



KANSAS
MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES



Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) is the statewide association representing municipal electric, natural gas, water, wastewater & telecommunications utilities. Founded in 1928, the organization represents 170 communities operating one or more of these utilities across the state of Kansas.

QUICK FACTS

- Kansas has 119 public power systems, the 4th most of any state in the United States.
- Kansas public power systems serve electricity to approximately 16% of Kansas citizens.
- The median size of a municipal electric utility in Kansas is 841 customers. The largest system is Kansas City BPU with nearly 65,000 customers. The smallest is the city of Radium, Kansas with 25 customers.
- Only eight of the state's 119 public power systems serve more than 5,000 customers.
- 58 municipal electric utilities operate a local power plant, primarily for peaking or emergency situations.
- Kansas has 525 municipal water systems across the state that are committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to the customer-owners that they serve.
- In Kansas, 60 cities operate municipal gas systems.
- 85% of municipal gas systems serve less than 1,000 customers.
- Many municipal gas utilities were established in small, rural communities because no private utility deemed it profitable.

2015 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

- **Retail Wheeling / Deregulation.** KMU urges extreme caution in regards to potential deregulation of the state's electric industry. Characteristics of the Kansas electric industry and the experience of municipal utilities in other retail wheeling states illustrates the significant risks and lack of cost savings.
- **Municipal Telecommunications.** The universal availability of affordable, high-speed Internet access for all citizens is critical to the economic health & viability of Kansas communities. Cities are and should be able to provide these services to citizens or to partner with private entities to do so.
- **Water Vision.** KMU supports the efforts of the State to develop a 50-year plan for addressing the future of water in Kansas that protects and preserves municipal water supplies and resources. The development of the plan must involve municipal water suppliers as they continue their commitment to providing safe and economical drinking water.
- **Water & Wastewater Infrastructure.** Resources for water and wastewater utility infrastructure remain a priority of municipal utilities. KMU supports the state financing mechanisms in place to help municipal utilities repair, replace, and update water & wastewater utility infrastructure.
- **Public Advocacy.** KMU was formed 87 years ago for the express purpose of helping our member communities have a voice in legislative and regulatory arenas. As government regulation and oversight has grown, the need for our utilities to have a voice has grown.
- **Low Cost, Reliable Utilities.** Providing safe, reliable, and affordable utility service to Kansans is the top priority of the state's municipal utility community.
- **Empowering Local Decision Making.** Municipal utilities are consumer-owned and locally regulated. Decisions are made at the local level by city councils, commissions & boards.
- **Utility Training.** KMU serves as a utility training resource for municipal systems by providing a variety of training services ranging from job training and safety to utility operations. For example, last year KMU provided 2,445 hours of water and wastewater operator credits for these utility staff to maintain their operator certification through the state.
- **Mutual Aid.** KMU coordinates mutual aid assistance to 155 participating electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities through the KSMAP program, in which cities and utilities provide mutual aid to one another to restore essential utility services in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

2015 KMU MEMBERS



AFFILIATES



KMU TRAINING CENTER

KMU is currently developing a state-of-the-art 35-acre training complex in McPherson for frontline electric lineworkers, water & gas operators and other municipal utility employees. The training center will provide hands-on, real-life training scenarios for the next generation of utility professionals.



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