3 districts have trustee meetings this month

Members of the co-op will gather at three district trustee meetings this month to select candidates for the co-op's Board of Trustees. They include:


Reeves

District 3: Susan Reeves, who will hold a meeting Jan. 9, 2024, at the Windsor Baptist Church in Gainesville.


Hersey

District 5: Dewitt Hersey, who will hold a meeting Jan. 11, 2024, at the Sampson City Church of God in Starke.


Whitehead

District 7: John Henry Whitehead, who will hold a meeting Jan. 8, 2024, at the First Christian Church in Lake Butler.

Registration for each meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6 p.m.

One or two members who reside in these districts will be chosen as candidates who all members will later vote on.

If you're unsure about the district boundaries, head to **clayelectric.com/communications** for a copy of the Member Handbook.

Power Cost Adjustment
Continued from front panel

electricity in Florida, and it's a sizable part of the generation mix for the Seminole Electric Cooperative, Clay's wholesale power provider.

Remember, as a not-for-profit cooperative, Clay Electric members receive power at-cost. At the end of each year when it's determined how much revenue exceeds total expenses, our members will receive the difference as a capital credit, which is based on the amount each member was billed for electricity during the year.

MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit ClayElectric.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

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.

SURGEBLASTER — High quality surge protection equipment at a low price.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD — A national discount card program. It offers 10-60 percent discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies, as well as special discounts and deals!

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 Jan. 25, Feb. 22 and March 28 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Power Line
January 2024

Wholesale costs forecast triggers rate adjustment

Data suggesting a future spike in the costs of generating wholesale electricity has led to Clay Electric implementing a rate increase, which will be reflected in members' January billing cycle in a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA).

During the January billing cycle, members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will pay $132, an increase of $12. The additional amount each member pays monthly varies based on how much electricity is used.

In 2023, Clay Electric was able to lower the cost of your power four times through PCAs, which added up to a 20 percent drop from last January to its lowest point in 2023.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Clay Electric billing statement, which reflects either an increase or decrease in the co-op's cost of wholesale power. When the cost of wholesale power is greater than the amount included in the base rate, the PCA is a charge, while when the cost is less, the PCA is a credit.

Notably, the forecast points to an increase in the cost of natural gas, which is the primary source for generating

Continued on back panel

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

A beginner's guide to the electric grid

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

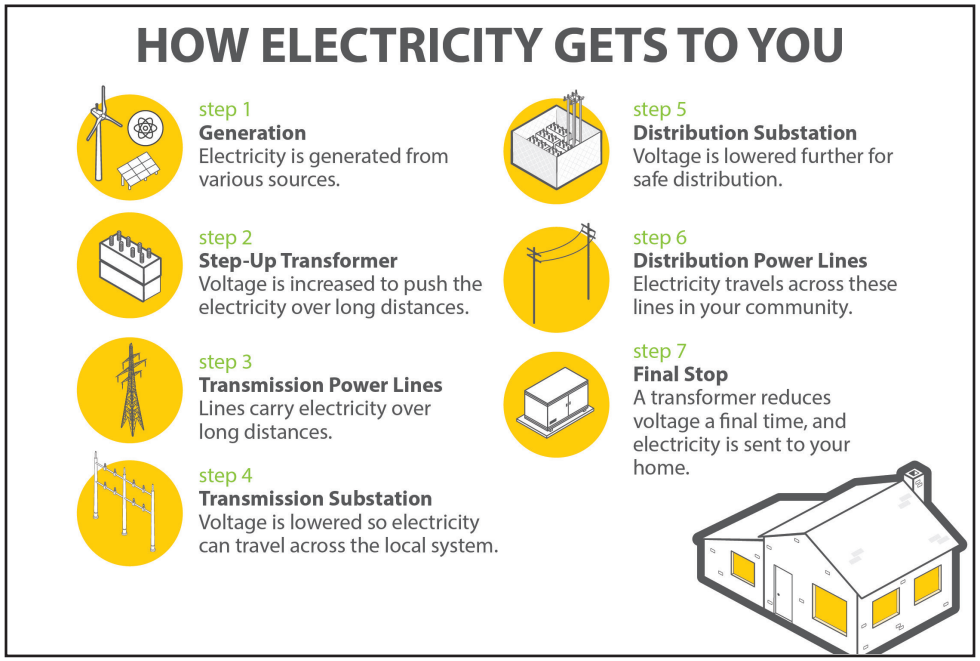
It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids:



the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy.

Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Clay Electric receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Seminole Electric. We work closely with Seminole to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements.