

NEWS Central

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

JAN 2020

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ENERGY-EFFICIENCY

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SPORTS CAMPS

Apply now!

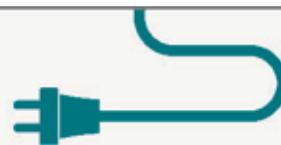
Electric billing rate adjustment necessary

Effective Feb. 1, an adjustment will be made to all Central Electric billing rates. The rate adjustment is necessary to meet increasing operating costs experienced by the cooperative. An overall final increase of 2.0% in total revenue is required to meet the cooperative's increasing expenses.

All members will notice the rate adjustment beginning on bills received on or after Feb. 1. As a not-for-profit cooperative owned by the members, Central Electric takes all necessary steps to ensure affordable power. Operating as close to at-cost as possible, rates are set to generate enough revenue to purchase power and provide exceptional service to the membership.

Based on the average all-electric residential consumer that uses 1,400 kWh in one billing period, the average member can expect an increase of approximately \$3.92. On your monthly bill, you will notice an increase of 2.5% in the kWh rate and an increase of \$1.00 in the basic facility charge, but you will also notice a decrease of

It's Electric!



Rate adjustment for All-Electric Rate 6 | 1,400 kWh (winter rate schedule)

Month	Old	New	Difference
Basic Facility	\$26.00	\$27.00	\$1.00
ECF	\$4.85	\$3.85	(-\$1.00)
1,400 kWh	\$147.56	\$151.22	\$3.66
Tax 7%	\$12.49	\$12.75	\$0.26
Total	\$190.90	\$194.82	\$3.92

\$1.00 on the Environmental Compliance Charge (ECF). The net change in your monthly bill comes out to an increase of 2.0%, or approximately \$3.92.

While a rate adjustment is necessary at this time, your cooperative is continually seeking ways to provide affordable and reliable power to its members at the most competitive cost, now and into the future.

HAPPY
New Year

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. Crews will be on-call. Have a Happy New Year and best wishes in 2020 from Central Electric.

POINT OF VIEW

Operating costs on the rise

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

As your electric cooperative, Central Electric is focused on providing members with electricity at the lowest financially prudent cost. Historically, this aspect of governing can sometimes be the most challenging.

While wholesale power costs have stabilized over the last several years, costs of other items necessary to operate, maintain and repair our system have seen increases. Rising labor, infrastructure and maintenance costs are all stark realities of maintaining the system.

While all of these items are part of the annual budget process, we must also address the rising costs of these items on an as-needed basis. With that being said, in comparison to other consumer commodities, electricity is still a great value to this day and has continued to remain relatively stable over the past several decades.

We are continually proactive in addressing rising costs by seeking efficient, innovative and cost effective ways to serve members. The co-op is constantly

seeking ways to reduce operating costs and minimize the impact of rising costs brought on by outside economic forces, i.e. inflation. Numerous programs, such as utility level peak shaving and voltage

conservation, are in the works that aim to make the co-op's grid more efficient and thereby reduce power costs.

In addition to slight increases in the kWh rate and basic facility charge, on your February bill you will also notice a decrease in the Environmental Compliance Fee (ECF). If you recall, the addition of

the ECF was necessary to meet compliance costs being handed down to the cooperative from its main wholesale power supplier, Duke Energy. The compliance costs stemmed from government mandates regulating the disposal of coal ash and requirements for closing coal ash basins.

As promised from the outset, as these costs to the co-op decreased, the costs for our members would also decrease. Following the first two years of higher coal ash-related costs, as

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expected, we are happy to report in 2020 a reduction of the ECF by \$1.00 to align with the most current costs to the co-op.

In an ideal world, rates would never need to increase. However, the reality is that rates must sometimes be adjusted to ensure the ongoing health of the cooperative. In the event future revenue projections are more favorable, we will continue our strong history of returning excess revenue to members through WPCA billing credits and capital credit allocations.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, a rise in rates does not create profits for outside shareholders. It simply makes sure the cooperative generates enough revenue to cover costs associated with providing reliable power to you, the member-owner.

Rest assured, we are constantly working to preserve the safety, affordability and reliability of your service, regardless of the ongoing challenges we may face.

Until next time,

Eddie Oldham

Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle in 2020

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy—and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.



Trim Dryer Vent

Level of difficulty: easy. Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape. Estimated Cost: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Seal Air Leaks

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. Estimated Cost: \$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions

for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W> [note: links are case sensitive].

Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. Estimated Cost: \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, visit the "Energy Efficiency" section at CEMCPower.com.



Youth Tour deadline is Jan. 24

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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James Taylor, *Editor*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

“Hoop” applications now open

Central Electric annually awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend 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 for all applications is March 31. Visit the “Sports Camp Scholarships” section at CEMCPower.com to apply!