

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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## On behalf of KPP Energy,

we are pleased to share reflections on a year marked by both strategic clarity and continued commitment to our core mission: delivering affordable and reliable energy to our member cities.

This past year – 2024 – marked the first year of a four-year comprehensive strategic planning process. Developed collaboratively with our member communities and governing board, this plan sets the direction for the future of KPP Energy. Yet as President Dwight D. Eisenhower once noted, “Plans are nothing; planning is everything.” The true value of this work lies not in a static document, but in the shared understanding, dialogue, and alignment it fostered among our members. The process deepened our commitment to joint action and reaffirmed our focus on long-term reliability, financial stewardship, and local control.

Two of the three primary goals of the strategic plan are focused on capacity. First, evaluate the existing capacity – in the form of member-owned generation and other agency resources – to maximize its value and keep it in healthy operation for years to come. Second, focus on the addition of new generating

capacity to meet the ever-increasing needs and requirements of the Southwest Power Pool and the electric industry in general.

To that end, KPP Energy dedicated significant time to two specific projects in 2024. The [Powering Affordable Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#) solar project continues to progress. Once completed, we are excited to bring a local, community-owned resource into seven of our member communities – a move that benefits the entire KPP membership. In parallel, staff continue to work on the [Walnut Energy Center project](#), a 54 megawatt (MW) thermal plant that would bring much-needed capacity and reliability into the KPP portfolio. We faced several challenges and setbacks with the project in 2024 but remain committed to finding the most cost-effective and reliable resources for the KPP membership as we move forward.

Our energy landscape continues to evolve. While challenges grow and shift, our priorities remain consistent. We remain focused on maintaining cost stability, strengthening system reliability, and providing our members with the tools to navigate a changing regulatory and technological

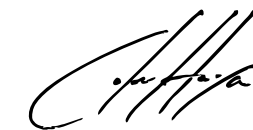
environment. The strength of KPP lies in our collective voice and the power of public ownership.

As we move forward, the strategic planning process has positioned us to take thoughtful, proactive steps —balancing innovation with the values that have always guided us. We are grateful for the trust our member cities place in us and proud of the collaboration that continues to define KPP

**Jason Newberry, President**

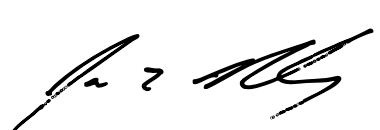
**Colin Hansen, CEO & General Manager**

*"Plans are nothing; planning is everything"*  
- Dwight D. Eisenhower



**COLIN HANSEN**

CEO / General Manager



**JASON NEWBERRY**

President



**Jason Newberry,**  
KPP Board President  
Wellington, Assistant City Manager  
for Utilities & IT



**Lou Thurston,**  
KPP 1st Vice-President  
Hillsboro, Mayor



**Tim Johnson,**  
KPP 2nd Vice-President  
Augusta, Director of Public Utilities



**Chris Komarek,**  
KPP Board Secretary/Treasurer  
Ellinwood, City Administrator



**Gus Collins,**  
KPP Board Member  
Winfield, Director of Utilities



**Greg Graffman,**  
KPP Board Member  
Kingman, City Manager



**Stacy Barnes,**  
KPP Board Member  
Greensburg, City Administrator



**Scott Glaves,**  
KPP Board Member  
Clay Center Public Utilities,  
Superintendent of Utilities



**Alan Schneider,**  
KPP Board Member  
Burlington, Electric Utilities  
Superintendent



## THANK YOU LARRY

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Larry Holloway who retired on March 1st, concluding a distinguished career spanning nearly five decades. His 16 years at KPP Energy saw major advancements, including securing network transmission services, integrating KPP members into the SPP Integrated Market, and leading key projects like the Solomon Energy Storage Center and Kingman-Cunningham Direct Connect. A registered Professional Engineer in Oregon, Holloway holds master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Management, along with dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Kansas. *"Larry is and always has been one of the most intelligent and influential people in the utility industry,"* said KPP CEO Colin Hansen.



