

NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

MAY 2018

POINT OF VIEW

Beat the heat

OPERATION ROUND UP

Giving back

COOPERATIVE CAMP

Deadline approaching

May is National Electrical Safety Month

The safety of our members and employees is a top priority year round. During the month of May Central Electric is joining other electric cooperatives across the state and nation in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month to promote awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious consequences of using electricity unsafely, and then we must take steps to prevent it's misuse.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided through a few simple precautions.

Here are several basic tips to keep in mind when using electricity:



- ▶ **Unplug it.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off AND unplug all portable electric devices when you've finished using them.
- ▶ **Toss it.** Inspect electrical cords often for fraying or broken connectors. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- ▶ **Cover it.** Use plug covers in outlets if you have young children. Teach them never to put their fingers in electrical outlets or appliances, and keep cords and electrical devices away from them.
- ▶ **Avoid it.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines.

The cooperative is dedicated to educating our community about electrical safety. During the month of May, swing by the co-op office and pick up a **FREE** pack of receptacle covers to celebrate National Electrical Safety Month.



- ▶ Applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due May 1. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.
- ▶ The Central Electric office will be closed Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day. Crews will be on-call.

POINT OF VIEW

Beat the heat, save energy

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

“ While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, many people don’t know where to start. That’s where your trusted energy partner comes in. We’re here to help you along the way. ”



As warmer weather sets in, our thoughts on comfort switch from heating to cooling. As temperatures rise and air conditioners are switched on, looking for ways to become more energy efficient at home can help you save money, as well as help the cooperative reduce demand and save energy.

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, many people don’t know where to start. That’s where your trusted energy partner comes in. We’re here to help you along the way.

To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know where your energy is being consumed. Roughly 50 percent of the energy use in your home can be attributed to heating and cooling. With summer looming, you may be wondering what you can do to help ease the burden on your air conditioning unit. The best way to save money during the summer months is by setting your thermostat to 78 degrees Fahrenheit or as high as you can comfortably stand. Installing a programmable thermostat can also help your cause by adjusting the temperature of your home according to your preferences. That way you can set your thermostat to 78 degrees while

you’re home, and automatically set it to raise the temperature a few degrees while you’re not home during the day.

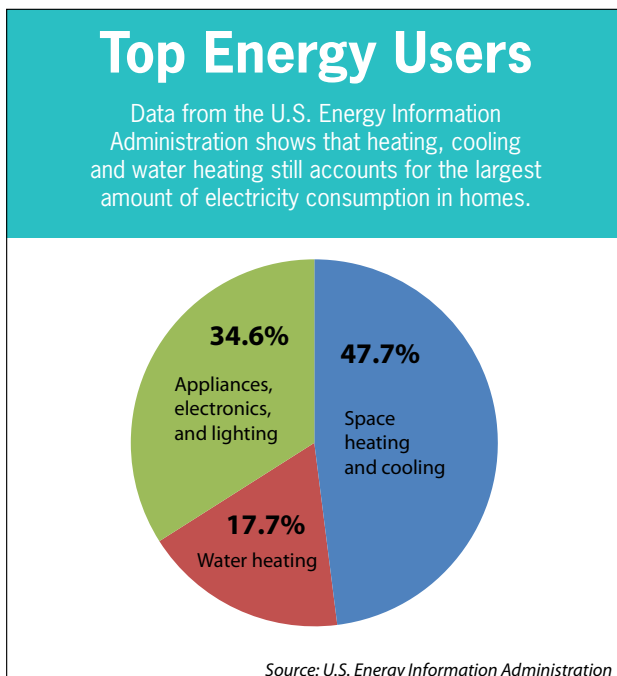
You might also be wondering how your co-op can help you become more energy efficient. One of the best tools at your disposal is the free account portal available at CEMCPower.com or through our mobile app, “Central EMC.” Here you can keep tabs on your daily energy use and you can also set up alerts that will notify you when your usage reaches a certain level. You can also enroll in our FlexPay program, which allows you to manage your payments

and closely monitor your energy use. Want to know the best part? These accounts tend to be up to 10 percent more energy efficient because users are more aware of their daily energy use.

As you can see, there are many ways to save and we are here to help you be in the best position to become more energy efficient. When you save, we save, and that’s what I call a win-win situation.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion



Operation Round Up® aids local non-profits

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$24,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects.

Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

- ▶ [Another Choice, Lee County](#) – \$3,000 to help renovate a portion of the office facility to use as an educational resource area for the children while staff processes paper work for permanent housing.
- ▶ [Buddy Back Pack Program, Harnett County](#) – \$3,000 to purchase food for 13 elementary schools in Harnett County.



Ginger Cunningham, Chatham County Extension Agent, accepts a grant check on behalf of the Chatham County 4-H. The grant will help local youth attend 4-H camps this summer.

- ▶ [Chatham County 4-H](#) – \$3,000 to provide need based scholarships for campers to attend 4-H summer camps.
- ▶ [Chatham County Literacy Council](#) – \$3,000 to help provide education of soft learning skills to a growing base of adult learners to help them become more employable.
- ▶ [Lee County High School JROTC](#) – \$1,500 to help with

costs associated with the annual Military Ball.

- ▶ [Lee County Schools Academically Intellectually Gifted \(AIG\) Dept.](#) – \$1,500 for 2018 Kaleidoscope Program scholarships to help deserving students participate in the trip to Washington, D.C.
- ▶ [Project Graduation 2018, Chatham County](#) – \$3,000 to provide entertainment at the alcohol free graduation event for Chatham County students.
- ▶ [Southern Lee High School FFA](#) – \$3,000 for the State Leadership Conference, food and bedding for the wild animal lab and the purchase of 10 official jackets.
- ▶ [Western Harnett Lions Club](#) – \$3,000 to send four campers to Camp Dogwood, a week-long camp for the blind.



Are you due a refund?

The great thing about being a part of a cooperative is that customers are actually “member-owners.” One way ownership is reflected is through capital credits, the members’ share of what’s left over annually after the costs of delivering power and funds for emergency situations and regular growth projects have been covered.

We make every effort to locate the person entitled to their capital credit check. Often, members have moved and they are difficult to locate. A list of names is posted on the home page at CEMCPower.com. Please review the list and if you see your name or the names of family or friends, have them contact the cooperative at 919-774-4900 and ask to speak to a representative in the accounting department.



Cooperative Leadership Camp

This summer, Central Electric is sending a rising sophomore, junior or senior to Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council.

The week-long, overnight camp will be held at White Lake, N.C., June 18-22. It will feature energetic and interactive workshops, presentations, outdoor recreation and leadership building exercises.

The camp is designed to provide a learning experience that concentrates on the cooperative way of doing business, building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model. Each year, five campers are selected to receive leadership awards for their unique leadership abilities and receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Institute on Co-op Education at Virginia Tech University. All campers will also be eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership scholarship their senior year of high school.

The deadline to apply is quickly approaching. All applications must be received by May 15. For more information or to apply, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" section at CEMCPower.com.

Students: Apply for
Cooperative Leadership Camp
at CEMCPower.com



Loans and rebates available

Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home this summer? Central Electric can help.

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.

Visit the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com to learn more about available energy-efficient loans and rebates, as well as energy-saving tools and services that can help you become more efficient.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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