

NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

OCT 2018

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Use caution this fall

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Comfort Loan program

Your co-op is more than an energy provider

October is National Co-op Month, which means there is no better time to highlight the many ways your electric cooperative is unique. As a member of Central Electric, you are more than just a customer; you are a member-owner.

The co-op business model is distinct due to its people first philosophy. Central Electric is locally governed, which means it belongs to its members and the communities it serves. This community focus allows the co-op to quickly adapt to the evolving needs of members.

There's no denying it, the energy industry is quickly changing. Some members are taking interest in renewable energy, and ultimately, consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. You are looking to the co-op to accommodate your changing needs and Central Electric is uniquely positioned to take control and meet your needs right where you are.

That's where your trusted energy partner comes in. The co-op is here to help you every step of the way. Since a lot of members have questions about how to save energy in their home, there are a variety of materials under the "Energy Efficiency"



**YOUR
TRUSTED
ENERGY
PARTNER.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are here
for you, every
step of the way.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

tab at CEMCPower.com to help you along the way. Since members are now more mobile than ever, resources like our mobile app are available to keep you connected wherever you may be. And most importantly, co-op representatives are just a phone call away, readily available to answer any questions you may have.

Your co-op will continue working hard each day to keep your trust, and rest assured, looking out for your best interest and enriching the lives of those working and living in our communities will always remain the primary mission.



The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Members of Central Electric Membership Corp.:

- ▶ Friday, Oct. 5, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford
- ▶ Food, registration and entertainment begin at 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ Business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ Prizes and a cash drawing for \$500 at the meeting's conclusion!

POINT OF VIEW

Your source for solar questions

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

Your trusted energy partner. This is the motto our cooperative has coined to let our members know that we do more than just provide electricity to your home, farm or business. It says that we are not only committed to powering your daily life, but also to being your primary source of information for all of your energy related questions or decisions.

This is especially relevant and important this month because we are celebrating National Co-op Month. As a member-owner of this co-op, you are the heart of our not-for-profit business model. It is our continuing mission to protect your best interest, and this includes helping answer any questions you may have.

One topic we are receiving an increased amount of questions about is renewable energy, residential solar arrays in particular. This is not surprising because N.C. is now the second-leading state in the U.S. for solar production, trailing only California.

While a majority of this solar growth is from utility scale projects that are very large in size, more individuals are showing interest in

purchasing a solar array for their home or business. Consumer interest in solar has primarily been driven by the falling cost of solar panels and installation coupled with a federal solar tax credit in place through 2021.

If you are considering a solar array for your home or business, the first question to ask yourself is whether it makes financial sense for your situation. Depending on the size of the system and the installer you choose to do business with, the current market price for a residential system is around \$3,200 per kW. An average size system of 5 kW will cost approximately \$11,000 after tax incentives.

If you are looking to save money in the short term, you may want to consider other options before solar. Maximizing the energy efficiency of your home through insulation, sealing air leaks and other basic fix-it projects may make more sense. However, if you are more comfortable with a longer-term return on your investment,

“Whether you are considering investing in solar or other energy-efficiency upgrades, make the decision that best fits your budget and expectations. No matter your energy needs, we are here to help you make choices that are right for you.”



ranging on average from 10 to 15 years, solar may make sense for your situation.

Whether you are considering investing in solar or other energy-efficiency upgrades, make the decision that best fits your budget and expectations. No matter your energy needs, we are here to help you make choices that are right for you.

In today's technology driven world, sometimes our first reaction is to "Google it." While there is a ton of great information out there about solar energy, there is some really helpful information available on our website that will guide you through the process and also help you decide whether a solar array is a good decision for your situation. You can find this information in the "Renewable Energy" section under the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com, or you can give us a call and someone will be glad to speak with you.

Until next time,

Morris McClellion

Think safety when landscaping this fall

Fall officially began on Sept. 22 and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home's exterior a fresh look, but there's one thing many people don't consider before they start their landscaping projects – power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, review this list of safety tips:

- ▶ Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. Central Electric has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren't too close to power lines. If you happen to see any that may look too close, call us, and we will send out the experts.
- ▶ Ladders are conductors of electricity. It's best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn't inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.
- ▶ Call 811 before you dig to identify where underground utility lines are buried even if you're just planting a tree or shrub. Digging around lines can cause serious injury as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit NC811.org.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a kite



string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you're around power lines. If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-446-7752.



Take advantage of the portal

As a member of Central Electric, you have the ability to manage and track your account anytime, anywhere. Whether you need to pay your bill or monitor your energy use, the Member Service Portal at CEMCPower.com is your one-stop shop.

The free portal is available to you 24/7 and it offers an extensive range of account services for you to take advantage of. Not only can you track your energy use or make a one-time payment towards your account, you can also set up a variety of different payment options, including a recurring payment draft.

You can also keep your contact information up-to-date, that way, when we need to communicate with you and keep you current on cooperative news, we have all the information we need to reach you. If you haven't already, click on the "Login" button on the home page at CEMCPower.com to get set-up today!

Cooperative provides leadership opportunity

The cooperative recently sponsored Hannah Milford, Neida Figon and Abigail Milford to attend Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council.

The week-long camp was held at White Lake, N.C., featuring 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 and building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model.

Hannah, Neida and Abigail were chosen to attend the camp on behalf of the cooperative due to their strong work ethics in the classroom and extracurricular involvement in their schools and communities.

Central Electric sponsors a local high school student each year to attend Cooperative Leadership Camp. If you will be a rising sophomore, junior or senior during the 2019-20 school year, the application period for next year's camp will begin in March and run through May 2019. The camp will be held in June at the N.C. FFA Center at White Lake. For more information about this great program, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" page at CEMCPower.com.



[L-R] Hannah Milford, Neida Figon and Abigail Milford represented Central Electric at the 2018 Cooperative Leadership Camp.



Central Electric
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*

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