

# Do not let summer scorch your budget

With temperatures soaring into the 90s, Clay Electric 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 in order to provide the desired level of comfort inside your home.

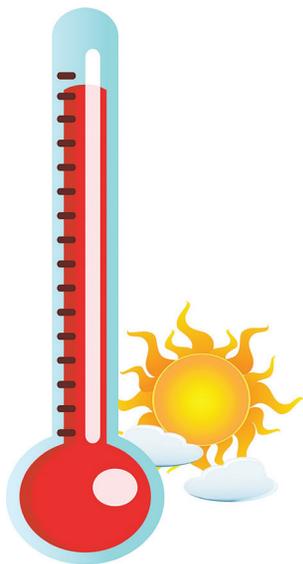
There are steps you can take to use electricity wisely and still stay comfortable:

- Raise the thermostat as high as is comfortable. Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when you are home. Every degree below 78 degrees 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 the house.

- 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 it doesn't cool the air.

- On extremely 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 all unnecessary heat-generating appliances such as lights, computers, etc.



## MEMBER SERVICES

### ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) to access your account information:

- View your bill statement/ account history
- Sign up for the Budget Billing Plan
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges & account balance
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)
- Sign up for Automatic Monthly Payment Plan
- Report your power outage:  
<https://outagereport.clayelectric.com>

**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.

**REMOTE METER READING (RMR)** — Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is just \$1.95.

**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.

**SURGEBLASTER** — High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

**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!

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

# Power Line

August 2018

## 2 scholarships are 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 more than 20 years, the co-op has given scholarships to high school seniors to assist them with their higher education goals. Now the co-op has two \$1,000 "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 2019 semester

Two scholarships are available and will be awarded based on need; leadership and/or community service; and educational goals and career plans. The application deadline is Sept. 21.

Please visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) or your district office for an application.



## Report from the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



— to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology — from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles — all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong — or as resilient — as it can be.

Living in Florida, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter the summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of lightning or wind, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our members with resilient service, this is what we work toward — day in and day out.

## Placing signs on our poles is dangerous

A simple poster or birdhouse may not look like a threat, but when it's affixed to a power pole it can be very dangerous.

It's also illegal. National Electric Safety Codes state no items shall be attached to utility poles without approval from the owner/operator. Posting a sign or object can carry a fine of up to \$500 per day.

You may be thinking, "What's the harm of putting up one sign?" What you may not realize is that the nails, tacks and screws that remain in the pole after the sign has been discarded present a dangerous climbing hazard for utility linemen. These are unexpected obstacles for our crews, especially at night.

The sharp objects can tear the rubber gear that protects linemen from electrical shocks and burns. When working around lethal voltages, it only takes a pinhole in a protective rubber glove or sleeve to let in enough electricity to kill or seriously injure someone working on an energized power line.

Clay Electric's poles also shouldn't be used to hang mailboxes, satellite dishes, basketball backstops or similar objects. These create climbing obstacles and safety hazards for our crews.

Part of Clay Electric's mission is to provide safe electricity for our members and our employees. You can help us by not placing signs or any other item on our poles. We appreciate your cooperation.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Editor Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: [Jcaudell@clayelectric.com](mailto:Jcaudell@clayelectric.com).

## What is grid resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

What does grid resiliency mean for you? Resiliency is many things — it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our members.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation — such as coal, natural gas and solar

