

NEWS Central

OCT 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Your co-op is more than an energy provider

October is National Co-op Month, which means there is no better time to highlight the many ways your electric cooperative is unique. As a member of Central Electric, you are more than just a customer; you are a member.

The co-op business model is distinct due to its people first philosophy. Central Electric is locally governed, which means it belongs to its members and the communities it serves. This community focus allows the co-op to quickly adapt to the evolving needs of members.

There's no denying it, the energy industry is quickly changing. Some members are taking interest in renewable energy and electric vehicles, and ultimately, consumers want greater control over their energy use and ways to connect with their utility. You are looking to the co-op to accommodate your changing needs and Central Electric is uniquely positioned to take control and meet your needs right where you are.

That's where your trusted energy partner comes in. The co-op is here to help you every step of the way. Since a lot of members have questions about how to save energy in their home, there are a variety of materials under the "Energy Efficiency"

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

tab at CEMCPower.com to help you along the way. Since members are now more mobile than ever, resources like our mobile app are available to keep you connected wherever you may be. And most importantly, co-op representatives are just a phone call or message away, readily available to answer any questions you may have.

Your co-op will continue working hard each day to keep your trust. Rest assured, looking out for your best interest and enriching the lives of those working and living in our communities will always remain the primary mission.

OCT. 2 is the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members, here are the highlights:

- ▶ **When:** Facebook Live on Friday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m.
- ▶ **Where to view:** [Facebook.com/cemcpower](https://www.facebook.com/cemcpower)
- ▶ **Register and vote** at directvote.net/cemc by Sept. 30. All those who submit a ballot will be entered to win one of thirty \$250 gift cards!

YOU'RE
INVITED!



POINT OF VIEW

Your source on solar

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“Whether you are considering investing in solar or other energy-efficiency upgrades, make the decision that best fits your budget and expectations. No matter your energy needs, we are here to help you make choices that are right for you.”

Your trusted energy partner. This is the motto our cooperative has coined to let our members know that we do more than just provide electricity to your home, farm or business. It says that we are not only committed to powering your daily life, but also to being your primary source of information for all of your energy related questions or decisions.

This is especially relevant and important this month because we are celebrating National Co-op Month. As a member-owner of this co-op, you are the heart of our not-for-profit business model. It is our continuing mission to protect your best interest, and this includes helping answer any questions you may have.

One topic we are receiving an increased amount of questions about is renewable energy, residential solar arrays in particular. This is not surprising because N.C. is the second leading state in the U.S. for solar production, trailing only California.

While a majority of this solar growth is from utility scale projects that are very large in size, more individuals are showing interest in purchasing a solar array for their home or business. Consumer interest in solar has primarily been driven by the falling cost of solar panels and installation coupled with a federal solar tax credit in place through 2021.

If you are considering a solar array for your home or business, the first question to ask yourself is whether it makes financial sense for your situation. By now, you have most likely seen residential solar advertisements or you may have been contacted by a solar installation company. Depending on the

size of the system and the installer you choose to do business with, the current market price for a residential system is around \$3,200 per kW. An average size system of 5 kW will cost approximately \$12,000 after the 26 percent federal tax incentive.

If you are looking to save money in the short-term, you may want to consider other options before solar. Maximizing the energy-efficiency of your home through insulation, sealing air leaks and other basic fix-it projects may make more sense. However, if you are more comfortable with a longer-term return on your investment, ranging on average from 10 to 15 years, solar may make sense for your situation.

Whether you are considering investing in solar or other energy-efficiency upgrades, make the decision that best fits your budget and expectations. No matter your energy needs, we are here to help you make choices that are right for you.

In today's technology driven world, sometimes our first reaction is to "Google it." While there is a ton of great information out there about solar energy, there is some really helpful information available on our website that will guide you through the process and also help you decide whether a solar array is a good decision for your situation. You can find this information in the "Renewable Energy" section under the "Energy Efficiency" tab at CEMCPower.com, or you can give us a call and someone will be glad to speak with you.

Eddie B. Oldham

Cooperative awards college scholarships

Several local students attending Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) have been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to help with education expenses.

Each year, Central Electric awards scholarships to local community college students who are members of the cooperative or live in a home served by the cooperative. Scholarships are awarded based on scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, financial need and a written essay.

These scholarships represent a way for the cooperative to provide higher education opportunities for our local students and help invest in the future of our communities.



Alicia Southwell
CCCC



Veronica Henry
CCCC



Sabrina Tillman
CCCC



Crystal Benson
CCCC



Let us keep the light on

As winter draws ever closer, the days continue to get shorter, and we have less time to spend outside.

Maybe you want to play an extra game of basketball. Perhaps you have guests coming over who need to see how to get to your door. Outdoor lighting can add security to your home and also extend the time you have to spend outside.

Central Electric offers several lighting options to meet your needs, including the standard LED model, floodlights, street lighting and the more decorative town and country fixture.

For more information, or to find out how you can add security lighting on your property, visit the "Member Services" tab at CEMCPower.com or call 919-774-4900 today.

Think safety when landscaping this fall

Fall officially began on Sept. 22 and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home's exterior a fresh look, but there's one thing many people don't consider before they start their landscaping projects – power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, review this list of safety tips:

- ▶ **Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines.** Central Electric has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren't too close to power lines. If you happen to see any that may look too close, call us, and we will send out the experts.
- ▶ **Ladders are conductors of electricity.** It's best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn't inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.
- ▶ **Call 811 before you dig** to identify where underground utility lines are buried even if you're just planting a tree or shrub. Digging around lines can cause serious injury as well



as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit NC811.org.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you're around power lines. If you have any questions, please contact us at 919-774-4900.



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