



**Media contact:**  
Gina Penzig,  
director, corporate  
communications  
Phone: 785.575.8089  
gina.penzig@WestarEnergy.com

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**WESTAR EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTE TO CARE FUND;  
COMPANY SCHEDULES ADDITIONAL CARE STATIONS**

**Employees, company assist customers as summer heat drives electricity demand.**

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 3, 2011 — Westar Energy employees have started a Care Fund to assist eligible customers with summer electricity costs. In addition, the company has expanded its Care Station schedule.

“The Care Fund is employee driven,” said Peggy Ricketts, vice president, customer care. “A group of employees saw our customers’ need and knew that many social service agencies are out of money, and their response was to dig into their own pockets and organize a fund to help.”

Customer advisers, who are specially trained to assist customers in financial distress, will help determine eligibility for assistance through the fund. Customer advisers are setting up Care Stations through August in cities throughout the company’s service territory to provide one-on-one assistance to customers.

“With summer heat, air conditioners have been working hard, and we realize customers are dealing with tight budgets,” said Ricketts. “Our customer advisers offer budget advice and energy-saving tips and help customers understand payment options.”

Care Stations are scheduled for:

- Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, 410 N. Haverhill, El Dorado.

- Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at SRS, 500 S.W. Van Buren, Topeka.
- Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Salvation Army, 208 W. 6<sup>th</sup>, Newton.
- Aug. 16 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 106 Exchange, Emporia.
- Aug. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Wesley House, 411 E. 12<sup>th</sup>, Pittsburg.
- Aug. 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Salvation Army, 700 N. Walnut, Hutchinson.
- Aug. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Red Cross, 1900 E. Douglas, Wichita.
- Aug. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at SRS, 1809 Main, Winfield.
- Aug. 30 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Buck Run Community Center, 735 Scott Ave., Fort Scott.

Locations continue to be added throughout the Westar Energy service territory. A current schedule may be found at [www.WestarEnergy.com/carecampaign](http://www.WestarEnergy.com/carecampaign).

Westar urges customers who are struggling to pay their electric bill to contact the company early rather than allowing multiple months' worth of unpaid balances to accumulate on the account. Payment plans are typically more manageable when the amount due is lower.

Customers may access many payment options and other account services online at [www.WestarEnergy.com](http://www.WestarEnergy.com). Services are also available by calling Westar Energy's Customer Relations Center at 1-800-383-1183. Call center volumes are high as students are returning to school. Accessing web services allows customers to avoid hold times.

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Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 687,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 7,100 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.