Larry Holloway,  
KPP Assistant General Manager







# OUR TEAM



**Colin Hansen,**  
*CEO / General Manager*



**Larry Holloway**  
*Assistant General Manager / Operations*



**Vickie Matney**  
*Chief Financial Officer*



**James Ging**  
*Chief Operating Officer*



**Mike Shook**  
*Director of Energy Services*



**Leslie Atherton**  
*Director of Member Services*



**Ivan Seward**  
*Senior Accountant*



# COMMUNITY OWNED POWER

## Member Cities Map



## Member Cities Information

Generating Members	Population	2024 Peak Load (kW)
Winfield	12,104	52,601
Wellington	7,504	27,184
Augusta	9,342	22,548
Clay Center	3,989	14,349
Mulvane	7,111	14,094
Kingman	2,906	12,300
Ellinwood	1,969	5,597
Burlington	2,560	8,818
Minneapolis	1,933	5,853
Erie	1,085	3,366
Oxford	1,048	2,254

Non-Generating Members	Population	2024 Peak Load (kW)
Hillsboro	2,834	7,636
St. Marys	2,636	6,539
Marion	1,923	5,649
Haven	1,196	3,781
Greensburg	791	3,354
Mount Hope	802	1,938
Lucas	391	1,889
Attica	620	1,810
Udall	689	1,684
Waterville	629	1,499
Glasco	453	1,133
Holyrood	422	1,106
Luray	184	729



# WHOLESALE POWER COST & RELIABILITY

## WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

Affordable power supply is the foundation upon which KPP is built. Cost-effective wholesale power supply costs through joint action enable KPP members to effectively and efficiently serve their residential customers, attract and retain businesses, and power our communities.

## RELIABILITY

A reliable electric grid is critical to the economic vitality and well-being of KPP member communities. Reliability takes many forms – from the Southwest Power Pool grid to the local distribution system. Together with affordability and sustainability, reliability remains the primary focus of KPP Energy.



## KPP Generation Task Force Formed

In 2024, the KPP Energy Board of Directors established the Generation Task Force (GTF) to address opportunities and challenges related to KPP member-owned generation. The GTF consists of representatives from each KPP member city with generation assets and was formed to focus on improving operations, availability, and reliability.

At the first meeting of the GTF in April, it was determined the task force would develop policies and procedures to enhance member generation and provide recommendations to the KPP Board. Key objectives include:

- Proposing updates to member generation cost compensation.
- Establishing reporting requirements for compliance with SPP standards.
- Reviewing and updating of generation testing requirements.
- Addressing new accreditation rules under the SPP tariff.

To that end, at the second meeting, the GTF reviewed its goals and examined complex new Southwest Power Pool (SPP) requirements, including fuel assurance, unit registration, and market participation. Discussions focused on:

- KPP staff updates on Resource Adequacy Workbook (RAW) results submitted to SPP on May 15.
- Challenges and reporting requirements of SPP Generating Availability Data System (GADS) calculations for KPP members.
- KPP Energy support for natural gas and fuel oil costs for training purposes to maintain plant readiness.
- Capacity payments and strategies to sustain member-owned generation.

As a result of these discussions by the Task Force, the creation of the Generation Exercising and Training Guidelines Policy was drafted and approved, detailing the steps for KPP Energy reimbursement for costs associated with performing unit exercising and staff training.

Additionally, the GTF developed and the KPP Energy Board approved the Generation Repair Fund (GRF) Policy. The policy establishes a repair fund and an application process to support qualified member generators in meeting generation capacity requirements by facilitating timely qualified repairs. Members can apply to KPP Energy for financial assistance, including grants from the GRF to support necessary unit repairs.

The GTF continues to drive discussions and initiatives that strengthen KPP member-owned generation and ensure compliance with evolving SPP regulations.



KPP Generational Task Force Members	
Augusta	Dominic Mosier
Burlington	Denny Noonan
Clay Center	Valerian Kondratieff
Ellinwood	Jon Perron
Erie	Jake Tromsness
Kingman	Tim Goldston
Minneapolis	Barry Hodges
Mulvane	Jacob Coy
Oxford	Patrick Kopfer
Wellington	Travis Horsch
Winfield	Tyson Kelly

# Energy Resources

KPP Energy serves its members through various sources. These include pooled purchase power contracts, generation from members, or direct agreements like the Greensburg Wind Farm Purchase Power Agreement and the Marshall County Wind Farm Purchase Power Agreement. Additionally, KPP Energy uses resources it owns, such as its share of the Dogwood Combined-Cycle Plant.

