



An Energy Conversation: The Co-op Difference

People are asking lots of questions about energy. Here are some simple answers that co-op staff can give to questions about the difference with KU.

Friend: Why is the co-op bill so much higher?

Employee: Our structure and costs are totally different. The average co-op serves four times fewer customers per mile. We have a lot less people to share the costs of distributing power.

Friend: How many customers per mile do you serve?

Employee: The average co-op serves 9 customers per mile. KU has about 36 customers each mile, and it serves cities.

Friend: Why does that matter?

Employee: If it costs \$30,000 to build a mile of line, KU has a cost of \$833 per customer. That mile costs a co-op about \$3,333 per customer.

Friend: Why is there so much difference between fuel charges?

Employee: Each utility has different costs for coal, natural gas and purchased power. To keep up with demand, our system has bought more power from other companies in recent years, and these purchases cost more than generating the electricity ourselves.

Friend: What can I do to lower my bill?

Employee: Most homes have leaks in ducts and many places where outside air gets in. Fixing those problems can significantly reduce energy consumption.

Friend: Can the co-op help me with that?

Employee: We offer efficiency programs, provide free energy audits, and you can get free energy tips from us. Go to www.simplesavings.coop to learn more.

