

NEWS Central

AUG 2018

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

POINT OF VIEW

Grid resiliency

GIVING BACK

Supporting our community

TAKE CONTROL

Sign up for FlexPay

Stay cool during the “dog days” of summer

It's the hottest time of the year, but you can take a few cues from Fido to stay cool during these dog days of summer and keep a tight leash on energy use!

Throw your air conditioner a bone. When it's hot outside, your air conditioner needs all the help it can get. Open interior doors and vents to help air circulate and reduce the strain on your HVAC system. You can also close exterior doors and windows, as well as any blinds, shades or curtains, to help keep the heat of the day out and cooled air in.

Put your energy use on “paws.” Waiting to use major appliances, especially those that generate heat like the clothes dryer and dishwasher, until the late evening, overnight or early morning hours can help your home stay cooler.

Fetch a fan for easy savings. Instead of turning down the thermostat, opt for a ceiling



Fido says a good way to take control of your energy use this summer is by downloading the cooperative's free mobile app or enrolling in FlexPay. Both services allow you to track your energy use on a daily basis. Knowing how your habits affect your bill allows you to make changes and save money.

or portable fan. Make sure your ceiling fan turns counter clockwise during hot weather to push cool air down. Remember to turn fans off when you're not using them; fans cool you, not the room.

Get more “bang for your bark” by taking advantage of energy management services available

to you. The co-op offers a number of services such as FlexPay and a mobile app that can help you take control of your energy use and budget.

You can always visit the “Energy Efficiency” section at CEMCPower.com to learn more energy-saving tips to help you save money this summer!



Energy efficiency tip:

- ▶ Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. *Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy.*

POINT OF VIEW

Grid resiliency at the co-op

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

” Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it’s the power lines, substations or transmission lines on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. ”



Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular topics being talked about in the electric industry today. This topic appeared in headlines after Hurricanes Irma and Maria last year, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico’s electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico’s grid. Here at Central Electric, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It’s reliability in your electric service, it’s our ability to efficiently restore your power, it’s being able to meet the demands of new technology and it’s how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for you, our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible

and adaptable by allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology, from demand response investments by the co-op to incorporating member-owned generation sources such as roof-top solar into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it’s the power lines, substations or transmission lines on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico’s power grid wasn’t solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of the system and not preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before

it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong, or as resilient as it can be.

Projects such as our recent transmission line replacement are part of our commitment to a resilient and reliable electric grid. The aging infrastructure was replaced with a higher-capacity steel reinforced line and with the upgrades now in place, the co-op is well positioned to keep up with evolving demands in the southern portion of our system for the next several decades.

Grid resiliency has been and will continue to be a top priority of your co-op. Whether it’s a major hurricane or continual growth of our vibrant communities, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to continue providing you with the reliable service you have come to expect now and well into the future.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Operation Round Up® boosting local groups

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$27,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

- ▶ **Chatham Housing Initiatives Inc.** – \$3,000 for the Building Family Strengths Program that helps families cope with challenges of today's society.
- ▶ **Chatham Outreach Alliance** – \$3,000 for the SNACK! program that increases the availability of nutritious food to children in Chatham County during summer break.
- ▶ **Communities in Schools (Chatham)** – \$3,000 to grow capacity to serve students with



Members of the Lee County High School FFA club accept a grant check on behalf of the club. The grant will send 10 students to FFA Camp to help build leadership skills.

complex social-emotional needs and learning differences who are at highest risk for academic under-achievement.

- ▶ **Faces of Chatham County** – \$2,000 to help pay for summer camp scholarships for children in Chatham County who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend.
- ▶ **Family Promise of Lee County, Inc.** – \$3,000 to help cover expenses associated with vehicles to transport families

to appointments, work and school.

- ▶ **Helping Hands Clinic (Lee)** – \$3,000 to provide medication to patients.
- ▶ **Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County** – \$3,000 for the Community Support for Hispanic Families program to support Hispanic families in Chatham and Lee counties.

- ▶ **Lee County High School FFA** – \$2,970 to help cover costs associated with sending members to FFA Camp.
- ▶ **Sanford Job Express (Lee)** – \$1,627 to pay automobile insurance premium for vehicles used to transport clients to work and interviews.
- ▶ **West Chatham Food Pantry** – \$3,000 to purchase food for the pantry.



Apply early for Bright Ideas!

Central Electric is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2018-2019 school year. Educators in K-12 classrooms are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000. Grants are available for all subjects and teachers can apply individually or as a team.

This year, Central Electric will award Bright Ideas grants totaling approximately \$15,000. To apply, educators must include a budget, explain the creative elements, implementation, goals and evaluation of the project, and have approval from the school principal.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 19, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

Cooperative awards college scholarships

Several local students attending either Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) or Sandhills Community College (SCC) have been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to help with education expenses.

Each year, Central Electric awards scholarships to CCCC or SCC students who are members of the cooperative or live in a home served by the cooperative. Scholarships are awarded based on scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, financial need and a written essay.

These scholarships represent a way for the cooperative to provide higher education opportunities for our local students and help invest in the future of our communities.



Emily Harrison
CCCC



Justin Minter
CCCC



Katelyn Batchelor
CCCC



Paula Hill
CCCC



Corey McCrimmon
SCC



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Take control of your budget

Are you looking for ways to manage your energy costs? We may have the answer for you. The co-op's FlexPay program gives you the power to manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.

FlexPay allows you to pay on your account as necessary to maintain a credit balance based on your daily energy charges. If your account balance runs out, there are no reconnect charges. You only need to establish a \$20 credit account balance to reconnect.

You can monitor your account at CEMCPower.com, as well as through email, text and voice alerts. FlexPay is available to both new and existing residential consumers.

To learn more about the FlexPay program or to see about transferring an existing account onto FlexPay, contact us today.