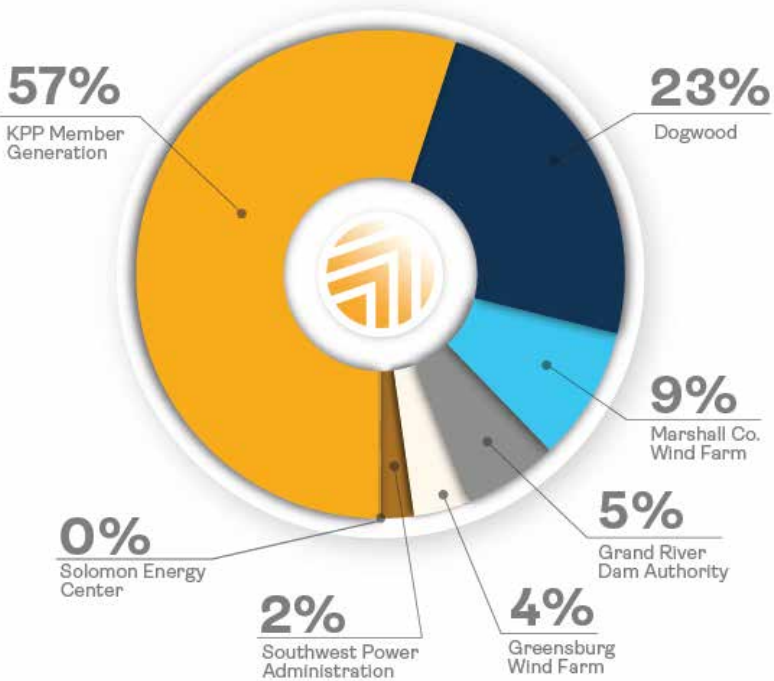
## CAPACITY RESOURCES CHART

The Capacity Resources chart shows the deliverable capacity of KPP’s generation resources and the percentage each contributes to KPP’s total capacity. KPP has a varied fuel mix in its resources, which includes significant use of natural gas.

KPP is required by the SPP to maintain, operate, and offer into the SPP Integrated Market (IM) a generation capacity that is at least 115% of its peak load. The wind resources listed (Greensburg and Marshall) have a combined nameplate capacity of 37.5 Megawatts (MW), with an SPP accredited capacity of 6 MW contributing towards KPP’s capacity requirements. The actual dispatch of KPP’s capacity resources varies based on the SPP market’s needs.

All KPP resources, even those used less frequently, help meet the SPP’s capacity requirements and act as a hedge to protect KPP’s members from market price spikes. The chart also illustrates that the majority of KPP’s resources utilize natural gas as fuel.

## 2024 KPP CAPACITY SOURCES IN MW'S



## FUEL MIX CHART

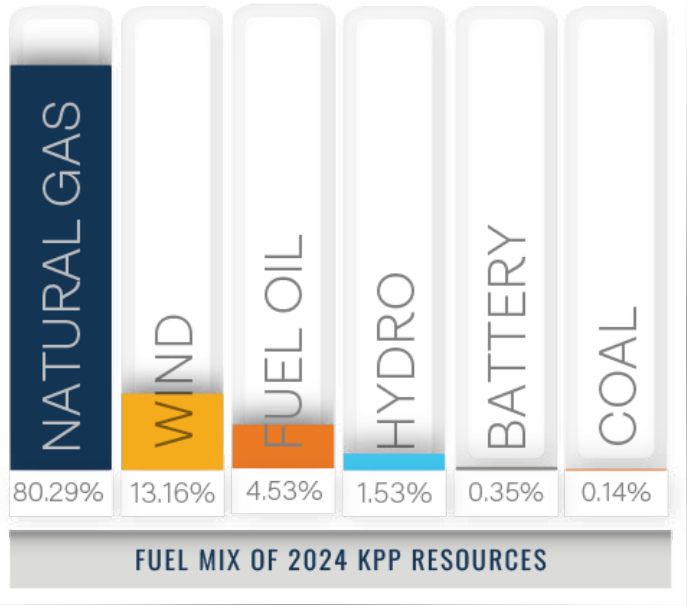
The Fuel Mix Chart for KPP’s capacity resources provides a clear visualization of the diverse energy sources that contribute to their power generation. The majority of KPP’s energy generation comes from natural gas, which constitutes 80.3% of the fuel mix. This highlights the reliance on natural gas as a primary energy source, offering a reliable and flexible power generation capacity.

Wind energy also plays a significant role, contributing 13.2% to the fuel mix. This reflects KPP’s commitment to incorporating renewable energy sources into their portfolio, reducing the environmental impact and enhancing sustainability.

Hydroelectric power, although a smaller component, still contributes 1.5% to the fuel mix. This source is valued for its renewable nature and ability to provide clean energy without the emission of greenhouse gases.

Finally, battery storage, at 0.4% of the fuel mix, although minimal, is crucial for energy storage and stability. It allows KPP to store energy and release it during peak demand times or when other sources are less available.

Overall, the Fuel Mix Chart illustrates KPP’s strategic approach to energy generation, balancing between conventional and renewable sources to meet energy demands while considering environmental impacts and operational flexibility.



## TRANSMISSION RESOURCES

When KPP Energy was established, its members recognized the advantages of securing firm transmission resources. Since 2009, all KPP members have benefited from the firm Network Integrated Transmission Service (NITS) within the SPP framework. This arrangement has grown in importance due to the SPP Integrated Market. Possessing firm transmission rights enables members to fully utilize their generation resources while effectively managing and mitigating exposure to congestion costs that can occur between resources and load centers.

## WHOLESALE RATES

The actual cost of KPP in 2024 was 3% lower than anticipated, primarily due to lower-than-expected capacity and energy charges. The energy sales were forecasted to be 852 GWh but only reached 781 GWh, an 8% shortfall. Additionally, demand billing units were projected at 1,818 GW but came in at 1,727 GW, showing a 5% decrease. Despite these lower figures, the costs remain within reasonable bounds. The peak demand occurred in August, reaching just over 208 MW.



## Financial Information - Balance Sheets

### Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources

Current Assets	2024	2023
Cash	\$34,508,934	\$26,735,999
Cash, board-designated for emergency stabilization	\$8,047,270	\$7,740,497
Cash and cash equivalents, restricted	\$500,000	\$250,000
	<b>\$43,056,204</b>	<b>\$34,726,496</b>
Investments, restricted	\$38,869,427	\$8,863,961
Accounts receivable	\$4,709,019	\$3,547,436
Prepaid expenses and other	\$3,591,524	\$3,547,927
Materials and supplies	\$481,983	\$489,547
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$90,708,157</b>	<b>\$51,175,367</b>
<b>Investments, Restricted</b>	<b>\$2,912,052</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>\$56,360,992</b>	<b>\$39,196,827</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	<b>\$157,211</b>	<b>\$317,158</b>
<b>Regulatory Assets</b>		
Costs recoverable from future billings	\$1,377,965	\$727,679
Unrecovered development costs	\$9,357,155	\$8,309,214
<b>Total Regulatory Assets</b>	<b>\$10,735,120</b>	<b>\$9,036,893</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$160,873,532</b>	<b>\$99,726,245</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred loss on refunding	\$597,871	\$835,808
Pensions	\$288,463	\$300,034
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$886,334</b>	<b>\$1,135,842</b>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$161,759,866</b>	<b>\$100,862,087</b>

\*A copy of the audit report can be found at [www.kpp.energy](http://www.kpp.energy)

