

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.

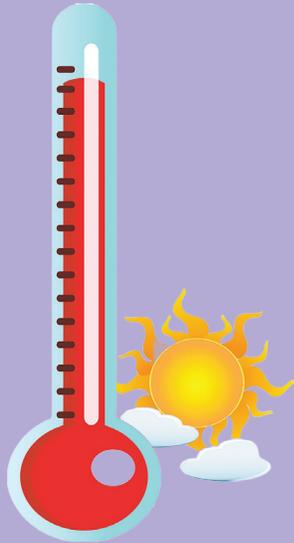
There are a few steps you can take to use your electricity wisely and still be comfortable:

- 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 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 Thursday, Aug. 25 and Thursday, Sept. 22 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

August 2022

5 \$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 also 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 2023 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. 16.

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



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



Avoid distractions while driving, help save lives

Some temptations are hard to resist. It can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

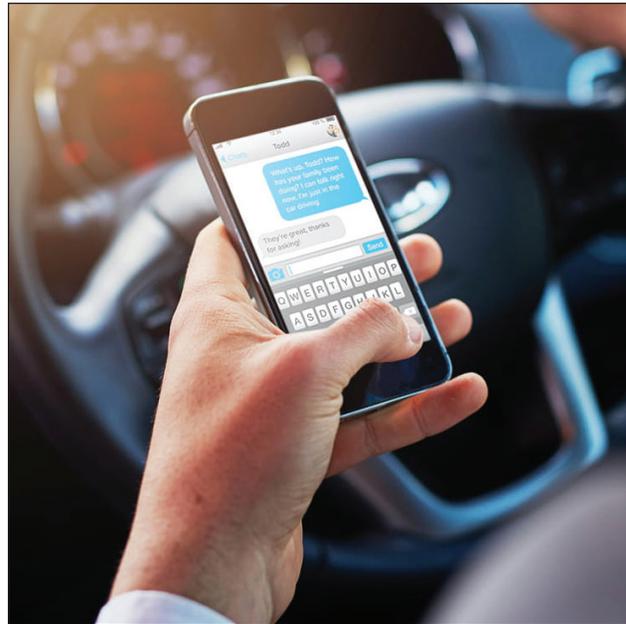
While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason we’re going to make an exception — just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But the mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is using a phone while operating a vehicle creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one out of every 10 fatal crashes in the United States involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking, considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d



simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to not texting while driving, we can help keep roads safe by moving over for our first responders and other emergency vehicles. If you see utility crews working near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely, too. It’s state law.

At your co-op, safety is foremost in everything we do — for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

Five tips for hiring a qualified electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a lot of home projects, from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you’re looking to hire an electrician.

1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician

Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.

2. Make sure the electrician is insured

Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of accidents.

3. Read all the reviews

Hire an electrician with several positive reviews — not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.

4. Determine your budget, get quotes

Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).

5. Talk timeline

Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

