

## Agency forecasts drop in electricity demand, cost

The demand for electricity is forecast to drop approximately 1 percent in the second quarter of 2023 compared to last year, according to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

“The drop in demand largely reflects our expectation for milder temperatures than last year,” the EIA wrote in its outlook report.

The lesser demand and growing generation from renewable energy sources combined with lower natural gas prices signal the “significantly” lower electric power prices. The EIA predicts the trend will continue into the third quarter.

The report from the EIA shows in total that electricity use will drop to 4,000 billion kWh — down from 4,048 billion in 2022. It shows that power use is expected to rebound in 2024 to 4,062 billion kWh.

Notably, the EIA forecasts gasoline prices to peak this summer between \$3.50 and \$3.60 per gallon in June and average about \$3.50 per gallon throughout the season.

## Only 14 American EVs now qualify for tax credit

Chances are good the number will change again, but as of writing, just 14 EVs with American nameplates qualify for a tax credit.

Under the Biden administration’s list of vehicles that could be eligible for an up to \$7,500 credit, the EVs must be made in North America and most of their batteries and critical materials must come from the U.S. or the country’s closest trading partners.

It’s intended to create new jobs in America and improve the new clean energy industry.

## Please look out for member surveys

Feedback from our members helps us in our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity as well as excellent customer service.

Members can expect to receive an email from a company hired by Clay Electric, in which they will be able to provide the co-op with invaluable information. The results of the survey will help the co-op evaluate its services and communications efforts.

The survey should take only a few minutes to complete in its entirety.

## See if you are in an outage, view status of repairs, more with MyClayElectric

Did your lights just go out? Before you call, check MyClayElectric.

With the co-op’s self-serve customer service system, you can see if you are in a known outage, report outages and view the status of repairs online or in the mobile app. You can register for the service at MyClayElectric.com or by downloading the MyClayElectric app.

MyClayElectric also has several features that make managing your account easy — anytime, anywhere. Once registered, you’ll be able to conveniently pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service and get the latest news. If you can’t get online to view or report an outage, please call 1-888-434-9844.

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, June 22 and Thursday, July 27 in Keystone Heights.

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

# Power Line

June 2023

## How to report a problem with an outdoor light

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Clay Electric Cooperative’s lines, sign into the MyClayElectric online portal and app to fill out a form, or call 1-800-224-4917 to report the problem. To register for the portal, if you have not already, visit MyClayElectric.com.

When reporting the problem, you will need to provide the following so the co-op can make the repair, and contact you should there be any questions:

- (1) Specific street address where the outdoor light is located.
- (2) A description of where the outdoor light is located on the property.
- (3) Description of the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the outdoor light.
- (4) Sufficient contact information to include your name, address, telephone number, account number and email address (if using the online form).

*This information is printed in compliance with Florida Statute 768.1382.*



## Report from the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



## We're trimming trees to help ensure your power stays on

As we inch closer to storm season, members will likely notice our vegetation management crews out cutting back foliage, keeping it at bay from power lines.

Trees offer shade and a habitat for wildlife, and we're fortunate that North Central Florida has so many of them. While we recognize and appreciate their beauty, we're cognizant of the benefits offered to our members that come as a direct result of keeping trees pruned and other vegetation under control.

Trees and limbs are among the most frequent causes of power outages for your cooperative, and keeping clear what's known as a "right-of-way," which includes the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines, helps us provide safe and reliable electricity.

Our vegetation management program is designed to reduce as much contact as possible between trees and power lines, meaning more reliable power for our members. But the most important reason for keeping a clear right-of-way is member safety.

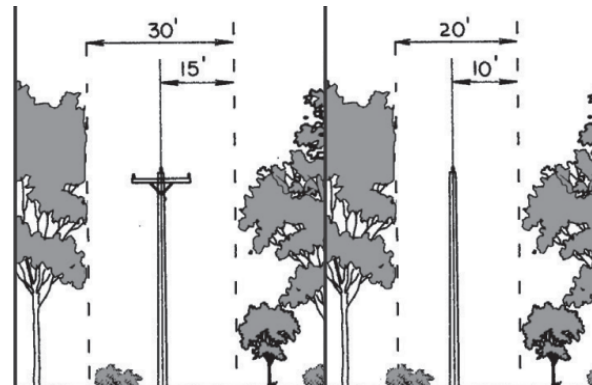
Trees growing too close to power lines can sway, increasing the likelihood they'll make contact. It gives electricity a path to the ground, creating a potentially serious fire and safety hazard.

Members too can help when landscaping or planting new trees. We ask all members to keep a

minimum of 10 feet to 15 feet cleared area when planting on either side of primary power lines.

Clay Electric does not recommend planting shrubs or trees on the right-of-way.

The cooperative provides tree pruning along rights-of-way in three- (city), four- (suburb) and five- (rural) year cycles. Mowing is done on a four-year cycle, and herbicides are used in some areas to reduce our future mowing costs.



Crossarm poles need a minimum 15 feet of clearance on each side from the center of the pole. Poles without a crossarm need a minimum 10 feet of clearance.

Again highlighting our emphasis on safety, our herbicides are applied in a closed-loop delivery system, which reduces worker exposure and minimizes the risk of a spill.

I encourage all members who are planning a landscaping project in their yard to please look up and look for power lines before planting trees. For help selecting tree species and to determine the distance to plant from the power line right-of-way, head to Clay Electric's website and take a look at our Landscape Planning Guide, located in the "Vegetation Management" section under the "Reliability & Restoration" tab.

For more information and assistance with planting near power lines, members should call Clay Electric's Vegetation Management Division at 1-800-511-5998 or email [vegmgt@clayelectric.com](mailto:vegmgt@clayelectric.com). We have I.S.A. certified arborists on staff to help.

## Operate generators with safety in mind

Every time a large storm threatens Florida, news accounts show residents snapping up portable generators.

Clay Electric wants to remind owners of portable generators the improper use of these devices can create an extremely dangerous situation if they backfeed electricity into the co-op's distribution system. This situation could result in serious injury or death to an unsuspecting serviceworker, 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 into the 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 members choose to have a permanent stand-by generator installed in their home. Electrical codes require stand-by generators permanently installed must be wired to a transfer switch separating the generator from the outside power source when it's operating.

For more information about stand-by or portable generator systems and their proper installation, please call 1-800-224-4917.

