

# KCEC Monthly Newsletter



August 2026 Edition

## Message from the CEO

### Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Update July 24, 2026.

Recent monsoonal moisture has reduced immediate fire danger across portions of Northern New Mexico, but Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) remains on high alert and continues taking proactive measures to protect its members, employees, communities and electric infrastructure from wildfire, harm and damage.

The National Weather Service is forecasting continued rounds of afternoon thunderstorms across Northern New Mexico, particularly over higher terrain. While rainfall can help reduce fire danger, thunderstorms may also produce lightning, gusty and unpredictable winds, localized flooding and new fire starts in areas that receive little or no rain. Lightning remains the leading natural cause of wildfire starts on the Carson National Forest.

Preventive maintenance is a central part of KCEC's year-round wildfire-mitigation strategy. Crews regularly inspect poles, lines, crossarms, transformers, protective equipment and rights-of-way to identify damaged equipment, vegetation conflicts or other conditions that could affect safety and reliability.

KCEC is also gradually replacing older oil circuit reclosers, commonly called OCRs, with modern, programmable vacuum reclosers throughout its service territory. Reclosers are protective devices that detect electrical faults and isolate affected portions of the electric system. Modern vacuum reclosers provide improved operating capabilities, enhanced system visibility and more precise fault detection. They can also help KCEC crews locate problems more quickly, reduce the number of members affected by certain outages and improve overall system reliability.

KCEC continues its partnership with New Mexico State University to install three additional Edge AI cameras and supporting weather-monitoring equipment for early wildfire and smoke detection. The additional technology will be placed in strategic areas, including Taos Canyon and Upper Red River, where rugged terrain, forest conditions and limited visibility can make early detection especially important.

Early detection can provide critical situational awareness to KCEC, firefighters, first responders and emergency-response partners. Faster information may help agencies verify a potential fire, coordinate resources, protect evacuation routes and reduce the time between ignition and response.

For the full press release, please visit [kitcarson.com](https://www.kitcarson.com)



**Luis A. Reyes Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer

Sign up to receive text messages regarding outages and updates at [www.kitcarson.com](https://www.kitcarson.com)

KCEC is 100% Daytime Solar

"Owned By Those WE SERVE"



August Propane Pricing

### Questa Hydrogen & Solar Project



Curious about the KCEC Questa Hydrogen & Solar Project? This innovative effort has the potential to turn local resources into clean energy while prioritizing responsible water use, strong safety standards, and long-term benefits for our community.

Learn more about how this project could support a sustainable and resilient future for Questa by visiting:

<https://www.kitcarson.com/about-questa-hydrogen-project/>

The Questa Hydrogen Project is the only hydrogen project being developed by KCEC.



## Kit Carson Propane

Propane is a remarkably safe fuel when handled correctly, but summer brings unique risks. Always remember never to operate outdoor propane appliances, such as grills or portable heaters, in unvented or enclosed indoor spaces. This can lead to a dangerous buildup of carbon monoxide. If you ever detect the smell of propane, do not operate any light switches or electrical sources; immediately shut off your tank and contact our office for a professional inspection.

If you are a customer who owns your propane tank and are considering a new coat of paint, it is vital to choose the correct color for safety and serviceability. Propane tanks must be painted in light-reflective colors, such as white or light gray.

The color of your tank is directly linked to its internal pressure. Because propane exists as both a liquid and a gas inside the tank, dark or non-reflective colors will absorb heat from the sun rather than reflecting it. This heat absorption can lead to a dangerous high-pressure situation, potentially triggering the safety relief valve and leading to an uncontrolled release of propane. Furthermore, unauthorized or dark paint can obscure critical safety information, such as inspection decals and serial numbers, which are required for proper maintenance and compliance.

As a reminder, all equipment leased from Kit Carson Propane remains the sole property of the company. Under your Lease Agreement, customers are not permitted to make any alterations, adjustments, or connections to the equipment, including painting—without express written permission.

If you have any questions regarding your tank or our safety policies, please contact the office at (575) 758-7757. Thank you for choosing Kit Carson Propane as your local provider.

## Community Support

The KCEC Education Foundation, in partnership with Guzman Energy, is proud to invest \$50,000 in seven community-driven projects that will improve quality of life across the cooperative's service territory.

### 2026 Community Project Recipients

- **Atrisco Heritage Foundation – \$5,000.** Completion of an altar screen at Sagrado Corazon Church in Costilla.
- **Community of Las Trampas – San Jose De Gracia Church – \$5,800.** Purchase of a cement mixer to support the annual mud plaster restoration of the historic church.
- **Friends of the Questa Public Library – \$5,000.** Installation of an underground drip irrigation system for the library's landscape improvement project.
- **Mesa Vista Consolidated School – \$10,000.** Baseball field improvements in Ojo Caliente.
- **Moreno Valley Preparatory – \$10,000.** Expansion of hands-on learning through outdoor recreation, design, engineering, makerspace, and set-building equipment.
- **Ojo Sarco Community Center and Library – \$4,200.** Playground safety improvements, weather-resistant benches, garden boxes, and new computer equipment.
- **Taos Feeds Taos – \$10,000.** Continued food voucher assistance for families in need during the holiday season.



## Kit Carson Internet

When it comes to choosing your internet and phone provider, the options can feel overwhelming. Big-name, out-of-state corporations and massive satellite conglomerates constantly flood our mailboxes with flashy promotions. But before you look outside for your digital needs, it's worth asking: Where does your money actually go when you pay your monthly bill?

When you choose Kit Carson Internet (KCI), a proud subsidiary of your local Kit Carson Electric Co-op, every dollar you spend stays right here at home. We aren't just a service provider; we are your neighbors. Choosing our local fiber-optic network and VOIP digital phone services over out-of-state giants like CenturyLink or Starlink is an investment in the future of Taos County.

### The Power of the Local Economic Multiplier

When you write a check to a massive out-of-state corporation, that money leaves New Mexico immediately, heading straight to corporate headquarters or billionaire investors. It doesn't help pave our roads, fund our schools, or support local businesses.

In contrast, keeping your dollars local creates a powerful ripple effect:

- **Job Creation:** KCI employs local technicians, customer service representatives, and engineers who live and work in our community.
- **Community Reinvestment:** As a co-op subsidiary, our profits are reinvested into upgrading local infrastructure and supporting community initiatives right here in Taos County.
- **Keeping Taos Connected:** We understand the unique geography and needs of our rural communities because we live here too.

Visit [KitCarsonInternet.com](http://KitCarsonInternet.com) to explore all our new pricing tiers and make the switch. Please call our office at (575) 758-4838 to see if you qualify.

## KCEC Board of Trustees

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Board of Trustees Monthly Board Meeting will be held on August 25 at 9:00 a.m.