

NEWS Central

AUG 2022

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Solar & electric vehicle time-of-use rates

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 means 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.

Two topics we continue to receive an increased amount of questions about are renewable energy, residential solar arrays in particular, and electric vehicles, or EVs. This is not surprising because N.C. is the second leading state in the U.S. for solar production, trailing only California, and electric vehicles are making a strong surge as auto manufacturers continue to push out new models.

To help you decide whether adding residential solar or purchasing an electric vehicle is right for your



Thinking about whether adding solar or purchasing an EV is right for you? Be sure to visit our Solar/ EV section at CEMCPower.com before making any decisions. We have a lot of information available to help you decide if it is right for you and your family.

particular situation, we have a selection of great resources on our website, CEMCPower.com, under the Solar/EV tab. We also have two EV time-of-use rates available that aim to help members maximize savings when charging an EV at home during the late “off-peak” hours.



Scan this QR Code with your phone's camera to check out our Solar/EV resources at CEMCPower.com.

HAPPY
LABOR DAY

AUG. 15 is the early-bird deadline for Bright Ideas applications. All early-bird applications will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. The final deadline for all applications is Sept. 16.

SEPT. 5 the Central Electric office will be closed for Labor Day. Crews will be on-call.



POINT OF VIEW

Democracy is the co-op way

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“ We encourage all of our members to actively participate in this process, not just this year but every year, and exercise your opportunity to help establish the future direction of the cooperative. ”

Each year, we at Central Electric hold an annual meeting of the members that provides an opportunity for members to actively engage and participate in the business of the cooperative. In addition to updates on how the cooperative has been working to serve our membership, members also have the opportunity to elect their Board of Directors.

As a member of a co-op, you have the opportunity to help set the direction for the co-op. This is a critical difference between co-ops and other electricity providers, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs). With IOUs, you are a customer and there is no required ownership. The utility is controlled by its shareholders, who may have no direct attachment to the organization other than seeking a return on their investment.

Election of directors is one of the most important activities we conduct as a not-for-profit cooperative. These are the individuals entrusted to represent the membership and work alongside the cooperative staff to give strategic direction and ensure the co-op has good governance. 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. 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. 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.

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.

This year, we will once again be conducting a “virtual” annual meeting. Part of this “virtual” format is the process of electing your directors through a web and mail-in ballot process.

The following page provides information on the event as well as how you can participate in the election of your directors. We encourage all of our members to actively participate in this process, not just this year but every year, and exercise your opportunity to help establish the future direction of the cooperative. Look out for full event and voting details next month in our September issue of Carolina Country, and we hope you will tune in to the Annual Meeting live stream on Oct. 7.

“See” you then!

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING COMING TO YOU LIVE!



Participate in the business of your cooperative from the comfort of your own home.

Date: Friday, Oct. 7, 2022

Time: 10 a.m.

Link: [Facebook.com/CEMCPower](https://www.facebook.com/CEMCPower)

All those who submit a ballot by Sept. 23 will be entered to win a prize!

Vote for your directors

There are two EASY ways to vote this year. You can either mail in the prepaid ballot postcard or vote online. Look for your ballot and voting instructions in the September edition of Carolina Country.

2022 Graduates: YOU could WIN the Annual Meeting Scholarship!

If you're a 2022 high school grad and the child of a Central Electric member (or, a member yourself), submit YOUR entry to win a \$2,000 scholarship! The deadline is Friday, Sept. 16 and the winner's name will be drawn at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. For details on how to apply, visit [CEMCPower.com](https://www.CEMCPower.com) today or scan the QR code.



Why has my power bill gone up this summer?

You may sometimes wonder why your electricity bill goes up and down, and is higher at certain times of the year. If you're paying close attention, you may have noticed that the spikes generally occur during the warm summer months and cold winter months. That's because your heating and cooling system is working harder during these months to keep the inside of your home comfortable.

Typically our highest energy use periods of the year usually occur from June to September, and then again from January to February. When there is a larger difference between the outside air temperature and the temperature you have the inside of your home set at, you use more energy to maintain the comfortable setting you like.

So what can you do to help save energy?

Install a programmable thermostat. You can save money on your heating and cooling bills by simply controlling the temperature of your home when you are asleep or away. You can do this automatically by installing a programmable thermostat, which will allow you to adjust your thermostat on a pre-set schedule. By installing a programmable thermostat, you can save as much

Other low cost ways to save energy:

- **Keep your drapes and curtains closed to help keep the sun from raising the temperature inside your home.**
- **The recommended temperature for your water heater is 120 degrees, but bump it down to 115 degrees if you are comfortable with that setting.**
- **Upgrade to LED bulbs; they use 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.**

as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by automatically turning your thermostat back for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.

Raise your thermostat. We recommend setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during the summer months and 68 degrees during the winter months. When you are away from home, you can bump the thermostat up during summer and down during the winter by 7 to 10 degrees if you have a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat while you are away.



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