

NEWS Central

SEPT 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Driving electric the way of the future?

National Drive Electric Week 2020 is Sept. 26 - Oct. 4, and Central Electric is joining the effort by highlighting the many benefits of driving electric.

Electric vehicles have a lot to offer. They are fun to drive, with faster acceleration and a more responsive, zippy feel behind the wheel. Powering a car with electricity is cheaper than powering it with gas, so they cost less to run. Electric vehicles are also convenient. Most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station, and they also tend to have fewer parts, which means less maintenance and no oil changes. They also contribute to a brighter environmental and economic future by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and supporting local commerce and tourism.

The co-op has been taking steps to help make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. We recently installed two EV chargers in our service territory, a Level 3 DC Fast charger right off US-1 and a Level 2 charger at our office building in Sanford, in partnership with other electric



In addition to installing two EV chargers, the co-op also recently added an EV to its fleet of vehicles. The best way to learn about a new technology, is to use it. That way we can learn more about driving electric and answer any questions you may have about EVs.

cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to easily travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities.

Members can also take advantage of the co-op's time-of-use rate that is specially designed to extract maximum benefits out of EV charging at home. If you're considering driving electric or looking for more information on the benefits of EVs, be sure to visit our "Electric Vehicles" page under the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com.



SEPT. 7: Central Electric office will be closed for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.

SEPT. 15: Deadline for Bright Ideas applications. Central is awarding \$15,000 to local educators to help bring creative and innovative projects into their classroom. Apply at NCBrightIdeas.com.



POINT OF VIEW

Always here for you

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“Community is important and that is what the co-op is all about. Your co-op has been here for you from the start, and we’re still here for you today, just as we will be tomorrow.”

The past few months have been a challenging time for all of us. Not just here in central North Carolina, but across the world. In March, when the pandemic first began, it was almost unthinkable that we would still be sorting through the aftermath in September. But here we are today, summer quickly coming to a close soon, and we are still dealing with the impacts of COVID.

Despite all of the challenges and uncertainties, as your local, trusted energy cooperative, we have been working hard to be there for you, our members. We understand the importance of community. It is vital to our business model and a core component of what we stand for.

Being there for you comes in many different forms. We always strive to be there for you financially, providing you value for the service you receive. That’s why from the start, we were quick to put in place measures to help ease the economic burden for our members, including postponing disconnects and waiving late payment fees, which remained in place through July 29. At the beginning of August, we were able to return to more of a “normal” business schedule. However, we also understood the financial burden for some of our members was still there. Which is why we put in place measures to help further ease the impact of the previous few months, stretching out accrued balances over a 12-month period of time.

We’ve also made significant changes to our Annual Meeting of the Members this year, coming up right around the corner next month. To continue

protecting the health and safety of our members and employees, we are moving to a virtual format for this year. While we are disappointed to not be able to see our members at the Civic Center, we are excited about the opportunity to bring the co-op to you in your home. Each of you are an important part of our co-op community, and the meeting serves as our way to keep you up-to-date on how we are working hard for you, each and every day.

Be sure to read through the meeting information included with the magazine this month, and also register your participation in the meeting by submitting either an online or mail-in voting ballot. We look forward to hopefully seeing you again in person next year, and be sure to tune in to the live stream on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.

Even though at certain moments it may still be hard to see, hopefully we are moving towards the return of normalcy in our near future. We all know the old saying that the light at the end of the tunnel could in fact be a freight train coming our way, but I choose to remain hopeful and believe that there is in fact an end in sight, no matter how far away.

When we look back at this moment in time, I hope one thing shines through, how we all came together to get through it. Community is important and that is what the co-op is all about. Your co-op has been here for you from the start, and we’re still here for you today, just as we will be tomorrow.

Giving back to the local community

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, over \$26,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects.

4-H Lee County Extension – \$500 for Electric Camp.

Another Choice for Black Children (Lee) - \$2,800 for repairs and renovations for patient care.

Buddy Back Pack of Harnett County (Harnett) – \$3,000 to help purchase food items to be distributed to local students.

Central Carolina Community College Foundation, Inc. – \$3,000 for the Dream Keeper Fund, which provides assistance to students facing hardship.

Chatham Housing Initiatives, Inc. – \$2,800 to help fund the GAP program, an alternate housing option for families fleeing domestic violence.

Community in Schools of Chatham County – \$2,800 for CIS Model, Youth First, Community Service & Restitution, Family Advocacy and Teen Court.



Paola Rodriguez, Advocacy Program Manager, accepts a grant check on behalf of the Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County. The grant will be used for supplies, marketing, social media, database fees, postage and mileage.

Drug Free Moore County – \$1,955 for the “Helping Women Recover” curriculum used to help inmates at the Moore Co. Detention Center.

Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County – \$2,800 for the Hispanic Liaison/EL Vinculo Hispanic (EVH) community support program.

Moore Buddies Mentoring (Moore) – \$1,500 to help expand outreach, training, and mentoring at additional schools.

Payton’s Promise Foundation of HOPE (Lee) – \$2,800 to assist with Family Fun Night for people with children suffering from life threatening illnesses.

Salvation Army of Lee County – \$3,000 to provide funds to the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Community Action Targeting Children programs.

Southern Lee FFA (Lee) – \$2,800 for animal supplies and funds to help offset the cost of the NC FFA State Conference.

Energy Advisor

In just a few clicks, our Energy Advisor analyzes energy use and areas for improvement. First, a quick survey gathers information about your home’s size, construction, and energy systems. Energy Advisor instantly produces an accurate, detailed breakdown of annual energy use. With recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades, you can immediately start taking low-cost or no-cost actions to save money on utility bills. Visit the “Energy Advisor” page under the “Energy-efficiency” section at CEMCPower.com to get started.



Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle this fall

Cooler weather is right around the corner, and the upcoming fall months are the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. A few small changes can have a big impact. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

Make the most of your water heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating costs. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation. You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20.

Seal air leaks with caulk. The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.



Weather strip exterior doors. One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you 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 and that it fits snugly so it compresses when the door is closed.

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.



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