

Please make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do Clay Electric's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we ask that you move over, if possible, and give them a little extra space to work. We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

In 2014, utility crews became protected by the Florida Move Over Act. Under the law, drivers are required to:

- Approach law enforcement patrol cars, emergency vehicles, utility service vehicles, sanitation vehicles and tow trucks/wreckers with caution and move over a lane.
- If you can't move over — or when on a two-lane road — slow to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit.
- Slow down to 5 mph when the posted speed limit is 20 mph or less.



Continued from front

If passed, the bill would:

- Slash bureaucratic delays, requiring FEMA to issue reimbursements within months, not years.
- Allow co-ops to rebuild with stronger, more storm-resistant systems instead of simply replacing damaged equipment.
- Restore FEMA's status as a stand-alone agency, giving it more focus and authority to respond quickly.

The FEMA Act would impose strict deadlines: 120 days for emergency work reimbursements, 90 days for reviewing long-term project estimates and 30 more days to disburse funds. Advocates say the reforms would protect rural consumers from higher bills and speed recovery for communities that can least afford delays.

The bottom line: Faster reimbursements mean lower costs, stronger systems and more reliable service for you, our members. We thank our local representatives for supporting the FEMA Act, a major step forward for rural communities that ensures we can respond quickly after storms and disasters.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

October 2025

FEMA Act promises faster disaster relief

When hurricanes or other natural disasters hit, restoring power is only part of the challenge. After the lights are back on, your cooperative often has to wait years for federal reimbursement from FEMA to cover repair costs.

As of June 30, we had \$26.3 million in eligible reimbursements from storms dating back to Hurricane Ian in 2022. We'd only received about \$2.9 million.

For hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton — which hit last year — we'd received nothing. That delay forces the co-op to borrow money, and those costs eventually affect our members.

That's why we're working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Florida's Electric Cooperatives (FECA) and our local representatives — Kat Cammack, Aaron Bean, and Randy Fine — to support the bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025.

Continued on back panel

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Our tiered energy charge ensures fairness and works for members

Like many electric providers, Clay Electric takes a tiered approach to your Energy Charge. Here's the simple version:

Use less, pay less. Use more, pay more.

If you aren't sure how much energy your home consumes each month, the first question you should ask yourself is: Why haven't I acquainted myself with MyClayElectric? The app is free, and it allows you to keep an eye on your monthly energy consumption. You can also set up Usage Alerts to get a heads-up before you go over a limit you choose.

Chances are good that you're probably using around 1,000 kWh (kilowatt-hours), the industry average. Here's how the tiers break down:

Tier 1: For the first 1,000 kWh, you pay \$0.0820 per kWh — or about 8 cents.

Tier 2: For usage above 1,000 kWh, the rate rises to \$0.0930 per kWh — about a penny more.

The Energy Charge portion of your bill covers our projected wholesale cost of electricity (which we purchase at cost from Seminole Electric Cooperative), as well as infrastructure and operation costs.

Why does this make sense?

1) It reflects real costs

Electricity isn't a flat cost to generate. Supplying the first 1,000 kWh to every home is relatively inexpensive, but once demand surges (perhaps on a summer afternoon), the co-op often has to tap more expensive energy sources. That extra penny is covering real, rising costs.

2) It promotes efficiency

If your usage hovers around 1,000 kWh, you're in the normal range. Higher usage often means:

- A much larger home
- More people living in the house
- Older, less-efficient appliances
- Not paying attention to the thermostat

Tiered pricing doesn't penalize normal use — it encourages smarter consumption when it goes beyond the norm.

3) It protects the grid and your rates

Higher consumption stresses the system. Tiered pricing helps curb that demand, which helps delay costly infrastructure upgrades — savings that benefit every member. In short, it keeps the base rate affordable for everyone.

Remember, too, we're not profiting here. The Power Cost Adjustment (which you also see on your billing statement) ensures you're only paying real-time wholesale power costs on a month-by-month basis. When our revenue exceeds total expenses, it goes back to you in the form of capital credits, something we've returned to members annually for more than 40 consecutive years.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can all increase our online safety with these simple tips.

- 🔒 Recognize and report phishing attempts.
- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable multi-factor authentication.
- 🔒 Update software regularly.