## Financial Information - Balance Sheets

### Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position

Current Liabilities	2024	2023
Current portion of bonds payable	\$3,705,000	\$3,585,000
Accounts payable	\$293,229	\$92,505
Accounts payable – power bills	\$1,808,300	\$1,801,462
Accrued expenses	\$1,161,637	\$980,956
Accrued interest	\$121,973	\$130,242
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$7,090,139</b>	<b>\$6,590,165</b>
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>		
Revenue bonds payable	\$88,010,000	\$40,045,000
Unamortized bond premiums and discounts, net	\$2,083,355	\$2,395,914
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>\$90,093,355</b>	<b>\$42,440,914</b>
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>\$1,008,983</b>	<b>\$949,228</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$98,192,477</b>	<b>\$49,980,307</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Emergency stabilization fund	\$16,287,000	\$12,787,000
Generation resource fund	\$7,000,008	N/A
Pensions	\$16,496	\$30,784
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$23,303,504</b>	<b>\$12,817,784</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	\$3,903,297	\$1,061,987
Restricted – expendable for debt services	\$4,388,109	\$4,457,341
Unrestricted	\$31,972,479	\$32,544,668
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$40,263,885</b>	<b>\$38,063,996</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position</b>	<b>\$161,759,866</b>	<b>\$100,862,087</b>

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Financial Information **Operating Revenues**

	2024	2023
Operating Revenues	\$57,167,808	\$51,746,236
Operating Expenses		
Purchased power	\$18,544,265	\$26,013,962
Transmission expense	\$16,207,901	\$11,938,804
Dogwood operating costs	\$2,725,602	\$2,096,238
Amortization of unrecovered development costs	\$757,342	\$540,604
Depreciation	\$2,361,663	\$2,416,621
Total Operating Expenses	\$40,596,773	\$43,006,229
Administrative and General Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	\$1,698,825	\$1,478,880
Legal expenses	\$226,755	\$148,234
Consulting fees	\$93,258	\$24,906
Outside services	\$349,004	\$336,518
Insurance	\$334,313	\$304,978
Dues and memberships	\$233,088	\$224,223
Miscellaneous	\$656,390	\$462,595
Rent	\$57,870	\$64,014
Payment in lieu of taxes	\$108,625	\$108,625
Total Administrative and General Expenses	\$3,758,128	\$3,152,973
Operating Income	\$12,812,907	\$5,587,034
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	2024	2023
Investment and interest income	\$1,455,668	\$1,120,555
Interest expense on debt	(\$1,797,054)	(\$1,956,163)

\*A copy of the audit report can be found at [www.kpp.energy](http://www.kpp.energy)

Financial Information **Operating Revenues**

Amortization of bond premiums and discounts, net	\$312,558	\$355,496
Net costs recoverable	(-\$84,182)	(-\$84,182)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(-\$113,010)	(-\$564,294)
Deferred Inflows of Resources – Emergency Stabilization	(-\$3,500,000)	N/A
Deferred Inflows of Resources – Generation Resource Fund	(-\$7,000,008)	N/A
Change in Net Position	\$2,199,889	\$5,022,740
Net Position, Beginning of Year	\$38,063,996	\$33,041,256
Net Position, End of Year	\$40,263,885	\$38,063,996

Statement of Cash Flows

Operating Activities	2024	2023
Receipts from members	\$56,006,224	\$55,410,377
Payments to suppliers	(-\$40,634,506)	(-\$38,785,143)
Payments to employees	(-\$1,627,726)	(-\$4,387,046)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$13,743,992	\$12,238,189
Noncapital Financing Activities		
Principal payments on noncapital bonds	(-\$320,000)	(-\$690,000)
Principal payments on noncapital debt	N/A	(-\$4,944,431)
Interest payments on line of credit and noncapital debt	N/A	(-\$53,006)
Interest payments on noncapital bonds	(-\$82,840)	(-\$117,219)
Net Cash Used in Noncapital Financing Activities	(-\$402,840)	(-\$5,804,656)

\*A copy of the audit report can be found at [www.kpp.energy](http://www.kpp.energy)

