

## Some tips to help you cut your summer electric bills

As summer gets into full swing, air conditioning systems will be working overtime. Have you given much thought to trying to reduce your electric bills during the hottest part of the year?

Clay Electric's Energy Services Division offers the following seven tips to help you get the most benefit out of your energy dollars.

1) Have your HVAC unit serviced annually. A clean system will have a lower operating cost than a dirty system. For example, a dirty coil restricts airflow and causes the unit to run longer. A clean unit provides better dehumidification.

2) Change or clean the air filter monthly or as often as needed based on the filter media type.

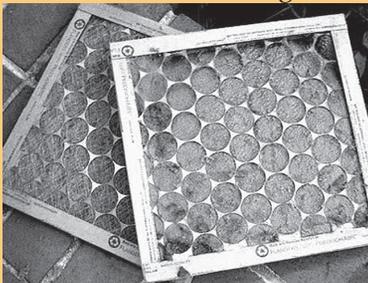
3) Keep the thermostat set on 78 degrees or higher for optimum operating cost.

4) Operate ceiling fans only when a room is occupied.

5) Use a "solar" clothes line instead of the clothes dryer for drying clothes.

6) It might be time to upgrade that older refrigerator. Most refrigerators manufactured prior to 1995 use nearly twice as much electricity as models manufactured today. Eliminate that refrigerator in the garage if possible.

7) Replace incandescent light bulbs in your home that remain on for long periods with LEDs. LEDs are more energy-efficient and produce less heat.



A clean air filter helps lower usage.

## Coming soon

### Operation Round Up: small change to make a big impact

As a cooperative, Clay Electric is bound by the original seven cooperative principles. Concern for Community is the seventh Cooperative Principle.

In an effort to improve the lives of members, the co-op is implementing Operation Round Up, a program to generate and collect charitable donations used to benefit organizations in the community. The program "rounds up" a member's bill to the nearest dollar, and that tax-deductible amount is donated to local charities in the co-op's service area. All funds stay in the community to benefit Clay Electric members.

Beginning in October, the electric bills of participating members will be rounded up – increased to the next dollar amount. The money collected is deposited in a separate bank account to be used at the discretion of the Clay Electric Foundation. The Foundation's board members will accept applications for donations and determine how funds are allocated.

The co-op's leadership sees the Operation Round Up program as part of our cooperative heritage and values – people coming together to help their neighbors.

To opt out, visit  
[optout.clayelectric.com](http://optout.clayelectric.com) or  
call 1-888-595-2655

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, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; email: [KRichardson@clayelectric.com](mailto:KRichardson@clayelectric.com).

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on June 30 and July 28 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

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

# Power Line

June 2016

## How to report a problem with an outdoor light

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Clay Electric Cooperative's lines, call 1-800-224-4917 to report the problem, or visit [www.clayelectric.com](http://www.clayelectric.com) and fill out the online form.

When reporting the problem, you will need to provide the following information so the co-op can make the appropriate repair, and contact you should there be any questions:

(1) Specific street address where the outdoor light is located.

(2) A description of where the outdoor light is located on the property.

(3) A description of the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the outdoor light.

(4) Sufficient contact information to include your name, address, telephone number, account number (if a Clay Electric Cooperative member) and email address (if using the online form).



This information is printed in compliance with Florida Statute 768.1382.

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

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

## 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 Average Billing Plan
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges & account balance
- View 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>

**MOBILE APP** - You can now pay your bill through our mobile app, Clay Electric Go, available for Android and iPhone. You can pay bills with a credit card (including Visa) and view past billing statements, payment history and electricity usage. The app is mainly for taking payments and viewing account information. There is a \$2.95 convenience fee for using the app to pay a bill.

**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 \$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.

**PAYMENT STATIONS** - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1.50 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available at [clayelectric.com](http://clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

**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 from local and national businesses!

## Report from the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



## Have you heard about Operation Round Up?

In my column in the May *Kilowatt*, I announced that our board of trustees has decided to implement Operation Round Up, which will begin in October.

The purpose of the program is the benefit it would provide the many communities we serve across North Florida.

Outreach like this is part of what Clay Electric does beyond delivering electricity. Our board of trustees has long thought that Operation Round Up could fit within our corporate purpose. Part of our Purpose Statement includes "strengthening the communities we serve."

Operation Round Up is a uniquely simple and rewarding way for members to raise money for local charities, service organizations and a variety of community-type projects.

Participating members would allow us to "Round Up" their electricity bills to the nearest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$92.71, a member would pay \$93, with all 29 cents going directly to the Clay Electric Foundation. This foundation is governed by a volunteer board selected from the counties in our 14-county service area. We introduced the board in last month's *Kilowatt* newsletter.

On average, a member would likely contribute an average of just \$6 per year, but no more than \$11.88. All members would automatically be included in Operation Round Up, and those who decide they don't want to participate can simply let us know and we'll take them out of the program. Remember, you'll always have the choice to discontinue your participation in Operation Round Up.

For many years, our Project Share program has helped several thousand families during times when they were experiencing periods of financial difficulty, caused by a job loss or health crisis. Administered by the Salvation Army, Project Share has helped families, but its scope was limited.

Operation Round Up would likely generate considerably more funds, and these funds would enable the Foundation to help in many more ways. For example, the Foundation might fund grant requests for additional protective gear for a volunteer fire department, replace a dilapidated dugout at a little league ball field, or fund additional activities at a community center.

Our employees have always been active in the communities where they live and raise their families. Operation Round Up would be reflective of Clay Electric's commitment to improve the quality of life in the many communities we serve across North Florida.

With a majority of our members supporting Operation Round Up, the monies available to the Clay Electric Foundation could be sizable over time.

The first Operation Round Up program began in 1989 at Palmetto Electric Cooperative in Hilton Head Island, S.C. There are about 250 co-operatives participating in Operation Round Up nationally, eight of them in Florida.

Please be sure to look for more information about Operation Round Up over the next few months. Remember that you can "opt out" of Operation Round Up if you desire. But before doing so, we ask that you consider the many benefits this program will provide the communities we serve, including perhaps the community where you live.

The good that we all can achieve by allowing us to round up your electric bill a few cents each month will enrich our members' lives many times over. We appreciate your support of this program!

Please visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) to read more about Operation Round Up. If you would like to opt out, have your account number and the last four digits of your social security number handy and visit [optout.clayelectric.com](http://optout.clayelectric.com) or call 1-888-595-2655.

