

Clay makes it easy to choose your own method of payment!

You have a variety of ways to make your electric bill payment. Although you can always pay your bill by mail or by visiting one of the co-op's district offices, there are several other convenient options as well.

Electronic Payments

You can make an electronic payment on the co-op's website or by calling your local district office. If you prefer to handle the transaction over the phone, call your district office and use the interactive voice answering system. You do not have to talk with a customer service representative to make an electronic payment. You will need your Clay Electric account number, your bank account number and the routing number of your bank.

Credit/Debit Card Payments

All debit and credit card payments are processed through Western Union SpeedPay, an independent service provider. A processing fee of \$2.95 will be charged by Western Union SpeedPay. Clay Electric does not receive any portion of this fee. To make a credit or debit card payment, call Western Union SpeedPay at 1-888-822-0545 or visit the Co-op website to pay online.

Automatic Deduction from your Account

If you'd like your payment to be automatically deducted monthly on your due date by bank draft from your checking or savings account, the Automatic Monthly Payment Plan should be your choice. You can sign up online or call/drop by your local district office.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; email: KRichardson@clayelectric.com.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Feb. 16 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.



These photovoltaic panels generate electricity for a member served by Clay Electric Co-op.

Notify Clay Electric if you receive power from an alternative energy source

The State of Florida requires that Clay Electric keep track of the amount of electricity received via customer-owned alternative energy sources. At present, the co-op has more than 300 members who own renewable (solar) systems that generate electricity for their homes. These systems generate electricity for home use and excess power is returned to Clay's distribution system. Using a special meter, the co-op records the amount of electricity returned to the co-op's system.

If you own or plan to have one of these systems installed, please make sure you've signed an Interconnection Agreement with Clay Electric. If you plan to increase the size of your existing system, you must also let Clay Electric know.

The State of Florida requires that all customers who have systems that are or will be connected to the electrical grid have an Interconnection Agreement signed with the receiving utility. **It is the member's responsibility to notify Clay that they're operating or plan to operate an alternative energy system.** This is important for safety reasons and for billing purposes, and to ensure the member receives proper credit for putting power back into the co-op's distribution system.

Call the co-op's Energy Services Division at 352-473-8000 ext. 8366 for more information.
3040-25108

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

February 2017

What's this barcode on the back of my bill?

Checkout by PayGo is a new way to pay your bill using cash

This month the co-op is offering a new way for members to pay their bills.

An account specific barcode is on the back of each bill.

This barcode payment method is called Checkout by PayGo and is offered through the PayGo company. Members can now pay their bills using the barcode at Dollar General Stores. Cash will be accepted at all locations. A convenience fee of \$1.95 will be added at checkout.

According to Checkout by PayGo, this payment program should be expanding to add more locations and vendors in the near future

PayGo is a real time cash payment solution for co-op members.

Power out?

Report it online:
outagereport.clayelectric.com



Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Operation Round Up fund recipients announced

As part of our mission as a cooperative, we began an important new program last year. Operation Round Up, a program to generate and collect charitable 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, launched in October.

Operation Round Up provides Clay Electric with a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate and extend its commitment to its members and their communities. Through Operation Round Up, local residents can come together to create change and provide assistance in their communities through a foundation – something they couldn't do individually on this scale.

Recipients of grants are determined monthly by the Clay Electric Foundation. More information about Operation Round Up and the Foundation is available at ClayElectric.com.

Our first recipients of Foundation grants, announced in January, are:

\$10,000 to ACORN Clinic

(Alachua, Bradford, Union counties)

Founded in 1974, the ACORN Clinic uses volunteers to provide high-quality, low-cost health and dental care to low-income patients with and without insurance and with little financial resources to pay for their medical needs.

The funds will be used toward replacement of the current HVAC system and installation of

insulation in the medical clinic. The system is more than 15 years old, and replacing it will improve energy efficiency.

\$10,000 to Lake Area Ministries

(Clay, Bradford, Putnam)

Lake Area Ministries (LAM), an all-volunteer organization, is primarily a food pantry focusing on feeding needy families. As funds allow, the organization assists with other basic needs. The funds will be used to assist families in need with electric bills, gas to help clients get to medical appointments, gas for home heating and cooking, and non-narcotic prescriptions.

\$12,160 to Ft. McCoy Little League

(Marion)

Funds will be used to purchase new baseball equipment including helmets, catchers' sets, bats, bases, a moveable pitcher's mound and a batting cage. Funds will also be used for a new septic tank, a new roof and framing for the bleachers, and new clay to bring the field up to league standards.

\$12,000 to Happy House

(Columbia, Suwannee)

Happy House serves socioeconomically disadvantaged families through a high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood program. Funds will be used to purchase specialized playground equipment to promote the physical development of children by providing a range of outdoor opportunities that build gross motor skills, collaboration and social interaction.

\$10,000 to Rodeheaver Boys Ranch

Palatka (located in Putnam, serves all counties)

Founded in 1950, the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is a 790-acre sanctuary for boys who need a home, a family, and roots for a brighter future. Funds will be used to run electricity to the Boy Scout camp on the ranch.

\$5,000 to Friends of the Micanopy Library

(Alachua, Marion)

Funds will be used to support the Micanopy Tutoring program, which provides free, after-school, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring so that at-risk, poorly performing K-12 students can reach their educational potential and increase their self-esteem.

\$12,000 to BASCA Inc.

(Clay)

BASCA, Inc. focuses on helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve a higher quality of life and sense of belonging.

Funds will be used to support the BASCA CREATIONS Project. This project is part of a life skills development program and teaches social and communication skills as well as helping individuals to stay on a task and complete it; follow directions; work independently and in teams; develop their creative nature; and be self-reliant. Examples of creative activity choices include arts, crafts, dancing, music, writing, photography, woodworking and ceramics.

News Brief

Scholarships available this year

Clay Electric will offer at least 25 scholarships this year. Applications are due by April 3.

The scholarship program is limited to any public, private or homeschooled high school senior whose primary residence is served by Clay Electric and who will be graduating from high school at the end of the current school year (2016-2017).

The senior must be planning to attend an accredited college this fall. The one-time scholarship amount is \$1,000. An application is available on ClayElectric.com, at each of the co-op's six district offices and at area high schools.

Scholastic records, activities, employment, community service and recommendations are the primary considerations.