

MEMBER SERVICES

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric web site (clayelectric.com) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill).

PROJECT SHARE - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

REMOTE METER READING (RMR) - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

SURGEBLASTER - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

MARATHON WATER HEATERS - Marathon water heaters are the most energy efficient electric resistance water heater on the market and are offered in an array of sizes (15 to 105 gallons).

LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

PAYMENT STATIONS - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online (clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

Got something to sell? Try our two Trading Post options

Clay Electric's Trading Post offers a variety of items for sale or rent by Clay Electric members. The Trading Post is available online, and in the Kilowatt newsletter, which is read by over 164,000 members in North Florida.

Members are entitled to post a non-commercial ad in the Trading Post - either online or in the Kilowatt - at no cost, and anyone can shop. If you're shopping, you'll find all kinds of treasures there, but if you see something you like, you better act fast. Trading Post ads tend to get quick results.

If you would like to place an ad in the Kilowatt Trading Post, please mail your written ad to P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 attn: Trading Post, or drop your ad off at your nearest district office. The Kilowatt newsletter is published six times per year - January, March, May, July, September and November.

To post an item for sale on the online Trading Post, visit www.clayelectric.com/trading-post.aspx and follow the instructions.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Wayne Mattox at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: WMattox@clayelectric.com.

Clay Electric also publishes the Kilowatt six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Kilowatt is the official voice of Clay Electric and has been published continuously since 1948 as an informational and educational service for co-op members.

Clay Electric's web site (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers lots of online services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the web site's Trading Post. To enter your ad on the Trading Post, you must use your Clay Electric customer number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on August 27 and Sept. 24 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

August 2009

Rate survey: Clay among lowest in the state

A recent 1,000 kilowatt hour (kWh) residential rate comparison of electric utilities around the state indicated that Clay Electric was the third lowest of the 52 utilities polled. The May survey (the most recent available at the time of this publishing) included 33 municipals, four investor-owned utilities and 14 other electric cooperatives.

The May survey also shows that Clay's rate for 1,000 kWh was \$20.10 less than the average of eight neighboring utilities (GRU, JEA, Ocala, Starke, Green Cove Springs, Wiliston, FPL and Progress Energy).

If you factor in this year's \$6.25 million Capital Credits refund, Clay Electric's rate is even better!

Despite Clay's low rates, summer heat can put some members in a bind by driving up their electric bills.

If you're in need of ideas to trim your electric usage, pick up a copy of our Low Cost and No Cost Ways to Save Energy brochure by stopping by your nearest district office.

As a member-owner of a non-profit electric cooperative, you can be assured Clay Electric is committed to providing the best possible rates to you.

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Be careful how you handle CFLs when they burn out

Just the word “mercury” is enough to make some people nervous. But experts say there’s no reason for that when it comes to the tiny amount of the element found in compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) - and it certainly shouldn’t discourage anyone from buying them.

“There is only a very small amount of mercury in the CFLs, hardly enough to worry about,” said Jim Stine of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Environmental Policy Department.

“On average, the bulbs contain four milligrams of mercury. This compares with 3,000 milligrams of mercury in older thermostats and 500 milligrams in a mercury thermometer,” he said.

While it’s a tiny amount, you still want to be careful about how you handle CFLs when they burn out. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) came up with a fact sheet offering guidance.



The best way to protect the environment is to see if recycling is available, or if the community has a hazardous waste disposal program.

If not, the agency said homeowners can place CFLs in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before it is placed

in the trash. However, some places incinerate household garbage, and that’s a real no-no because the fire could release the mercury.

Accidents happen, and if you break a CFL, you’ll want to know what to do - and what not to do. First thing is to leave the vacuum cleaner in the closet. Instead, sweep up all the debris and put it in a plastic bag. EPA says to use a damp paper towel to pick up any stray glass shards or fine particles, then toss the paper towel in that same plastic bag and seal it. Finally, open the windows to let the room ventilate.

Don’t take the threat of hurricanes lightly

A special six-page hurricane preparedness section was included with our July Kilowatt newsletter last month. We hope you looked through this section, because it contains information that is important for you to know if a hurricane heads our way. It is our sincerest hope that this information will be useful as you prepare your family and home for a hurricane, since we’re heading into the busiest period of the storm season.

As many of you know who have lived in Florida for awhile, ocean temperatures in the 80s and low pressure areas pushing off the coast of Africa are the ingredients for tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. Occasionally, one of these storms grow into a destructive system that heads our way, and that’s when early preparations on your part can make a difference.

You’ve heard many times that advanced preparations are key to you and your family getting safely through a hurricane and coping with the aftermath. But despite all the efforts by public officials to warn folks to be prepared, some aren’t heeding this important advice.

Surveys continue to indicate that some folks just don’t take these storms seriously. Survey respondents say they’ll likely wait until the last few hours to get ready for a storm’s arrival, and if asked to evacuate they may ignore requests to leave. It seems that every time a hurricane slams some section of our coastline, the me-

Although CFLs require a little more care than Thomas Edison’s old bulbs, experts say it’s worthwhile.

“CFLs use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six times as long,” Stine noted.

For more information on how to dispose of CFLs, the federal government recommends checking these web sites:

www.lampcycle.org or www.earth911.org.

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



dia interviews someone who managed to survive as their home was flooded and torn apart around them. They just didn’t think the storm would be that bad, and they thought it would be some gusty winds and rain for a couple of hours. People who lull themselves into believing a hurricane isn’t something to take seriously are setting themselves up for disaster.

Regarding our own storm plans, we have shared information about Clay Electric’s efforts to have personnel and equipment ready if and when a big storm hits our service area.

In the wake of the 2005 storm season, we updated our Emergency Operations Plan so additional personnel are assigned to damage assessment. This is important because the sooner we know where the most serious damage has occurred on our distribution and transmission systems, the quicker we can make repairs and get power restored. In early 2006, the Florida Public Service Commission asked utilities to provide a detailed report on their storm readiness efforts. Our report to the FPSC showed our readiness to withstand future storms met or exceeded the Commission’s guidelines, and it was a positive reflection of our efforts to engineer, build and maintain our distribution and transmission systems.

We think our preparations and planning will help us survive and respond when a hurricane heads our way. We hope you’ll use the information provided in last month’s Kilowatt newsletter to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the next big storm.