

Companies expand their EV offerings

Electric vehicles made up 4 percent of the vehicles sold in the United States in 2021. While that number is growing, the U.S. lags behind other countries, such as those in Europe, where 14 percent of all new cars are EVs.

As vehicle performance and pricing improves, U.S. buyers are being enticed to look closer at going electric. Today's EVs are a giant leap beyond early models with heavy batteries and underwhelming range. The list of manufacturers making electric vehicles also continues to grow. No longer a niche item, EVs are made by most major automobile manufacturers and several new entrants to the field.

Many of today's models can travel 150 to 250 miles on a charge. Higher-end models can reach 350 miles or more on a charge, easing range anxiety.

One way to increase range is to improve charging infrastructure. While most daily driving can be done on a single charge, longer trips require a prolonged stop to charge the battery. That assumes a charging station can be found. Experienced EV drivers map out longer trips before leaving home, planning where to stop for charging. But more charging stations are on the way.

Under the EV Charging Action Plan unveiled last year by President Joe Biden, a Joint Office of Energy and Transportation will be created to use \$7.5 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to build out a national EV charging network. The new office will provide technical assistance to states and help develop plans.

If you're interested in an EV, visit ClayElectric.com/EV for more information.

CONTACT INFO

Continued from front

your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, or login to MyClayElectric to see if you are in a known outage, our system recognizes your phone number or email you registered with and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we provide advance notification to affected members by a mailed letter and email message, IF we have your updated contact information.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if we have an accurate phone number or email on file.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by logging into your account at MyClayElectric.com or calling us at 1-800-224-4917. By doing so, you will help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

We will never share your address or phone number with third parties. It is only used by us to send important information to you.

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 Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: jcaudell@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Tuesday, May 24 and Thursday, June 23 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

May 2022

Keep contact info up-to-date to stay current on co-op

At Clay Electric, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number and email you provide is linked to



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Clay Electric Cooperative was rated by our customers

**#1 in Customer Satisfaction
with Residential Electric Service
Among Cooperatives**

For J.D. Power 2021 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Thank who powers you

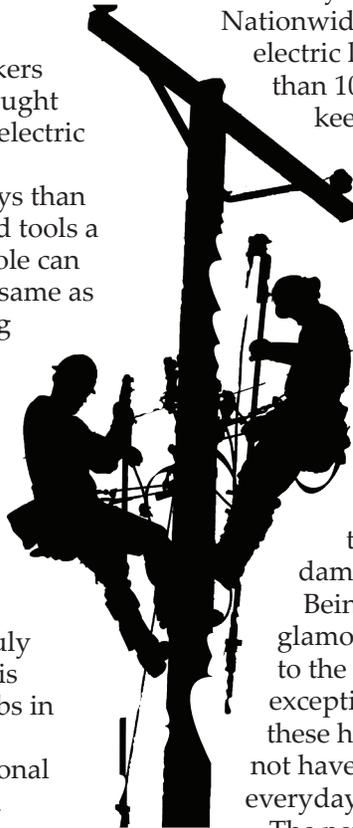
You've likely seen our crews in their noticeably yellow trucks working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions.

In April, we celebrated our lineworkers with special appreciation events. 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.

Members win bill credits

Forty-two members who voted by mail in this year's Annual Meeting Board of Trustees elections were recently randomly selected to receive a bill credit.

F. J. Kline of Fort McCoy won the \$1,800 bill credit, Rita Sandoval of DeLeon Springs won the \$750 credit, Lois Smith of Silver Springs received the \$400 credit and Robert P. Schuster Jr. of Silver Springs won the \$150 credit.

Winners of the \$50 bill credits were: George C. Payne, Keystone Heights; Brian K. Ricks, Orange Park; Charles R. Colleen, Green Cove Springs; Col. Roger D. Rothwell, Melrose; David L. Morgan, Keystone Heights; Rufas Jordan, Hawthorne; John W. Grassell, Orange Park; Lillian W. Bell, Orange Park; Larry M. Reeves, Hawthorne; Edwin O'Neal, Gainesville; Michael S. Major, Orange Park; Carmen Bourdreau, Gainesville; Terry H. Hovsepian, Earleton; Andrew A. Phelan Jr., Fort White; Rebecca M. Williard, Orange Park; Kenneth S. Plato, Middleburg; Daniel E. Baker, Jacksonville; William R. Bassett, Keystone Heights; Amanda R. Chapman, Middleburg; Windy A. Wood, Gainesville; Richard C. Hand, Orange Park; Larry D. Hill, Middleburg; Reginal L. Brown, Gainesville; Michelle A. Manion, Middleburg; Rosario M. Smith, Orange Park; Barbara G. Vest, Lake City; Jim C. Sexton, Ocklawaha; Edward J. Crawford, Fleming Island; Joyce M. Swan, Orange Park; Barbara J. Martell, Palatka; Terry R. White, Lake City; Vickie G. Eason, Green Cove Springs; Michael A. Scoville, Starke; Ward Peck, Jacksonville; Rena M. Leviston, Green Cove Springs; Michael A. Cooper, Fleming Island; Marina G. Allman, Gainesville; and Matthew Salazar, Middleburg.

Make sure to vote in next year's elections to have a chance to win a prize.