to support a major employer, the benefits extend to the rest of the community as well.

Public power and KPP are part of that story. Former City Clerk Kay Mettlen, who served the city for nearly 20 years, recalls that Lucas was in the process of joining KPP when she began working for the city. She describes KPP's role

through the years in helping the city review financials, set rates and find solutions when assistance is needed. As Great Plains has grown, that relationship has also helped Lucas meet the electric needs associated with its expansion.

Perhaps the spirit of Lucas is captured best in one line from the video: *"It's a different mentality of, we can handle it. We can do it. Let's figure it out."*

From a community theater built by volunteers to thriving storefronts, art, industry and the infrastructure that supports it all, Episode 3 offers a glimpse of what that mentality has created and why the people of Lucas are excited to see what comes next.

Watch Episode 3 of KPP Energy's video series and experience the story of Lucas at www.kpp.energy.



Above: Lucas Community Theater and Kay Mettlen, former Lucas City Clerk



Mount Hope Mayor Terry Somers Honored with E.A. Mosher Award

TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY

KPP Energy congratulates Mount Hope Mayor Terry Somers on receiving the 2026 E.A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award from the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM). This prestigious award recognizes an elected city official who has demonstrated outstanding service to their community, a commitment to strong local government, and active involvement with the League.

For 23 years, Mayor Somers has been a dedicated advocate for Mount Hope, working tirelessly to ensure his community has a voice in decisions that shape its future. His commitment extends well beyond city limits through his involvement with numerous regional and statewide organizations, including KPP Energy, Kansas Municipal Utilities, the Kansas Mayors Association, and the League of Kansas Municipalities.

As Mount Hope City Clerk Leslie Stephan shared in her nomination letter, Terry has always understood the importance of ensuring his community has “a seat at the table.” For him, leadership means more than attending meetings. It means building relationships, understanding the issues, and making sure Mount Hope’s interests are represented.

His years of service have earned him numerous honors, including being named Kansas Mayor of the Year in 2015 and receiving the Fred D. Diehl Award of Excellence in 2026. He also previously served as President of both the Kansas Mayors Association and the K-96 Corridor Development Association.

But perhaps the most meaningful reflection of Terry’s leadership comes from those who work alongside him. Leslie, who has worked with Terry for 20 years, describes a hands-on mayor who rarely misses a day of stopping



by City Hall to check in, understand the challenges staff are facing, and ask how he can help. She also credits his encouragement and mentorship with helping her grow as a public servant.

“I am a better public servant because of him,” Leslie wrote, reflecting on the trust, confidence, and opportunities Terry has given her throughout their years working together. Her nomination also highlights the less visible side of public service: the countless meetings, phone calls, conversations, and hours spent researching opportunities and advocating for a community. Much of that work happens quietly, without recognition, but its impact is lasting.

As Leslie so thoughtfully expressed, Terry’s service cannot be measured simply by his years in office. It is reflected in the relationships he has built, the people he has encouraged, and the example he continues to set.

KPP Energy is proud to recognize Mayor Somers for this well-deserved honor and grateful for his longstanding commitment to Mount Hope, municipal leadership, and public power. Congratulations, Terry!



September & October Board Meetings Review

COLIN HANSEN, CEO / GENERAL MANAGER



The KPP Energy Board of Directors met on Sept. 16 and Oct. 15, with discussions focused on power supply planning, financial reserves, generation projects, and member needs.

Power Supply Planning

At its October meeting, the

Board voted unanimously to withdraw KPP Energy from the Dogwood II expansion project following the withdrawal of other participants. KPP will preserve its right to rejoin to the extent allowed by project agreements. Any decision to rejoin would require further Board approval. The Board also discussed the Walnut Energy Center project, reviewed advantages and disadvantages, and identified additional information needed for further consideration.

Financial Reserves Study

The Board accepted the results of PFM's 2026 Financial Reserves Policy Study in October. PFM representatives Chris Lover and Anna Eversmeyer presented their findings and answered questions about the calculations and how the results could inform KPP's financial reserves policy.

Support for Lucas Distribution Improvements

The Board reviewed a financial assistance request for distribution system improvements in Lucas, where a customer expansion is expected to nearly double the community's electric load. The estimated \$2.5 million project includes transformer and distribution feeder upgrades. Lucas has already purchased approximately \$100,000 in transformers and station switchgear. Board members expressed support for the project and

assistance request. If approved, Lucas would repay the assistance through a Facilities Charge under an updated Power Purchase Agreement.

Generation Project Updates

The Board received updates at both meetings on the PACE solar project and Caterpillar C175 generation project. In September, staff reported that PACE procurement and engineering were complete and that air permits for the Caterpillar sites were targeted for issuance in late November. The Board also approved a Minneapolis Generator Repair Fund request and a Wellington Power Purchase Agreement in September.

Energy Costs and Financial Reports

Energy Cost Adjustments were more negative than budgeted for both reporting months. The August ECA was negative \$0.0202 per kWh compared with a budgeted negative \$0.00984, while September's ECA was negative \$0.00873 compared with a budgeted negative \$0.00199. The Board accepted preliminary financial reports for July and August, with total assets reported at \$175.3 million and \$175.6 million, respectively.

Industry and Member Updates

The Board received updates on Southwest Power Pool planning, energy markets, federal policy, and reliability issues. October discussions included SPP's 2026 Integrated Transmission Plan and its projected impacts, along with a Kansas Municipal Utilities update on legislation involving service territory, data centers, and siting authority.

Member Services shared October reports on KPP's Annual Conference and Public Power Week. The Board also recognized Mount Hope Mayor Terry Somers for being awarded the League of Kansas Municipalities' E.A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award.



Event Calendar

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 6, 2026

KPP Rate Forum

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

KPP Board Meeting

DECEMBER 11, 2026

KPP Annual Membership Meeting

JANUARY 21, 2027

KPP Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 25, 2027

KPP Board Meeting

MARCH 18, 2027

KPP Board Meeting

APRIL 15, 2027

KPP Board Meeting

APRIL 22, 2027

KPP Member Appreciation Event

MAY 20, 2027

KPP Board Meeting

KPP Resources by Fuel Source

SEPTEMBER 2026

