

## 3 easy DIY projects to lower energy use

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

### **Make the most of your water heater**

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Continued on back panel

### **Seal air leaks with caulk**

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

### **Weather strip exterior doors**

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home.

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

# Power Line

March 2019

## Bills have Capital Credits refund for entitled members

The co-op's board of trustees has declared a \$12 million Capital Credits refund for members who received service from 1989 through 2017.

Before the board decides whether a refund can be made, it carefully considers a variety of data and economic conditions. Following this review, the board decided it was prudent to refund \$12 million. This will be the co-op's 45th consecutive refund of Capital Credits.

Current members of the co-op who are entitled to a refund will receive a credit on their March bills. For those entitled to a refund but who no longer receive service from Clay, a check will be mailed March 21. Capital Credits reflect each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid.

Capital Credits are one of the important benefits of receiving service from a not-for-profit electric cooperative. If you have any questions about Capital Credits, contact your nearest district office.

Can't make it to Annual Meeting?

Look inside to see how to

**Vote by Mail**

 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Members register to vote at the District 8 trustee meeting at First Baptist Church Keystone Heights.

## Incumbents nominated for board of trustees

Co-op members gathered at three trustee district meetings in late January to select candidates for the co-op's board of trustees in Districts 1, 8 and 9.

Incumbents Carl Hagglund (District 1), Jo Ann R. Smith (District 8) and Karen Hastings (District 9) were all nominated without opposition.

Each year, three positions on the co-op's nine-member board of trustees are up for election. Members within the respective districts select one or two members to be candidates for the board of trustees. These candidates will be voted upon by all members who attend and register to vote at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 28 in Keystone Heights.

Members can also vote by mail (see right panel).

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). Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, March 26 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

# Join us for Annual Meeting March 28

Clay Electric's 81st Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, March 28 in Keystone Heights.

Members will find it to be an activity-filled day. There will be a delicious grilled chicken lunch, community- and energy-related exhibits, and a chance to win a door prize. This year's grand prize is a 2012 Chevrolet Colorado pickup owned by the cooperative.

An important part of the day is the business portion of the meeting, which takes place beneath the big tent located alongside Highway 100. Following a brief morning session that begins at 9 a.m., polls open for members to cast their ballots to elect three members to Clay Electric's Board of Trustees. Polls will remain open until 3 p.m. To be eligible for a door prize, a member must vote by 2 p.m.

The afternoon business session begins at 1 p.m. and will include comments by Board President John Henry Whitehead and General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis.

## *If you can't attend Annual Meeting, you can vote by mail & be entered to win a bill credit*

### How do I request a ballot?

To request a mail ballot, **you will need to provide your account number** that is associated with your membership. This account number begins with an asterisk (\*) and can be found on your electric bill statement. Request a ballot by either:

- Calling 1-800-239-2385 toll-free, or
- Emailing [clayelectric@clayelections.com](mailto:clayelectric@clayelections.com) and providing the name and account number.

### When can I request a mail ballot?

- The last day to **request** a ballot is **March 19**.
- Ballots must be **received** by **March 25**.
- Ballots will only be mailed to the member's billing address. There will be no exceptions.

### How do I vote?

- Instructions for completing the mail ballot are included in the ballot packet.
- Members will not be able to bring their mail ballots to the Annual Meeting. Members at the annual meeting will only be allowed to vote

through the traditional in-person method.

- Mail ballots will only be accepted in the return envelope delivered by USPS to the P.O. Box on the return envelope.
- Mail ballots will not be accepted at Clay Electric offices or at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections office.
- Per Clay Electric bylaws, once a mail ballot is cast, no in-person voting will be allowed for that member at the Annual Meeting.

### Prize Drawings

All members who vote by mail ballot will be placed in a separate prize drawing contest to win one of 34 bill credits: one \$1,200 bill credit, one \$600 bill credit, one \$250 credit, one \$120 bill credit and 30 bill credits of \$25. Winners will be notified within two weeks of the Annual Meeting.

Members who vote by mail can still attend the Annual Meeting, but they will not be eligible to win any of the door prizes, including the grand prize.