

Don't let hot weather scorch your finances

With temperatures soaring into the 90s nearly every day, members can expect to see their electricity bills climb as well.

Hot weather, air conditioning and higher electricity usage go hand in hand, because as outdoor temperatures spike, so does the amount of time your home's air conditioning system operates.

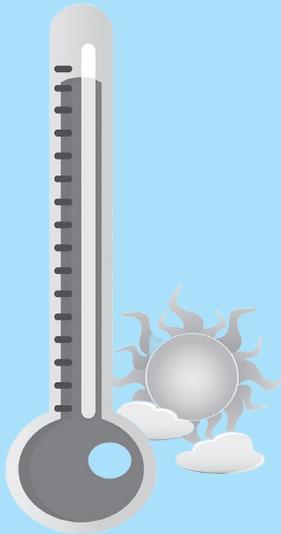
There are a few steps you can take to use your electricity wisely and still be comfortable:

- Raise the thermostat as high as is comfortable. Set it at 78 degrees or higher when you are home. Every degree below 78 can add 8 percent to your cooling costs depending on the efficiency of your home and HVAC system. Raise the thermostat 5 degrees when you leave.

- Use ceiling fans to make the room more comfortable, but only use them while you are in the room. A ceiling fan helps cool people, but doesn't cool the air.

- On hot days, do less cooking inside; use a microwave and/or cook outside. Do laundry early in the day. Because clothes dryers release a lot of heat, consider hanging clothes outside to dry.

- Turn off unnecessary heat-generating appliances such as lights, computers, etc.



MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit MyClayElectric.com to access your account information:

- View current charges and account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Report a power outage or view status
- View energy usage and find ways to save
- Add an authorized user to view account
- Request Paperless Billing
- Sign up for automatic monthly payments

OPERATION ROUND UP — Operation Round Up is a program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit organizations in Clay Electric's service area for the purpose of improving the quality of life of our members and their communities. Participating members' electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount. The funds are placed in a separate account to be allocated by the Clay Electric Foundation.

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

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.

METER ACCESS — Clay Electric's AMI meters include technology allowing them to be read remotely. These meters improve meter reading efficiencies and accuracy, but even with remote reading capabilities, the member is responsible for keeping the meter clear of obstructions and providing the co-op with access to the meter. The meter is Clay Electric's property and we require access. Providing access allows staff to conduct maintenance or obtain a manual reading.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Nick Jones at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: NJones@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, Aug. 24 and Thursday, Sept. 28 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

_____ August 2023

Is solar right for me? Clay's new assessment tool helps you decide

Clay Electric strives to be your trusted energy provider, and we continue to hear from members who end up spending much more than they planned after speaking with a solar energy provider and installing a system at their home.

Now, we've introduced a tool exclusively for you, our members, to determine whether a solar energy system is the right move. If you're considering a system, we encourage you to first go to ClayElectric.com/solar-right-me and take the Rooftop Solar Assessment, which will provide you with an estimate of your solar generation potential and ongoing utility costs and determine your estimated payback period.

Clay Electric's current rate, as well as projected rate increases, are built into the calculator. Questions you should consider:

- Does my home have clear and unobstructed access to sunlight for most, or all, of the day, throughout the year?
- Do I have a large enough roof or area to accommodate the system I need?
- Does my community or homeowners' association (HOA) have any covenants in place that prohibit solar panels?
- Is it financially right for me?

As your trusted energy provider, it's our goal to help you make smart energy investments, and we ask that before you make a financial decision — whether it's purchasing an HVAC, insulation or solar equipment — you contact us first.

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Employee feedback plays key role in providing you safe, reliable energy

There's no such thing as good or bad feedback; just feedback. On a yearly basis, we ask you, our members, to complete a survey that provides your co-op with invaluable information so that we know what's working well, but also where we can focus and make improvements.

The same applies to all Clay Electric employees, including our lineworkers — Clay Electric's first responders who work tirelessly to keep your lights on and must be ready to respond at all times should an outage occur.

This year, the questionnaire focused on four specific questions pertaining to a SWOT analysis. Employees were also able to provide comments on each question, and they were asked if they had suggestions for improvement.

What does a SWOT analysis identify?

- **Strengths:** Where we excel and what separates Clay Electric from the rest.
- **Weaknesses:** What keeps us from

performing at the peak.

- **Opportunities:** Factors that can give Clay Electric an advantage.
- **Threats:** Factors that could potentially prove harmful.

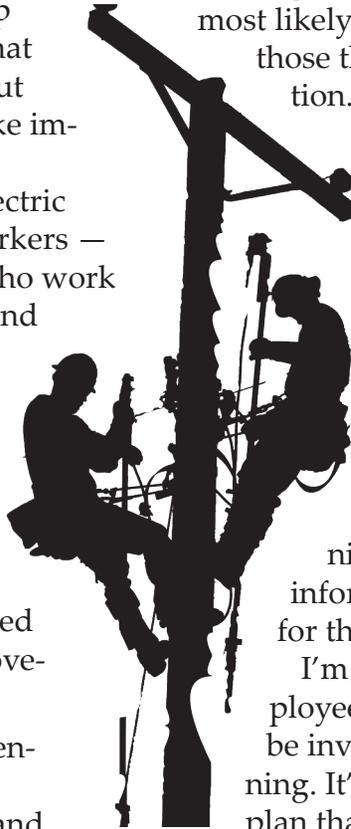
These four things give us an analysis based on facts, fresh perspectives and new ideas. A SWOT analysis pulls information internally, and it also identifies external forces that may have uncontrollable impacts to our decisions.

Using the data we've gathered, your co-op is being driven toward strategies that are most likely to be successful and away from those that are less likely to come to fruition.

To give you a glimpse at the results, employees agree that the three greatest strengths of your co-op include customer service, competitive rates and community involvement, respectively.

The input from the survey provided staff and district managers with specific items to cover at the Strategic Planning Workshop held in June. This information helps them develop goals for the next year.

I'm proud and thankful that our employees continue to take initiative and be involved with our strategic planning. It's key in devising a successful plan that ultimately provides you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity with excellent customer service, our mission.



\$2K scholarships available for adults

If you are an adult in school or returning to college, you may want to consider applying for a Clay Electric scholarship.

For almost 30 years, the co-op has given scholarships to high school seniors to assist them with their higher education goals. This year, the co-op is again awarding five \$2,000 "Back to Your Future Scholarships."

This scholarship program is limited to any student/applicant, age 22 or older, who meets the following criteria:

- Home/residence must be served by Clay Electric
- Applicant cannot be a previous winner of a Clay Electric Scholarship
- Applicant has earned a High School Diploma or GED Completion Certificate prior to the application
- Applicant must be registered at and/or attending an accredited college or trade school for the spring 2024 semester.

The scholarships will be awarded based on need; leadership and/or community service; and educational goals and career plans. Applications must be received by Sept. 15.

Please visit ClayElectric.com or your local district office for an application.