

## 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](http://clayelectric.com)) or call your local district office.

### ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric web site ([clayelectric.com](http://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](http://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 ads 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](http://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](mailto: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 July 30 and August 27 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

July 2009

## Members support 'Our Energy, Our Future' campaign

Over 15,000 members of Clay Electric have turned in Contact Your Legislators cards since the co-op's Our Energy, Our Future campaign got underway in March. Members of the co-op are responding to a request to get involved in the debate in Congress over cap and trade legislation that would boost the cost of electricity.

Our Energy, Our Future is a national grassroots campaign that engages co-op members in a conversation with elected officials about the need to keep electricity reliable and affordable. The campaign is being led by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The NRECA says over 350,000 participants have sent Our Energy, Our Future messages to members of Congress.

"There's a real question whether electric bills will be affordable if lawmakers don't exercise caution (with cap & trade)," NRECA CEO Glenn English told Congress recently.

**IT'S BEEN HOT LATELY!**

*Hot weather means higher electricity bills...*

**(see story on other side)**



Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Hot weather will push electric bills higher

Wow, it has been hot lately! The month of June had several days with afternoon temperatures hovering near 100 degrees. With summer officially underway, afternoon temperatures of 90-plus are quite common. That also means you can expect higher electricity bills.



Increased air conditioning usage and higher electricity bills are a direct result of hot weather. As outdoor temperatures climb, so does the amount of time your home's air conditioning system operates in order to provide the desired level of comfort inside your home. When the weather is really hot, AC systems seem like they're running almost continuously.

While air conditioning is the main reason for a higher than normal electric bill this time of year, there are other factors that can boost energy usage. For example, children out of school and at home can hike energy usage. A pool pump operating 10 to 12 hours a day also adds to the bill.

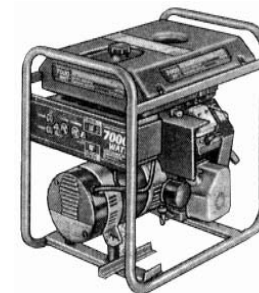
Sherman Phillips, manager of Clay Electric's Energy Services Division, offers the following tips to help you get the most benefit out of your energy dollars.

1) Have your HVAC unit serviced annually. "A clean system will have a lower operating cost than a dirty system," Phillips said. "For example, a dirty coil restricts airflow and causes the unit to run longer. A clean unit provides better dehumidification."

A unit with the proper amount of freon also operates more efficiently.

2) Change or clean the air filter monthly or as often as needed based on the filter media type.

## Portable generators offer convenience, but they can be deadly if improperly used during a power outage



It's hurricane season, and while the tropics have been quiet so far, there's a good chance a hurricane will threaten our area sometime during the coming months.

The prospect of going without electricity for a week or more due to hurricane damage prompts some families to buy portable generators. Every time a storm threatens Florida, news accounts show folks snapping up portable generators.

Clay Electric wants to remind owners of portable generators that the improper use of these devices can create an extremely dangerous situation if they backfeed electricity into the cooperative's distribution system. This situation could result in serious injury or death to an unsuspecting serviceman, neighbor or family member.

Portable generators should never be wired directly into a home's distribution (breaker) panel or into a receptacle that's connected to a home's electrical panel. Appliances should be plugged directly into the portable generator's outlets, or connected to a heavy-duty extension cord that plugs into the generator. It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with the generator's safety and operating guidelines before using it at your home.

Some co-op members choose to have a permanent stand-by generator installed in their home. County electrical codes require that stand-by generators that are permanently installed must be wired to a transfer switch which separates the generator from the outside power source when it's operating.

More information about the safe use of portable generators is included in this month's Kilowatt newsletter (special Hurricane Section).

Clay Electric also offers an 8-minute video program, *PORTABLE AND STAND BY GENERATOR SAFETY*, for viewing. If your club or civic group would like to schedule a presentation on generator safety, contact the member relations representative at your local district office.

3) Keep the thermostat set on 78 degrees or higher for optimum operating cost.

4) Operate ceiling fans only when a room is occupied.

5) Use a "solar" clothes line instead of the clothes dryer for drying clothes.

6) It might be time to upgrade that older refrigerator. "Most refrigerators manufactured prior to 1995 use nearly twice as much electricity as models manufactured today," Phillips said. And he added, "Eliminate that refrigerator in

the garage if possible."

If you suspect you might have a serious energy-wasting problem, you might want to consider having the co-op perform an energy survey.

Clay Electric also has an Energy Smart Rebate Program and Energy Efficiency Loans to help members reduce their energy usage. More information about these programs is available at Clay Electric's web site ([clayelectric.com](http://clayelectric.com)).