

# NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

JUNE 2019

## POINT OF VIEW

Coal ash developments

## ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

Tips for summer heat

## GIVE US AN "A"

Local students cash-in

## Stay connected by utilizing member services

At Central Electric, our focus is not only on providing you with safe, reliable and affordable power, but also providing you with services to help you easily manage your account and take control of your energy use. Here are a few services available for you to take advantage of:

**Mobile app.** On the go and want to check your energy use or make a payment? Since our members are more mobile than ever, the cooperative has a variety of mobile services available to meet you right where you are, wherever you are. If you have not done so already, download our free mobile app by searching "Central EMC" in either the App Store or Android Market.

**Alerts and reminders.** Once you download the mobile app or visit the account portal, make sure you check out the selection of account alerts and reminders available to you. Ranging from a high usage alert to due date and payment reminders, these notifications are meant to help



### Co-op Toolkit

- ▶ Mobile services
- ▶ Alerts & reminders
- ▶ FlexPay

Much like the toolkit you have at home to help with home improvements, your cooperative also has a "toolkit" of services available to help you manage your account and take control of your energy use.

you stay in touch with your account and usage.

**FlexPay.** 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. To learn more about the FlexPay program or to see

about transferring an existing account onto FlexPay, visit the "Payment Options" page at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).

We know our members like convenience and being connected, which is why we are constantly looking for ways to provide you with services to help make managing your account and energy use a breeze.



- ▶ Applications for 2019 third-quarter Operation Round Up® grant opportunities must be submitted by July 15. Recipients will be announced following the Trust board meeting on Aug. 15.

# POINT OF VIEW

## Coal ash developments

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Morris McClellion*

If you pay much attention to regional news, you have probably heard the most recent reports on the disposal of coal ash, a by-product of the process used to generate electricity at coal-fired generation plants. In April, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued new determinations to Duke Energy to excavate coal ash at all remaining ponds and move the ash to lined landfills, rather than capping in place as originally determined at some sites.

You may be asking, how does this differ from prior to April 1?

If you recall, beginning in 2014 following the spill of coal ash into Rockingham County's Dan River, a flurry of regulations were created aiming to regulate the disposal of coal ash. The legislation that followed introduced more stringent disposal and storage requirements for Duke Energy and ranked storage ponds, by level of "risk." At that time, Duke Energy was ordered to excavate and store coal ash in lined landfills at ponds deemed to be of "higher risk."

The new decision handed down by the DEQ affects six of the remaining plants previously deemed to be of "lower risk." The ponds at these plants were previously to be capped and sealed in place; however, the new determinations are

requiring the ponds to be excavated and stored in lined landfills.

So now you may be asking, how does this affect me as a member of Central Electric?

Well, the short answer is that it could substantially impact ALL consumers of electricity in our state; you, me, everyone who uses electricity. This unfortunately includes our members, employees and

directors of Central Electric just as much as it does customers of Duke Energy.

While Central Electric does not own any coal-fired power plants, a portion of the electricity we have supplied to you comes from wholesale contracts with Duke Energy, which includes electricity

“While we fully support decisions and solutions that protect the environment, as a not-for-profit provider of electricity, we are very concerned about the financial impact the DEQ's decision will have on all consumers of electricity in our state, including our member-owners.”



generated from coal-fired generation plants. We have all benefited for many years from the reliable and lower cost production of coal-fired electricity.

The exact financial impact and timeline of the new coal ash orders for Duke Energy is still uncertain. As of right now, Duke Energy is in the process of appealing the new decision. They have estimated the new determinations could double its original cost projections to a new total of approximately \$10 billion.

While we fully support decisions and solutions that protect the environment, as a not-for-profit provider of electricity, we are very concerned about the financial impact the DEQ's decision will have on all consumers of electricity in our state, including our member-owners.

Even though the impact for our member-owners is uncertain, one thing is certain; we will continue working diligently on your behalf to protect your affordable energy costs. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available in the future.

Until next time,

*Morris McClellion*

# Let your electric bill relax while on vacation

Going on vacation this summer? Even if you plan to just be away a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Even though you are on vacation or away from home for an extended period of time, certain appliances continue to operate and use electricity unless they are turned off. Here are a few tips to help give your utility bill a break when you take one.



**Thermostat.** While away, set your thermostat to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring your home doesn't get too warm.

**Water heater.** Check the temperature of your water heater. If you're going to be gone for a lengthy period of time, you may want to adjust it to a lower temperature or turn it off.

**Windows.** Make sure all windows and doors are tightly closed so cool air is not escaping. Also close blinds and shades to help keep your home cooler.

**Electronics.** Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices including computers, TV and cable boxes, microwaves and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.

Some other things to also consider to help save energy throughout the summer:

- ▶ Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.

- ▶ Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.
- ▶ Replace air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.
- ▶ Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install and provide free electricity.

For more tips on how to save energy and money year-round, visit the "Energy Efficiency" section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During the summer months, the recommended setting for your thermostat is 78 degrees, or as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. While away from home, set your thermostat to 85 degrees to minimize cooling costs while you are not there. This is best achieved with a smart or programmable thermostat, which allows you to adjust the temperature in your home on a predetermined schedule.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Students rewarded for classroom efforts

Five outstanding students earned a Visa® gift card for receiving at least one “A” on their recent report cards. The reward is in connection with Central Electric’s “Give us an A” program.

Local students from kindergarten to college with a grade of at least one “A” are invited to submit a copy of their most recent report card. Four times each school year, Central Electric will draw from the entries and award a \$25 Visa gift card to four winners with at least one “A” and a \$50 Visa gift card to one winner with all “A’s.”

If you have at least one “A” on your next report card, visit the Education Programs section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) by June 21 to enter the next random drawing.



Abigail Fruge  
Union Pines High



Alex Thomas  
Lee Christian



Ari'Anna Gilchrist  
Highland Elem.



Dakota Riffle  
Overhills Middle



Kayden Thompson  
Dogwood Academy



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Morris McClellon  
CEO & General Manager

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Tim Priest and Henry Randolph.

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.

## Nominating Committee to meet June 3 to set Director elections

In accordance with Section 4.06 of the Cooperative’s bylaws, the Central Electric Board of Directors has appointed a group of members to prepare a slate of nominees for election at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members on Oct. 4, 2019.

Those appointed to the Nominating Committee include:

- ▶ Ronnie Lambert, Siler City
- ▶ Lonell Smith, Cameron
- ▶ Robert Howington, Sanford
- ▶ Michael V. Perry, Sanford
- ▶ Carolyn Cameron, Sanford
- ▶ Jackie Williams, Pittsboro
- ▶ C. Richard Williams, Siler City
- ▶ John S. Blue, Carthage
- ▶ Bradley Wadsworth, Carthage
- ▶ Cathy Cagle Callahan, Cameron
- ▶ Janet Brower, Cameron.

The committee will meet June 3, 2019. During the meeting, they will consider three-year terms for the following incumbents: Frank Comer III, District 1; James Brooks, District 2; Edith Cox, District 3.

Once the slate of nominees has been determined, the list will be posted at the cooperative’s office at 128 Wilson Road, Sanford, N.C.

The deadline for additional nominations is Aug. 6, 2019. Any 100 or more members of the cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than 60 days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts.