

Manage your account with MyClayElectric

With MyClayElectric, you can manage all aspects of your electric account online or with your mobile device. If you have not registered, visit MyClayElectric.com to sign up and:

Easily pay your bill or enroll in Auto Pay

Make payments from anywhere at any time. You can pay with a bank account or debit/credit card for no fee each month, or when you enroll in Auto Pay, you no longer have to worry about due dates or late fees since payments are automatically deducted each month.

View your usage like never before

Don't be surprised by your usage when the electric bill arrives. Access to detailed, easy-to-read information about your electric use on MyClayElectric can help you make informed decisions and save money. With three different tools, you will get a complete look at your usage and determine if the weather, new energy habits or an appliance are having an impact on your usage.

Be in the know

MyClayElectric is also a powerful communication tool. You'll receive important news and information about your account, outages, news and events. You can decide how you want to be notified about your bill, by email or text message on your smartphone. Set a threshold to be notified when you are using more electricity than you planned to help stay on top of your energy costs.

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 outage status
- View energy usage and find ways to save
- Make a one-time payment online
- Download the MyClayElectric app
- Request Paperless Billing
- Sign up for Auto Pay

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.

ENERGY SMART REBATES — Rebates are available for members who install specific energy efficiency upgrades.

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!

METER ACCESS — Clay Electric's AMI meters include technology allowing them to be read without physical access to the meter. 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 to the meters allows staff to conduct routine 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 Kathy Richardson at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: krichardson@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Tuesday, April 25 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

April 2023

Power cost drops 11 percent

One of the many benefits of being a member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative is receiving power at cost.

During March and April, members saw the cost of power for 1,000 kWh decrease to \$130. The cooperative is able to lower the cost of power due to decreases in the price of natural gas, which Seminole Electric Cooperative (Clay's wholesale power provider) uses to generate a sizable portion of the wholesale electricity it provides.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Clay Electric statement, which reflects the increases/decreases in the co-op's cost of power. The cost of wholesale power is more than 70 percent of Clay's total expenses.

When the cost of power is greater than the amount included in the base rate, the PCA is a charge. When the cost is less, it's a credit.

A rate study indicated the cooperative should increase its Access Charge to recoup more of the fixed costs associated with building and maintaining the distribution system.

The Access Charge is being increased to \$29 beginning this month. The Access Charge is the component of a member's bill that recovers some of the fixed costs that come directly from serving an individual member, regardless of how much electricity is used. These costs include the cost of the meter, wire and other equipment used to deliver electricity to the home or business, as well as meter reading technology and billing expenses. All utilities have some type of an access charge.

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Thank who powers you

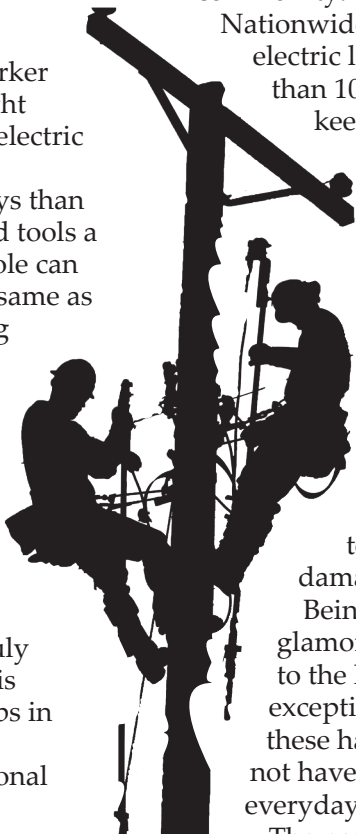
You've likely seen our crews in their noticeably yellow trucks working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions.

This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a pole can weigh 50 pounds or more? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of power poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years). That's



because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, your co-op's lineworkers are committed to powering our service area. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. At Clay Electric, more than 100 lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 14,000 miles of distribution and transmission lines across 14 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our communities. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

Protect your equipment before a storm strikes

Lightning and short-circuits can strike at any moment and destroy or cause extensive damage to your equipment and appliances. Being prepared for these unexpected surges and spikes can go a long way towards protecting your home.

Affordable surge protection equipment is available for purchase through the co-op's surge protection program. This equipment will help protect sensitive electronic equipment from power surges caused by events triggered from both outside and inside the home.

The SurgeBlaster program provides the highest quality surge protection equipment, is UL-listed and meets the IEEE 587 standard for surge suppression equipment.

The basic SurgeBlaster package includes one meter base suppressor and one all-in-one (satellite/TV/DVD/computer) suppression module.

Call us at 1-800-224-4917 or visit your local district office for more information.

Storm evacuation help for those with special needs

With storm season approaching, it's vital for members to be prepared.

If you or someone you know has special needs and requires assistance in case of evacuation, your local government can help. Contact your county emergency management office to learn about shelters in your area.

For members with special needs, visit floridadisaster.org/shelters or call 1-800-342-3557 to register with the county emergency operations center.