## Financial Information Statements of Cash Flows Continued

Capital and Related Financing Activities	2024	2023
Proceeds from capital debt	\$51,670,000	N/A
Payments of issuance costs on capital debt	(-\$734,469)	N/A
Capital expenditures	(-\$19,867,299)	(-\$823,333)
Principal payments on revenue bonds	(-\$3,265,000)	(-\$3,395,000)
Interest payments on revenue bonds	(-\$1,352,827)	(-\$1,557,592)
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	<b>\$26,450,405</b>	<b>(-\$5,775,925)</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Interest and investment income	\$1,455,669	\$1,115,336
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	\$23,307,773	\$9,149,925
Purchases of investments	(-\$56,225,291)	(-\$7,737,643)
<b>Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities</b>	<b>(-\$31,461,849)</b>	<b>\$2,527,618</b>
<b>Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$8,329,708</b>	<b>\$3,185,226</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$34,726,496</b>	<b>\$31,541,270</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year</b>	<b>\$43,056,204</b>	<b>\$34,726,496</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Operating income	\$12,812,907	\$5,587,034
Depreciation and amortization	\$3,119,005	\$2,957,225
Amortization of payment in lieu of taxes	\$108,625	\$108,625
Net pension liability	\$59,755	\$52,399
Changes in		
Accounts receivable	(-\$1,161,584)	\$3,664,142
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$388,243	(-\$1,814,725)

\*A copy of the audit report can be found at [www.kpp.energy](http://www.kpp.energy)

## Financial Information Statements of Cash Flows Continued

	2024	2023
Deferred inflows of resources	(-\$14,288)	(-\$19,292)
Deferred outflows of resources	\$11,569	\$4,713,109
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$15,289	(-\$392,313)
Unrecovered development costs	(-\$1,595,529)	(-\$2,618,015)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$13,743,992</b>	<b>\$12,238,189</b>

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KPP serves each of its community-owned members by providing cost-effective and reliable public power and services through collaboration and innovation.







# Winfield Tie Switchyard

In 2024, the City of Winfield celebrated a significant milestone in its energy infrastructure with the ribbon cutting of its new Tie Switchyard. The event, held on April 11, 2024, welcomed numerous local and state officials who attended the ceremony and toured the new facility. The newly developed Tie Switchyard enhances the connection of 69-kV transmission lines from the Every Oak, Every Timber Junction, and Strothers Field substations with the transmission lines serving Winfield’s substations and power plant. This critical addition to the city’s electrical grid ensures improved reliability and efficiency in power distribution.

## Key Features of the Tie Switchyard:

**Ring Bus Configuration:** Designed to segregate transmission lines and eliminate a single point of failure, significantly improving grid stability.

**138-kV Standards:** Built to accommodate future upgrades, additional transmission lines, and generation interconnections, further strengthening the city's power infrastructure.



Serving as a vital interconnection point, the Tie Substation links the City of Winfield to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) transmission network, enhancing power distribution efficiency across the region.

The Tie Switchyard was developed in collaboration with GridLiance, a NextEra Energy Transmission Company. Recognizing the aging infrastructure of the city’s existing Tie Substation, Winfield and GridLiance made the strategic decision in 2022 to construct a new switchyard. This proactive move was driven by the necessity of ensuring continuous and reliable electric service for the community. The project reached completion in October of 2023 and now stands as a crucial component of Winfield’s electrical network.

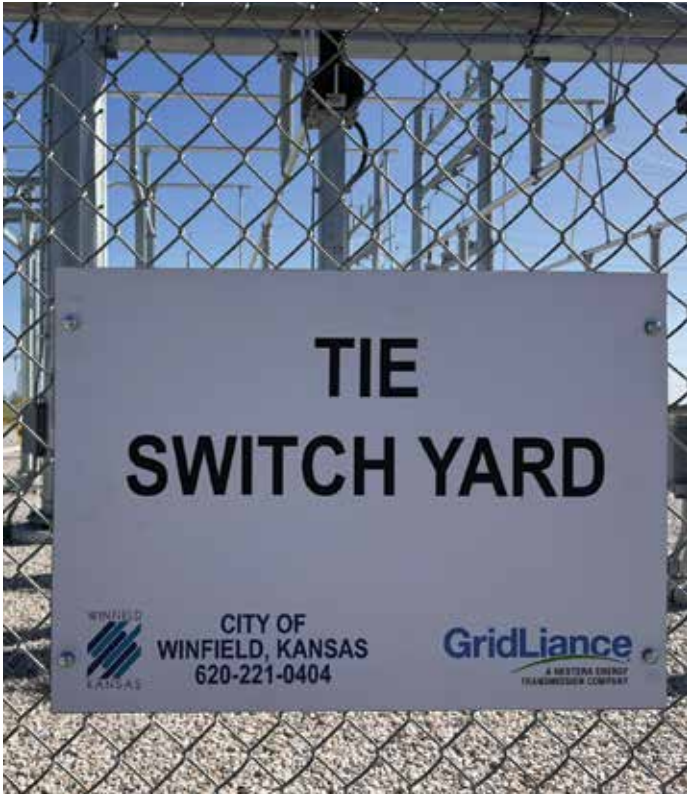
Serving as a vital interconnection point, the Tie Substation links the City of Winfield to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) transmission network, enhancing power distribution efficiency across the region.

