

NEWS Central

JAN 2022

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 59 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 \$0.041 per kWh, or \$41.00 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

59% of Central Electric's expenses = wholesale power costs

<p>How about some good news? Actual costs have come in lower than budgeted for the past operating year <small>(due to favorable fuel and wholesale power costs).</small></p>	<p>Your December bill CREDIT: \$0.041 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) That's \$41.00 for every 1,000 kWh used!</p>
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One more benefit of being a member of your not-for-profit electric cooperative.

DEC. 30 & 31 The CEMC office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30, and closed on Friday, Dec. 31, 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. 30 through midnight on Jan. 1. Crews will be on-call. Happy New Year and best wishes in 2022 from Central Electric.





POINT OF VIEW

The co-op is community

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you. ”

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about our core principle, concern for community. This is one of the many ways that set cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round-Up program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help

our most vulnerable neighbors pay their bills. Or our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports and volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—the co-op is community.

A group of our employees recently exemplified exactly what this principle means to us at the co-op. Sanford Outreach Mission, a local nonprofit in Lee County, needed assistance building ramps at both of their locations in Sanford.

Using their building and teamwork skills, employees ranging from lineworkers to our marketing and accounting groups, showed up to lend their time. Through the project, they were able to greatly assist accessibility at the shelters. Thank you to each of our employees for their hard work!

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on, however, our passion is our community. We live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all. Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.



A group of our employees recently lended a helping hand to Sanford Outreach Mission to build new ramps at both of their locations. We are grateful for all the nonprofits and all they do for our community!

Eddie B. Oldham



Tips to ditch the space heater

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- ▶ Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- ▶ Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- ▶ Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.
- ▶ Have your HVAC system serviced by a professional at least once a year to maintain its performance.
- ▶ Invest in a programmable thermostat. These can help you save money by automatically adjusting the temperature of your home during certain times, like when you are away during the day or asleep at night. That way your heat runs when you need it to, keeping you cozy!

Energy Advisor

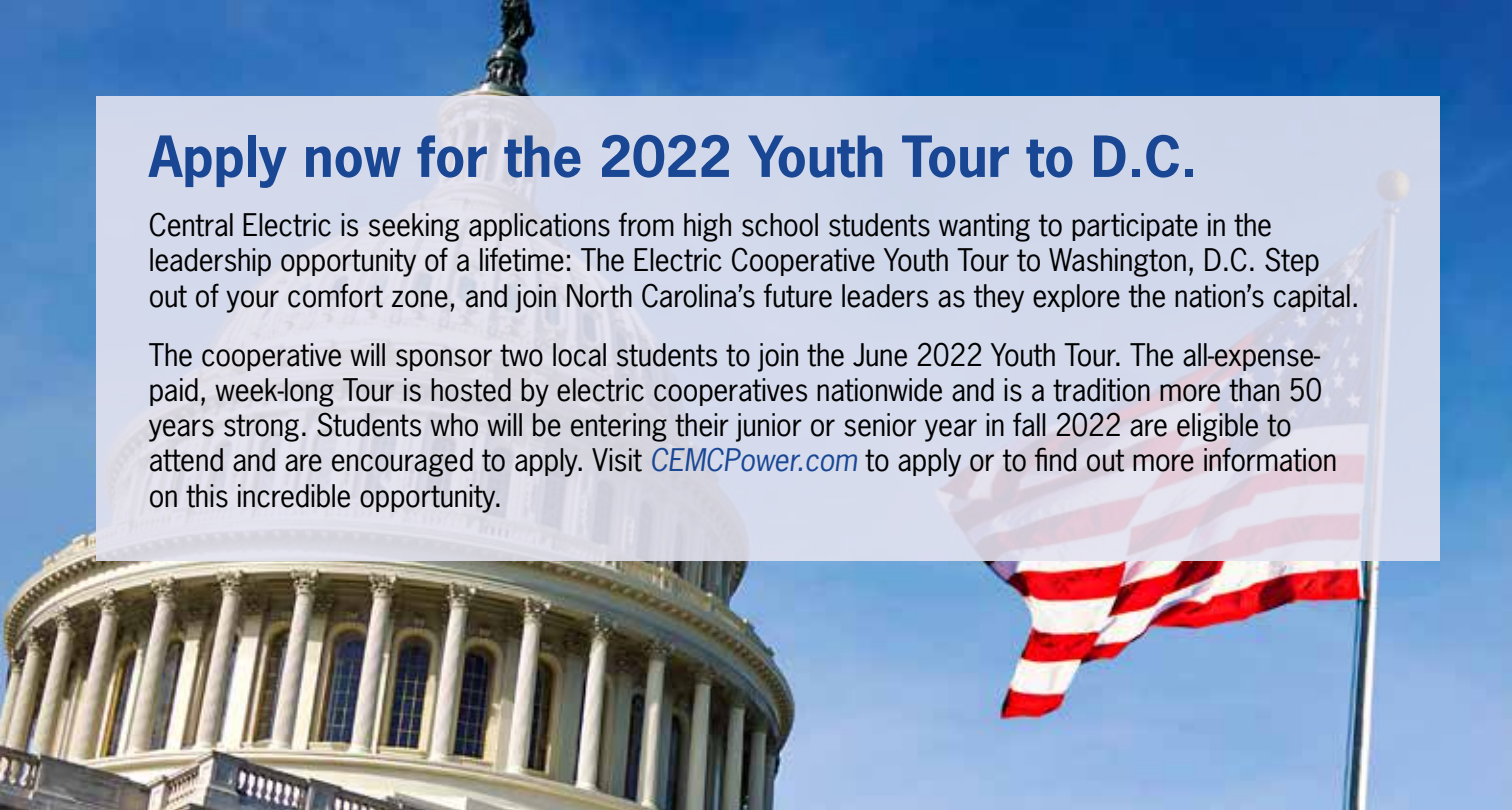
In just a few clicks, our Energy Advisor analyzes energy use and areas for improvement. First, a quick survey gathers information about your home's size, construction, and energy systems. Energy Advisor instantly produces an accurate, detailed breakdown of annual energy use. With recommendations for 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 "Savings Tools" section at CEMCPower.com to get started.



Apply now for the 2022 Youth Tour to D.C.

Central Electric is seeking applications from high school students wanting 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 cooperative will sponsor two local students to join the June 2022 Youth Tour. The all-expense-paid, week-long Tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in fall 2022 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Visit CEMCPower.com to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.



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.



Kendra Baldwin
Ascend Leadership



Briar Hartness
Sandhills Farm Life



Joseph Quesnel
N.C. Virtual Acad.



Nathan McGehee
Lee County High



Rebecca Kangas
New Century Middle



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO & General Manager

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