

NEWS Central

April 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

See who is on our unclaimed money list

The great thing about being a part of a cooperative is that customers are actually “member-owners.” One way ownership is reflected is through capital credits, the members’ annual share of what’s left over after the costs of delivering power and funds for emergency situations and regular growth projects have been covered.

Allocated capital credits represent each member’s equity in the cooperative. The co-op holds on to these funds for a period of time in order to finance improvements to the system and reduce interest paid for loans. This helps keep rates affordable while at the same time improving reliability for the membership.

When the co-op is financially able to do so, as determined by the Board of Directors, capital credits are distributed to members. That means member-owners share in the successful operation of the cooperative. This is one of the many tangible benefits of being served by the co-op.

We make every effort to locate the person entitled to a capital credit check. Often, members have moved and they are difficult to locate. A list of names is posted on our website, CEMCPower.com, under the “Member Services - Capital Credits” section. Please review the list and if you see your name or the names of family or friends, please have them fill out the form found on the website and a representative will be in contact with the individual to complete the process.

Did you know?

Central Electric has retired over \$15 million to members – \$12.2 million in the last 11 years and \$1.2 million in 2019 alone. Since the co-op operates as close to at cost as possible, any operating margins (excess revenue after all bills are paid) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits and returned to members over time.



APRIL 10 the CEMC office will be closed for Easter. Crews will be on call.

MAY 1 is when applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships are due. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.

MAY 15 is the deadline for applications for Cooperative Leadership Camp at White Lake, N.C. Apply online at CEMCPower.com.



POINT OF VIEW

Understanding energy costs

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ We’re all in this together. When you save electricity, the co-op saves money, and when the co-op saves money, we all save money on electricity costs in the long-run. That’s the beauty of the cooperative business model; when you win, we all win. ”

Do you ever wonder what goes into the electricity rates for our members? Maybe you’ve wondered what the basic facility charge is for, or what a kilowatt-hour (kWh) is? These are all very common questions and if you have ever asked yourself those same questions, you are not alone. That’s why I want to take a second to help you understand what is behind the charges on your monthly bill.

To start, it is important to understand how the electricity eventually makes it to your home. Before it is ever used to power your everyday needs, it is first generated at a power plant and transmitted through a network of transmission lines, substations and distribution electric lines. We purchase the electricity wholesale from a third party, through wholesale power agreements, and provide the means for the electricity to travel from our substations directly to your home across a system of poles, lines, transformers and other various equipment.

The same as we bill our members each month, the co-op also purchases electricity on a monthly basis based on the peak demand of our system. Peak demand refers to the moment in time when our system is using the most amount of electricity. During the winter, this is typically in the morning when it is coldest outside and families are getting their day started, and during the summer, it is typically in the late afternoon at the hottest point of the day when everyone is starting to return home from school and work.

So how does this relate to the basic facility and kWh charges that you see on your monthly bill? The

basic facility charge is essentially each member’s share of the costs to maintain the system, i.e. poles, wires, substations, etc. This ensures that all equipment can be maintained and is operating efficiently to deliver reliable power to your home.

The kWh charge is for your individual electricity consumption. A kWh is your electricity demand over a period of time. This is dependent upon what types of devices you are running in your home and extremely dependent upon the setting of your thermostat versus how hot or cold it is outside. This relates back to the peak demand billing to the co-op. When the electricity consumption of our members is at its highest, that is where the billing to the co-op is at its highest.

As a not-for-profit provider, our goal is to serve our members as close to at-cost as possible, while keeping enough funds on hand to absorb any unforeseen circumstances that may occur, such as major storms or equipment malfunctions. Just like you, we are constantly working to make changes to our system to reduce our costs. We’re all in this together. When you save electricity, the co-op saves money, and when the co-op saves money, we all save money on electricity costs in the long-run. That’s the beauty of the cooperative business model; when you win, we all win. Rest assured, we are continually looking for ways to save you money on your electricity, now and well into the future.

Until next time,

Eddie B. Oldham

The Member Service Portal is a one-stop shop to manage your account

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 has everything you need to stay in touch with your account.

The portal is available to you 24/7 at CEMCPower.com and through our FREE mobile app, available in both the App Store and Android Market by searching "Central EMC." Both offer the same great range of account services, including the ability to set-up a variety of different payment options and alerts and reminders, such as a reoccurring payment draft or high energy use alert.

If you haven't done so already, visit the "My Account" tab in the upper left-hand corner at CEMCPower.com to enroll and get started today!



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 by June 26 to enter the next random drawing.



Alex Thomas
Lee Christian



Katelyn Scheffler
Horton Middle



Brody Blell
Broadway Elem.



Madeline Lehman
Union Pines



Jonathan Marroquin
Highland Middle

Think safety when landscaping this spring

Spring time generally stimulates the amount of outdoor work we do around our homes due to the warmer weather. As you begin to tackle some of those outdoor projects that you have been adding to your list, a focus on electrical safety awareness can help ensure your activities do not result in any injuries.

Follow these guidelines when working outside:

- ✓ Ladders, even those made of wood, that come into contact with power lines can be fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines and keep them parallel to the ground when carrying them to a location.
- ✓ Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. Repair or replace damaged items.
- ✓ Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid using electrical items when conditions are wet, including in the morning when the ground is still damp.
- ✓ Always dial 811 to find out where utility lines are buried on your property before starting any projects that require digging. Never assume the location or depth of underground lines, there's no need. The 811 service is free and helps you avoid injury. Here are the easy steps to safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. They will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Hold off on digging for two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Make sure that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), call811.com.



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