

# KCEC Monthly Newsletter



January 2026 Edition

## Message from the CEO

### KCEC 2025 Year-in-Review: Reliability, Resilience, and Community Investment

In 2025, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) continued its commitment to serving our members with safe, reliable electric service while investing in long-term resilience and local prosperity. Throughout the year, KCEC advanced projects and initiatives that strengthened system reliability, expanded renewable resources, expanded internet and propane services, and reaffirmed KCEC's role as a leading anchor institution across the service territory.

#### Safety & Reliability

Safety is KCEC's highest priority for members and employees. KCEC maintained a robust safety program focused on proactive risk reduction and year-round operational readiness. Key efforts included wildfire mitigation planning, tree trimming and vegetation management, system inspections, and ongoing maintenance. KCEC also continued investing in employee training and workforce development to ensure safe operations and long-term system reliability.

#### Community Support & Giving

KCEC remains committed to reinvesting in the communities it serves through scholarships, sponsorships, partnerships, and direct community support. In 2025, KCEC's annual community contributions exceeded \$150,000, supporting local initiatives and projects that address member needs. As part of this effort, KCEC provided \$13,000 to food-giving organizations across the service territory during the holiday season.

KCEC is also proud to be a major local employer. With 146 employees across the region—98% of whom are local—KCEC continued expanding training and advancement opportunities that support long-term workforce stability and local economic strength.

#### Renewable Energy & System Resilience

KCEC is 100% daytime solar and continues progressing toward 100% renewable energy, recognizing that long-duration energy storage is essential to maintaining reliability when solar generation is limited. Today, KCEC has 51 MW of solar generation and 25 MW of battery storage, supporting clean energy reliability and resilience across the grid.

In 2025, KCEC completed its 21st solar array and its 3rd battery storage facility, further strengthening system reliability and increasing local energy independence. KCEC also continued advancing its hydrogen project as a long-duration energy resource to support system flexibility, emergency readiness, and future energy needs.

To improve community resilience, reduce wildfire risk and outage response times, KCEC is developing microgrids in Taos Ski Valley, Peñasco, and El Rito West, supporting critical infrastructure and local reliability during extreme weather events. KCEC also continued infrastructure investments, including poles, distribution upgrades, metering, substations, and system-wide reliability projects, to meet growing demand and prepare for future needs.

#### Rising Costs & Cooperative Impacts

Like utilities nationwide, KCEC continues facing rising operational costs driven by inflation and supply chain constraints. Key challenges include increased insurance costs, higher transformer and equipment pricing, extended lead times, and rising costs for materials, construction, and infrastructure components. KCEC remains focused on managing these impacts responsibly while maintaining reliable service and investing in essential system improvements.

As KCEC looks forward to 2026, the cooperative remains committed to delivering safe, reliable electric service while accelerating investments in resilience and locally driven renewable solutions. KCEC will continue expanding reliability efforts, advancing microgrids in Taos Ski Valley, Peñasco, and El Rito West, and building on the success of the Amalia II Solar and Battery Facility. KCEC will also continue progressing its hydrogen project to support renewable reliability and resilience when solar generation is limited.

KCEC remains focused on strengthening infrastructure, protecting member privacy through strong cybersecurity, and reinvesting in local communities through scholarships, partnerships, and community giving. Together with our members, KCEC will continue shaping an energy future that supports economic growth, resilience, and a high quality of life across our service territory.



## Kit Carson Propane

Happy Holidays from Kit Carson Propane!

As the holidays approach and temperatures continue to drop, we at Kit Carson Propane extend our warmest wishes for a safe and joyful season. Thank you for choosing us as your trusted energy provider!

With the increased demand during the winter months, we strongly encourage you to check your tank levels regularly. To ensure uninterrupted comfort and timely delivery, please place your next order well before your tank gauge drops below 20%. Ordering early helps us schedule deliveries efficiently and avoids potential emergency fees or the inconvenience of running out.

We are committed to the safety of our customers and our delivery personnel. This holiday season, please help us maintain a safe environment by taking a moment to check the area around your propane tank. Please remove any snow, ice, leaves, or other debris and flammable materials from around the tank and its regulator. A clear area helps prevent accidental damage and ensures safe operation. Maintain a safe and unobstructed path (walkway or driveway) from the road to your propane tank. A clear path is essential for our drivers to make prompt and safe deliveries, especially during snowy or icy conditions. Your cooperation helps us provide you with the most reliable and safe service possible.

From all of us at Kit Carson Propane, we wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year! We look forward to serving your energy needs in 2026.

Member Residential Pricing \$3.15 per gallon  
Bottle Dock Pricing \$2.90 per gallon. **Prices subject to change**

## Community

### 🌟 Christmas Tree Kit Carson Electric's Holiday Light Contest Winners

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Kit Carson Electric's Holiday Light Contest and helped spread cheer across our communities! From sparkling rooftops to glowing yards, the creativity and holiday spirit lit up the region, making this season extra special.

🌟 Overall Winner: Bearly Awake Coffee — \$250 Grand prize

- District 1: Lillian Vigil (\$100 Electric Bill Credit)
- District 2: Amy Lopez (\$100 Electric Bill Credit)
- District 3: Elizabeth Brownrigg (\$100 Electric Bill Credit)
- District 4: Shelly Lovato (\$100 Electric Bill Credit)
- District 5: Elias Grine (\$100 Electric Bill Credit)

🌟 Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you again to every member who participated. Your lights brought joy, warmth, and holiday magic to the entire Kit Carson Electric community!



## Kit Carson Internet

As we step into 2026, all of us at Kit Carson Internet want to pause and say one simple, but powerful thing: Thank you.

Thank you to our customers who trust us every day to keep you connected to work, school, family, and the moments that matter most. Thank you to our incredible employees whose dedication, expertise, and heart are the foundation of everything we do.

This past year reminded us that internet service is about more than speed and reliability. It's about supporting local businesses, helping students succeed, enabling healthcare, and strengthening the communities we proudly call home. None of that happens without the people behind the scenes and the customers who believe in our mission.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited about what's next:

- Continued investment in our network to deliver faster, more reliable service
- A renewed focus on customer experience and local support
- Ongoing commitment to our employees who make Kit Carson a great place to work
- Strengthening the communities we serve through connection and collaboration

Kit Carson Internet has always been rooted in community. Together with our customers, employees, and partners, we're building something bigger than technology. We're building opportunity, connection, and a future we can all be proud of.

From all of us here, thank you for being part of the Kit Carson family. We look forward to serving you in 2026 and beyond.

## KCEC Board of Trustees

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**Board of Trustees Monthly Board Meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**