

NEWS Central

DEC 2019

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

POINT OF VIEW

Keeping electricity affordable

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

Deck the Halls with LEDs

YOUTH TOUR 2020

Now accepting applications

Supporting local teachers and students

Central Electric is continually looking for ways to support the communities we serve. One way is by annually awarding Bright Ideas grants to local educators. The program helps support engaging and innovative classroom projects.

This year, the co-op awarded \$15,000 to 13 educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Over 2,700 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$11.5 million to educators across the state. Congratulations to the following 2019 Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Rachel Lambert, McDeeds Creek Elementary
- ▶ Jo Ann Lawler, Deep River Elementary
- ▶ Ashley Luersman, Cameron Elementary
- ▶ Camm McNeill, SanLee Middle School
- ▶ Jill Manning, McDeeds Creek Elementary
- ▶ Georgia Proctor, Vass-Lakeview Elementary
- ▶ Ashley Randolph, SanLee Middle School



Georgia Proctor [middle] accepts a Bright Ideas check with her students on behalf of Vass-Lakeview Elementary. The grant will allow Proctor to use leveled readers to help students read based on their own individual levels and engage with hands-on activities.

- ▶ Paul Rizzo, Community Learning Center at Pinckney
- ▶ Diana Rowland, Sandhills Theater Arts Renaissance
- ▶ Charlene Schlott, B.T. Bullock Elementary
- ▶ Celeste Smith, Carthage Elementary
- ▶ Patricia Steingraber, Sandhills-Farm Life
- ▶ Angela Walter, Highland Elementary

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2020. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit CEMCPower.com or NCBrightIdeas.com.



- ▶ The CEMC office will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Merry Christmas from your friends at Central Electric.
- ▶ Year-end closing will take place starting at 12 p.m. on Dec. 31 through 12 p.m. on Jan. 1. During this time all payment systems will be down.

POINT OF VIEW

Keeping electricity affordable

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

As your friends and neighbors at your local electric cooperative, we never want to bring you news that your electric costs are going up. We enjoy bringing you much more pleasant news, such as wholesale power cost credits or capital credit checks going out this month and each of the last 11 years. However, we must sometimes bring news that is not so pleasant.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2020, a small adjustment of approximately 1.5% will be necessary to keep up with rising costs for the co-op. We are very aware of the fact that electricity is a necessity in our modern world. We depend on it to

power our daily lives and keep us connected to the world. It is essentially a foundation of our modern existence and few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

That is why we work hard to keep your electricity bills affordable. Controlling costs, applying innovative ways to control system load, and providing tools and information to help you become more energy efficient are just a few ways we keep affordability as a top priority.

When you receive your January billing statement, take a moment to compare the value we



receive from our electric bills in comparison to the cost of other consumer items we frequently purchase.

For example, how much did your iPhone cost? Did you know that you can fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny? You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total. To take it a step further, at today's cost the average consumer can actually power their entire home for several months at the same cost of an iPhone. Take a moment to let that sink in.

In an ideal world, expenses would never go up, but the reality is that costs sometimes change, whether it is within our control or not. In the following months, we will have more information on the exact details of the rate adjustment. However, despite small changes along the way, we are committed to keeping your electricity bill affordable and helping you continue to enjoy all of the different uses of electricity at a very competitive cost.

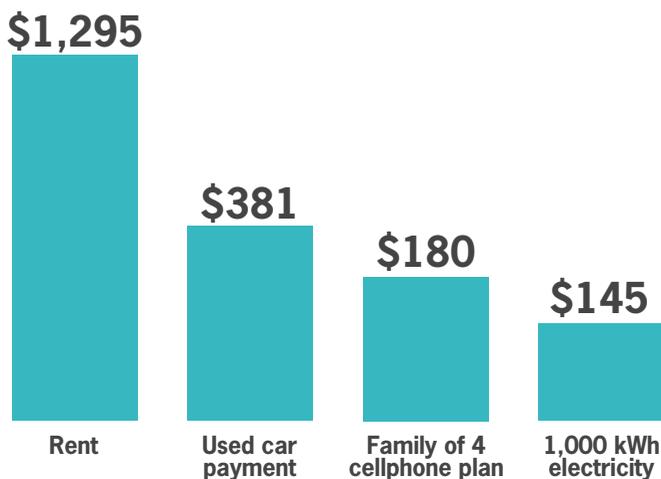
Until next time,

Eddie Oldham

Electricity remains a good value compared to other costs

Next time you think about the cost of electricity service from your co-op, compare it to the cost of other expenses you have each month. When you consider what you get from electricity, the value really shines!

Average monthly cost (2019)



Sources: Zillow, NerdWallet

'Tis the season for energy-efficiency & safety

As the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, more time is spent inside your home enjoying holiday traditions with family and guests. We want to help make your holiday season as safe and energy efficient as possible with some tips to keep in mind as you deck the halls:



Consider using LED lights to decorate instead of incandescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and last longer. Only buy lights that contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label to ensure they meet adequate safety requirements.



Set holiday lights on automatic timers to minimize the time lights stay on overnight and during the day. Don't leave a lit Christmas tree unattended and always turn off tree lights before going to bed or leaving the house.



Before putting up holiday decorations, check all lights for frayed wires, damaged sockets or cracked insulation. Make



sure outdoor cords, plugs and sockets are weatherproof. Never let a cord run through a puddle, even if it says it's weatherproof.



Don't overload electrical outlets. This is especially common during the holidays when people tend to use more electricity, and it increases the risk of a fire.

For more information about how to be safe and energy efficient year-round, visit CEMCPower.com.



Take control with 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.

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 on 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.



“Say Yes” to the Youth Tour

Central Electric is seeking applications from high school students willing to participate in the leadership opportunity of a lifetime: The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Step out of your comfort zone, and join North Carolina’s future leaders as they explore the nation’s capital.

The Youth Tour allows students to experience Washington, D.C., and learn more about how they can make a difference as young adults. Tourists will visit the Washington Monument, pay their respects at Arlington National Cemetery, meet elected officials and tour Smithsonian museums, all while building connections with peers and future leaders from across the nation.

The cooperative will sponsor two local students to join the June 20-26, 2020 Youth Tour. The all-expense paid, week-long tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. About 1,800 students from more than 40 states are expected to participate in 2020, and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives will send a delegation of nearly 45 students.

Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in fall 2020 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by Jan. 24. Visit CEMCPower.com to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.



Central Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO & General Manager

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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Water heater maintenance

Did you know that as a member of Central Electric the water heater maintenance program is available to you for just \$1 month? That’s right, this small fee covers the heating element, pop-off valve and thermostats on your water heater, regardless of where you purchased it, or how old it is.

Even more, after you’ve been enrolled for at least 90 days, if the cooperative’s licensed plumber determines the element, pop-off valve or thermostat is the problem, a \$50 credit will be added to your next bill. If they determine the water heater needs to be replaced, a \$100 credit will be added if you purchase a new water heater with an energy factor of 95 or higher.

