

# NEWS Central

JAN 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## WPCA CREDIT on your December bill

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Central Electric continually strives to provide safe, reliable, and *affordable* power for members. In order to provide the highest quality of electric service to members at the most competitive price, the cooperative operates as close to at-cost as possible, setting rates to generate enough revenue to purchase power and provide exceptional service.

An important part in determining rate schedules is predicting the future cost of wholesale power. Wholesale power costs account for 64 percent of expenses and they significantly impact rates. These costs can be difficult to predict. Rather than doing frequent, costly rate studies, Central Electric and other cooperatives often use a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) to adjust for actual costs of wholesale power. When costs are lower, you may receive a credit on your bill, and when they are higher, it may appear as a charge.

Due to favorable fuel and wholesale power costs, actual costs have been lower than budgeted costs for the past operating year. That's why on your December bill, you should have noticed a WPCA **credit** of \$0.027 per kWh, or \$27.00 for every 1,000 kWh used. This is one of the many benefits of being a member-owner of a not-for-profit electric cooperative like Central Electric. YOU, the consumer, reap the benefits and share in the financial success of the company rather than outside shareholders. That's the "cooperative difference," YOU are the priority.

### WHY YOU ARE GETTING A CREDIT



**Wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA):** A **charge** or **credit** applied to bills to adjust for the **actual** costs charged by our wholesale power provider.

**HIGHER  
ACTUAL COSTS**  
Passed along as  
a **charge** on  
the bill

**LOWER  
ACTUAL COSTS**  
Passed along as  
a **credit** on  
the bill

**64%** of Central Electric's expenses =  
wholesale power costs

#### How about some good news?

Actual costs have  
come in lower than  
budgeted for the  
past operating year

(due to favorable fuel and  
wholesale power costs).

#### Your December bill CREDIT:

**\$0.027** per  
kilowatt-hour (kWh)

That's **\$27.00** for  
every 1,000 kWh used!

One more benefit of being a member  
of your not-for-profit electric cooperative.

**DEC. 31 & JAN. 1** The CEMC office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31, and closed on Friday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. Year-end closing will also take place during this time and payment systems will be down from 12 p.m. on Dec. 31 through 12 p.m. on Jan. 1. Crews will be on-call. Happy New Year and best wishes in 2021 from Central Electric.





# POINT OF VIEW

## Directors are key to success

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham*

As an electric cooperative, Central Electric is guided by an elected Board of Directors who represent the membership when making important decisions. Being a member of the co-op's Board is an important position in our community. A director's decisions impact issues such as rates, work plans and the overall direction of the cooperative. This position holds great responsibility and requires men and women who understand the needs of their community and aim to serve the best interest of the membership.

The beauty of the cooperative model is that any member in good standing can run for the Board and all directors are elected by the membership. They are a democratically elected body nominated by members within the cooperative's service territory and voted into position by members at the Annual Meeting of the Members each October.

They are members, just like you, elected by you, who live near you. They want the same thing you want, affordable energy bills

and the comfort of knowing the lights will turn on with the flip of a switch.

The Board works hard throughout the year to invest in the electric system, to keep power affordable and reliable. They constantly interact with members and listen to your concerns and ideas, to learn how they can help achieve these goals.

It is vitally important for the cooperative to elect strong directors to the Board. Central Electric has been very fortunate to have such a strong pool of directors. Each director has brought fresh ideas and new perspectives that have helped shape and guide the cooperative into what it is today.

With that being said, it is with a heavy heart that we at Central Electric are remembering one of our longtime, faithful and dedicated board members, R.G. Wadsworth, who passed away on Nov. 4. A longtime resident of Moore County, Mr. Wadsworth served on the Central Electric Board for 14 years. He was first appointed in March 1990,

representing District 4 in Moore County until his retirement in February 2014.

Along with serving on the co-op's Board, Mr. Wadsworth was also a lifelong advocate for the farming and agriculture community. In addition to his work for the USDA as a crop adjuster and insurance



R.G. Wadsworth served on Central Electric's Board of Directors for 14 years, representing members in Moore County District 4.

agent for Federal Crop Insurance, he was selected as Moore County Outstanding Farmer of the Year, Family Farmer of the Year, and Conservation Farmer of the Year.

He was elected and appointed to several USDA, agricultural and political committees, as well as serving on the boards of the Tobacco

Warehouse co-op in Carthage and the Moore County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Wadsworth was a great ambassador for the advancement of our rural communities as well as the farming and agriculture industries. His guidance and leadership will be greatly missed.

# Make 2021 a year of energy improvements

“Dropping the ball” is a good thing when you’re ringing in the New Year, but not if you’re missing an opportunity to save energy and money. By making small improvements in 2021, you can realize significant savings that will pay back by reducing your energy expenses.

Use the following co-op programs and tips to become more efficient and save money all year.

- ▶ [Switch over to the FlexPay program](#). FlexPay gives you the power to manage your payments and closely monitor your energy use.
- ▶ [Speak with the cooperative's energy auditor](#) to identify the areas in your home that could benefit most from energy efficiency improvements. The free audit is tailored to your energy consumption and needs and can help cut your energy expenses throughout the year.
- ▶ [Sign up for free account alerts](#), including a high usage alert, through the billing portal at [CEMCPower.com](#). This will help you track and manage your energy use year-round.
- ▶ [Have your HVAC system serviced by a professional](#) at least once a year to maintain its performance. The spring and fall are great times to have this done.
- ▶ [Invest in a programmable thermostat](#). These can help you save money by automatically adjusting the temperature during certain times, like when you are away during the day or asleep at night.
- ▶ [Make the switch to LED light bulbs](#). LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.



Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows is a cost effective way to seal up your home this winter. It will help keep chilly air outside and heated air inside.

## 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.



# Students rewarded for classroom efforts

Ten 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. Typically, five students are selected, however, due to the circumstances surrounding 4th quarter report cards at the end of the last school year, we are awarding 10 gift cards instead of the normal five to make up the difference. Double the fun to start out the 2020-21 school year!

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](http://CEMCPower.com) by Feb. 13 to enter the next random drawing.



RJ Wrenn  
Highland Middle



Katie Scheffler  
Chatham Charter



Adelyn Byrd  
Broadway Elem.



Angie Gutierrez-Rosales  
Highland Middle



Annagrace Zaremba  
Horton Middle



Heidi Moscoso  
Jordan Matthews



Kaytie Thomas  
Lee Christian



Layla Scott  
S. Harnett Elem.



Nate Hancock  
Chatham Central



Levi Scott  
S. Harnett Elem.



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## OFFICE HOURS

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Eddie Oldham  
CEO & General Manager

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