

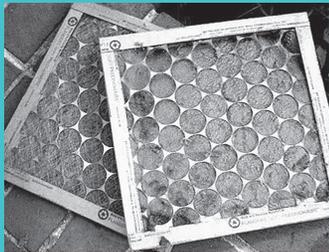
Tips to help you cut your summer electric bills

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?

The co-op's Energy Services Division offers the following 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.



A clean air filter helps lower usage.

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

Power outage map available

A Power Outage Map shows the general location and approximate number of power outages on Clay Electric's lines. The outage map allows users to view outage information systemwide, by county or by district. Visit clayelectric.com/outagemap.aspx to view the map.

To see power outage numbers and percentages, simply click on "SHOW" at the bottom of the page.

The power outage information is based on outages reported by co-op members and is automatically updated approximately every five minutes. While the method for determining the extent of an outage is quite accurate, the information presented is an estimation and may not reflect the actual number of members without power.

Report outages from your smartphone

You can report outages online using our mobile-friendly web outage reporting application, <https://outagereport.clayelectric.com>.

You may want to bookmark this address on your mobile device or laptop computer for easy access if you experience a power outage.

The best way to report your outage is to fill in your account number and password in the orange box on the lefthand side of the page.

If you don't have your password, you will need to use the account lookup form.

Please remember: only complete and submit this form if your power is out.

Assignment

Continued from cover
refund can be made by carefully considering a variety of data and economic conditions.

For example, this year's refund was for \$6 million for members who received service from 1988 through 2014.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

May 2016

Please note your assignment of Capital Credits

All current members of Clay Electric who received electric service in 2015 are being notified beginning in May regarding the amount of Capital Credits assigned to their accounts for that year.

The notice of Capital Credits will appear on the lower portion of members' bill statements beginning with May billing cycles. If you received service from the co-op during 2015, the amount assigned to you will appear following the message "2015 Capital Credits." If you began receiving service from the co-op after December 31, 2015, no 2015 allocated capital credits notice will appear.

Capital Credits reflect the cooperative's not-for-profit and member-owned status and represent each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. They are a unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative.

This notice of allocation of Capital Credits is not a current refund amount. It is simply to notify members of the amount that is being allocated to the account holder for the previous year's margins. Each year the co-op's board of trustees decides whether a

Continued on back panel

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

3040-24538

MEMBER SERVICES

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the ClayElectric.com and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)

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 online (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!

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 the Power Line publication, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; email: KRichardson@clayelectric.com.

ClayElectric.com offers services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services.

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

National Lineman Appreciation Day celebrated at co-op last month

On April 11, Clay Electric honored the dedicated men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The co-op proudly recognizes all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines," said General Manager Ricky Davis. "Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through to ensure reliable service for our members."

More than 100 men maintain 13,000 miles of line in the co-op's service territory.

To honor these brave men, Clay Electric hosted breakfasts and other events to celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The NRECA Board then designated the second Monday of each April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

The resolution represented the first time the NRECA Board has formally recognized a day in honor of linemen.

The full text of the resolution, which the board adopted unanimously:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."



Linemen Richard Leino and Grady Bostick are two of the co-op's more than 100 linemen who work to maintain the co-op's electric distribution system to provide power to members.