The ribbon-cutting event featured welcoming remarks from Winfield Mayor Brenda Butters and an overview of the project’s impact by Winfield City Manager Taggart Wall. Holly Carias of GridLiance also spoke, highlighting the project’s significance in advancing the reliability and affordability of electricity for Winfield residents.

“The inauguration of the new Tie Switchyard signifies a proactive approach to addressing future growth and mitigating power outages,” said Wall. “The reliability and resiliency of the electric grid are paramount to the city’s operations.”

of a member surcharge of one cent per kilowatt-hour. The surcharge was ended in July, bringing additional savings to members.

The successful completion of this project represents a major step forward in Winfield’s commitment to modernizing its electrical infrastructure. As the city continues to grow, the Tie Switchyard will play a key role in ensuring that power distribution remains stable and efficient.







## Walnut Energy Center Update

The **Walnut Energy Center (WEC)** is a KPP Energy project to build a natural gas and diesel-fired power plant to provide reliable and affordable electricity to our member communities. As designed, the power plant would be located in Winfield. KPP continues to make progress on the project and we are pleased to share some of the highlights of the past year.

### SPP GENERATION INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

The SPP generator interconnection queue process provides a means for generation planners and developers to submit new generation interconnection projects into the queue for validation, study, analysis and, ultimately, execution of a generator interconnection agreement. Walnut Energy Center was entered into the 2020 Definitive Interconnection System Impact Study (DISIS) window and at the end of 2024 continues to wait for approval for the project.

KPP continues to expect to see a cost estimate of around \$1.8 million for transmission interconnection when the DISIS phase 2 study is completed and the report is issued.

### ENGINEERING

KPP Energy continues to collaborate with Burns & McDonnell to develop engineering plans, evaluating various generating resource types including Wartsila reciprocating engines and simple cycle combustion turbines from OEMs like Siemens and Solar Industrial Turbines, with cost estimates and long-term value studies guiding the selection of the appropriate resource type and size.

### AIR PERMIT

KPP Energy applied for an air operating permit for the Walnut Energy Center, initially classified as a Major Source with PSD requirements linked to the City of Winfield Power Plant #2. KPP later requested a Single Source Determination to separate the facilities, potentially allowing a Minor Source permit without PSD obligations, and was awaiting a determination from the Kansas Department of Health and Environmental (KDHE) at the end of 2024.





## PACE (Powering Affordable Clean Energy) Solar Project



**In this year's annual report,** we highlight continued progress toward expanding solar energy in rural Kansas. Supported by the USDA's Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program, KPP Energy is moving forward with the installation of solar arrays in seven member communities: Clay Center, Ellinwood, Greensburg, Hillsboro, Marion, Wellington, and Winfield. Once complete, the PACE solar project will deliver clean,

renewable energy to support nearly 4,000 homes and businesses across KPP member communities. The total project cost is estimated at \$48 million, with nearly 60% of funding expected to be covered through USDA loan forgiveness and elective pay tax credits from the IRS. The solar arrays will range in size from 1 MW to 6 MW, demonstrating KPP's strong commitment to advancing sustainable energy in Kansas. This effort is the result of close collaboration among KPP member cities, whose proactive site contributions helped streamline the USDA approval process and enable cost-effective solar generation for the benefit of all member utilities.







