

# NEWS Central

MAR 2019

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## POINT OF VIEW

Your trusted solar source

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Three easy ways to save

## LEADERSHIP CAMP

Apply now!

## Kenan Fellow teaches students co-op way

This past year, Central Electric had the unique opportunity to partner with the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership at NC State University and N.C.'s Electric Cooperatives to host a local educator as a part of the prestigious Kenan Fellow program. For three weeks during her summer break, Daria Fedrick, a career technology teacher at Bragg Street Academy in Sanford, immersed herself in the cooperative world to learn the "in's and outs" of the business.

Once her time with the Kenan Fellows Program and the co-op were complete, Fedrick decided to share the experience with her students. As a part of her class curriculum, Fedrick's class formed its own co-op, all the way from a not-for-profit business model to an acting board of directors that helped guide the co-op's decision-making process. Thus, Bragg Street's "Sugar Shack" came to life.

Each student became an active member of the newly formed



Central Electric's Kenan Fellow, Daria Fedrick, used her experience at the co-op to start a candy co-op with her class. Students worked together to learn the "in's and outs" of the cooperative model. [Photo credit: Lee County Schools]

candy cooperative, working together to sell candy via the school's "behavior points" system. Some students worked on filling orders, while others took on roles of customer service and marketing the product to students in the school. At the end of the project, just like Central Electric does for its member-owners, the margins were divided and distributed back to the students.

"Thank you to Central Electric and its members for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Kenan Fellows program and most importantly for the experience it provided to my students," said Fedrick. "Not only were my students able to experience first-hand the benefits of the not-for-profit business model, but also the commitment the co-op has to its members and the community."

- ▶ Each year, Central Electric offers scholarships to five students attending Central Carolina or Sandhills Community Colleges. The deadline to apply is May 1. For more information, visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).

# POINT OF VIEW

## Your trusted solar source

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion

“That’s where your electric cooperative comes into play. As your trusted energy advisor, the cooperative is here to help answer any questions you may have about residential solar.”



Today’s consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Some are looking for long-term savings, while some are simply looking for a green energy source to help power their home.

While these are two of the primary motives behind some homeowners exploring rooftop solar panels, the interest in this alternative energy source has also been fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, coupled with federal financial incentives that are in place through 2021 and the increasing availability of companies offering solar panel installations.

Solar energy is a fantastic renewable energy source and there are numerous benefits of residential solar installations. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for your particular situation, and before you make the purchase, it is important that you perform due diligence to make sure it is the correct investment for your situation.

That’s where your electric cooperative comes into play. As your trusted energy advisor, the cooperative is here to help answer any questions you may

have about residential solar. The co-op is in a unique position because it has a different “bottom line” that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. As your not-for-profit energy provider, we constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently, including guidance on adding solar panels to your home if you decide that is the best decision for you financially.

To help determine if solar is right for you, first understand a few things about your home: current energy efficiency, age of your roof, orientation of the sun in relation to your home, and tree coverage.

Also fully understand some of the financial considerations:

- ▶ Is there a large, up-front payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- ▶ Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- ▶ How will the maintenance fees be handled?
- ▶ Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment? Would it be more cost effective

to invest in other, cheaper energy saving measures?

If your home is not very energy efficient, your roof is aging or doesn’t have much sun exposure and 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, ranging on average from 10 to 15 years, solar may make sense for your situation.

Either way we are here for you, here to provide the necessary support and services to help create a bright energy future. If you ever have questions about residential solar installations, visit the “Renewable Energy” section under the “Energy Efficiency” tab at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com), or you can give us a call and someone will be glad to speak with you.

Until next time,

*Morris McClellion*



# Three easy ways to help save energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

## Install a programmable thermostat

You can save money on your heating and cooling bills by simply controlling the temperature of your home when you are asleep or away. You can do this automatically by installing a programmable thermostat, which will allow you to adjust your thermostat on a pre-set schedule. By installing a programmable thermostat, you can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by automatically turning your thermostat back for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.

## Seal air leaks with caulk

Much of the money you spend on heating and cooling your home is wasted through air leaks in the envelope of your home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, wiring and plumbing can help save energy and money.

## Weather strip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can help seal your home



and control energy costs. When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides. [Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy]

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# Deadline for TESC is quickly approaching

Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
**Sports Camp  
Scholarships**

**Apply by March 31**

Central Electric is sending a young man to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh.

To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must be able to provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

**The deadline to apply is March 31.** For more information or to apply, visit the "Sports Camp Scholarships" section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).



# 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 17-21. 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](http://CEMCPower.com).

**Students: Apply for  
Cooperative Leadership Camp  
at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com)**



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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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