

NEWS Central

FEB. 2023

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Why does your January bill seem higher?

On your December bill, you probably noticed a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) of \$26.00 for every 1,000 kWh used. Actual wholesale power costs for 2022 were lower than budgeted costs, so in December each of our members received a credit on their bill to adjust for the difference. 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.

So how does the December WPCA credit impact your January bill?

In short, it doesn't. The WPCA credit from December has no impact on your January bill. However, since your December bill was reduced by the WPCA credit, it makes the dollar difference between your December and January bill seem that much more significant. The best way to always look at your bill and to understand changes in your bill, is to look at your energy use. You'll notice

A WPCA billing credit of \$26.00 per 1,000 kWh issued to all members in December will make your January bill seem significantly higher than your December bill.

Be sure to compare your energy use and factor in the WPCA billing credit you received in December.



that your energy use goes up during the winter and summer months and then back down again in the spring and fall months. Your bill is largely dependent upon the fluctuations in your energy use, which is greatly impacted by the weather.

So when you receive your January bill, be sure to compare energy use and factor in the WPCA billing credit you received in December. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 919-774-4900.



Energy efficiency tip:

We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees, or as low as you can comfortably stand it. A programmable thermostat is also a great upgrade because it allows you to customize your heating schedule to save money.



POINT OF VIEW

Resilience a top priority

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“Many years of prior work on the system focusing on resilience, reliability and redundancy, coupled with a quick response from our team members, put us in a position to restore service very quickly.”

As you are very aware by now, an unprecedented situation recently occurred in Moore County involving a concerted effort to damage Duke Energy equipment. The aftermath of the vandalism resulted in substantial damage to various substation and transmission equipment, including transmission equipment serving us here at Central as well as our sister co-op, Randolph EMC. The end result was a widespread outage across Moore County that included the greater Carthage, Cameron and Vass communities here in our area.

For those of you who live in the Carthage area, you are most likely already aware of the impact to us at the co-op due to the outage at your home that evening, but some of our other members may not be as aware. At about the same time thousands of others in Moore County began losing power, roughly 1,300 of our members in the Carthage, Cameron and Vass areas lost power as well. When the damage occurred to the Duke Energy transmission equipment, one of our Moore County substations lost its transmission feed. This resulted in an outage to our distribution feeds serving the greater Union Pines and Joel Road areas, putting our members in those areas in the dark.

Our fantastic team members responded quickly that evening to determine the issue behind the outage and came to realize that the situation was anything but normal. Thankfully, we found no damage to any of our facilities but were soon notified of the damage to Duke Energy equipment.

You've probably heard us mention "back feeding" when communicating about work being completed

on the system, and we were proactively in a position to have back feeding capabilities already set up in this area. Once we were given the "all clear" from emergency personnel, as well as from Duke Energy on the transmission load side, our crews went to work to tie in the feeds from our disabled Moore County substation to other areas of the system. Our team put together a quick and precise plan of action to back feed the impacted areas, or in less technical terms, reroute and distribute power from other areas of the system to members who were in the dark. Many years of prior work on the system focusing on resilience, reliability and redundancy, coupled with a quick response from our team members, put us in a position to restore service very quickly.

Following the vandalism, you may have concerns regarding grid security and vulnerability of infrastructure. Rest assured, along with all other utilities in the industry, keeping the grid secure is a top priority for us at the co-op. Staying ahead of new challenges is a collaborative effort, and we will continue to work with other utilities, industry partners and organizations, government agencies and local officials to address concerns and reinforce vulnerabilities. As we do with all other areas of our service, we will continue to look for ways to best serve our members and community, including adding additional layers of security as necessary to ensure our substations and other critical infrastructure are secure.

Eddie B. Oldham

Operation Round Up® boosting local groups

Thanks to the Operation Round Up program, powered by voluntary donations from Central Electric members, over \$33,000 is being put back into the local communities to provide assistance for worthy projects. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofit organizations:

Chatham Co. Council on Aging
– \$3,000 to buy tools for a sewing room at the West Chatham Senior Center in Siler City.

Chatham Housing Initiatives
– \$3,000 to help GAP residents and other low-income families save on energy costs and preparing healthy meals.

Chatham Outreach Alliance
– \$3,000 to help support the SNACK Program.

Chatham Trades, Inc.
– \$3,000 to support the Adult Developmental Vocational Program (ADVP).

Ingram Family YMCA – \$3,000 to help provide need-based scholarships for children to attend YMCA summer camp.



[L-R] Hamer Carter and Lillian Hatton accept a grant check for \$3,000 on behalf of Outreach Mission to help reach and serve homeless individuals in our community.

Johnsonville Elementary School
– \$3,000 to help purchase furniture for the school library.

Johnsonville Elementary School (First Grade)
– \$481.25 to purchase materials to help first-grade students enhance their math comprehension.

Outreach Mission, Inc. – \$3,000 to provide basic essentials to individuals experiencing homelessness.

St. Provision Community Development Corp. – \$3,000

for the Fall Festival and Empowerment Weekend.

Southern Lee High School
– \$2,965.49 to purchase necessary equipment to help students complete projects.

Temple Theatre – \$3,000 to help fund scholarships for the Temple Theatre youth conservatories and academy classes.

West Chatham Caring Community DBA West Chatham Food Pantry
– \$3,000 to purchase food and other essential food items needed to serve clients.

Thinking about making energy-efficient upgrades to your home? We can help!

The cooperative offers a **low-interest comfort loan** to members with approved credit for heat pumps, insulation, storm doors and programmable thermostats. Financing can be included as a line item on your monthly electric bill. Rebates are also available for energy-efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) built homes.



Scan this QR code or visit the “Savings Tools” tab at CEMCPower.com to learn more about energy-efficient loans, rebates and other tools available to our members.

TESC Basketball Scholarship Program

Central EMC annually awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore or Randolph counties. One young man is selected to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and one young lady wins a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh.

At camp, students work directly with the staff to learn basketball skills, leadership and teamwork.



To be eligible to apply, students must be in the sixth or seventh grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend. Scan the QR code or visit CEMCPower.com for more information or to apply by March 31.



Considering 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.



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



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