# CYBER SECURITY SUMMIT

STRENGTHENING CYBER RESILIENCE IN MEMBER COMMUNITIES



Through a four-part Cybersecurity Summit Series taught by Skyhelm, KPP provided essential training on critical security practices, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to defend against evolving cyber threats. The inaugural session on Basic Cyber Hygiene brought together representatives from Augusta, Clay Center, Ellinwood, Haven, Kingman, Marion, Mount Hope, and Winfield for a foundational training in cybersecurity. Led by Casey Davis, Chief Product Officer at Skyhelm, this session covered key areas, such as:

- **Understanding Cyber Threats & Risks** – An overview of potential cyber risks and their impact on operations.
- **Password Management Techniques** – Strategies for creating and maintaining strong passwords.
- **Safe Browsing Practices** – Guidelines for minimizing exposure to malicious websites.
- **Email & Phishing Awareness** – How to detect and defend against phishing attacks.
- **Security Software & Firewalls** – The role of software and firewalls in fortifying cybersecurity defenses.

Building on the momentum of the first session, the second summit centered on Electric Utility Security and featured a SCADA Hacking Lab. This hands-on training session offered participants a deeper understanding of vulnerabilities in Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, which are critical to utility operations. Line-crew members and utility workers were particularly encouraged to attend, as the session provided valuable insights into securing essential control systems against cyber threats.

The third summit expanded its focus to Financial Cyber Crimes, bringing together participants from Augusta, Ellinwood, Haven, Hillsboro, Kingman, Wellington, and Winfield. Once again, Casey Davis led the session, this time addressing the rising threat of financial cyber crimes. Key topics included:

- **Defining Financial Cyber Crimes** – Understanding the tactics used by cybercriminals.
- **Fraud Detection Techniques** – Identifying fake invoices, using Google Dorking, and leveraging Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) for fraud prevention.
- **Cybersecurity in Financial Transactions** – Implementing strong passwords and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to protect sensitive data.
- **Phishing Prevention** – Recognizing phishing attacks and ensuring email security training.
- **Incident Response Planning** – Developing a Cyber Incident Response Plan and implementing a step-by-step checklist for effective crisis management.

The final session in the series emphasized the importance of cyber disaster preparedness. Participants learned how to proactively safeguard their organizations by implementing response strategies and resilience planning to mitigate the impact of cyberattacks.

KPP Energy is proud to support its member communities by fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness. Through this summit series, participants gained valuable knowledge and tools to enhance their cybersecurity posture, ensuring that cities and utilities remain resilient in the face of evolving cyber threats.



# KPP Celebrates Public Power Week

## THE CITY OF HILLSBORO TRIUMPHS AS WINNER OF THE KPP ENERGY PUBLIC POWER WEEK CHAMPIONSHIP

Each year, KPP members come together to celebrate Public Power Week, recognizing the essential role of community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities. This annual event highlights the value public power brings to more than 2,000 cities nationwide and strengthens the bond between public power providers and the communities they serve. It’s also a time to honor the dedicated employees who work tirelessly to keep the lights on, despite challenges like evolving energy needs, tight budgets, and natural disasters. KPP Energy marked the occasion with its annual Public Power Week competition, where enthusiasm and creativity took center stage. Many member communities participated by adopting proclamations, sharing staff statements, organizing food drives, hosting school events, and holding appreciation dinners. However, one city rose above the rest—Hillsboro. Hillsboro took this year’s competition by storm, hosting all of the traditional activities plus an impressive 14 additional creative events celebrating public power.

One standout moment was their Olympic torch-themed video, a heartfelt and entertaining production that emphasized teamwork and carried the inspiring message: “Together, we’ll light the way.” The video, which captured the spirit of Public Power Week, is available on Hillsboro’s Facebook page. The city also launched a “Public Power Rocks” initiative, hiding five painted rocks around town. Residents who found and returned a rock to City Hall received \$10 in Chamber Bucks, encouraging community engagement through a fun and simple activity. Adding even more energy to the week, local business Level Up Nutrition introduced a Public Power Week-themed drink menu. Their high-energy beverages—creatively named Lightning Arrestor, Zip Zap, Jolt Juice, and Blown Fuse—added a spark of excitement to the celebration. Thanks to their outstanding efforts, Hillsboro surged ahead with 105 points—more than triple the score of any other competitor. On October 15th, during the Hillsboro City Council meeting, KPP Energy proudly presented the city with the prestigious PPW traveling trophy, created by the City of Augusta, along with a \$500 check to recognize their achievement.





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