

## Connections Card is a money-saving tool

Clay Electric members have been using their Co-op Connections Cards for eight years now, and they're enjoying this money-saving tool that connects them with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

A wide variety of merchants throughout Clay Electric's 14-county service area accept the card. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

Clay Electric encourages its members to visit local businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections program. These merchants will benefit from increased traffic, so it's a win-win situation. More than 200 area businesses are participating in the Co-op Connections discount program.

The card can also make prescription drugs more affordable. Clay Electric members have saved more than \$215,000 on prescriptions since 2012.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Clay Electric strives to serve its members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The cooperative's Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways that Clay lives up to those values. Visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) to learn more about the Co-op Connections card program.



## Calendars available this fall

Clay Electric's 2021 calendars will be available this month for members to pick up at the co-op's six district offices. Quantities are limited.

The 2021 calendar focuses on Clay Electric's recent technology improvements and how the co-op is "Providing Power and Service for the Future." The calendar includes important co-op dates and Dan Barnett's Fishing Times.

### KITCHEN

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vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

#### Help large appliances work less

There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

#### Use your dishwasher efficiently

Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

**Bonus tip:** The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and electric bill) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.

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

# Power Line

November 2020

## Four ways to save energy in kitchen

The kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in homes. It's where many gather with family and friends for favorite meals and memories. But like most people, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish.

Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

#### Cook with smaller appliances

When possible, using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.



#### Unplug appliances

Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen — these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated energy

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Report from  
the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



## Our bigger mission is helping our members

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Clay Electric's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past several months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our communities. While our purpose is to provide reliable and safe electricity to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission — to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round Up program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help our most vulnerable neighbors pay their bills. Or our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., to experience democracy in action.

We also have a strong commitment to safety — not just for our employees, but for our community



Clay Electric employees take an active role in helping members in the communities we serve.

as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings. We have also routinely shared safety tips in publications such as this one, on social media and in videos.

Clay Electric also invests in the economic development of our communities through an active role with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in our service territory. You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering at charitable events and taking an active role at their church. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is — after all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know our core job is to keep the lights on, but our passion is our community — because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you — whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times — please reach out to us by calling 1-800-224-4917.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your co-op to care about you.

## Co-op adding more solar to portfolio

Seminole Electric Co-op, Clay Electric's wholesale power provider, recently signed agreements with Florida Renewable Partners to add more solar energy to our resource portfolio.

As part of NextEra Energy, based in Juno Beach, FRP will build new generating facilities to provide solar power to Seminole's nine member distribution electric cooperatives through purchased power agreements. The four new photovoltaic (PV) solar sites — which will be constructed, owned and operated by FRP — are expected to generate 298 megawatts, or 74.5 megawatts per facility, enough to power approximately 60,000 homes. The proposed solar facilities are located across North Florida in Columbia, Gadsden, Gilchrist and Putnam counties.

"We're excited Seminole has made solar energy a larger part of our generation mix," said Clay Electric General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis. "This project is an important strategic step as we look to the future in continuing our commitment to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity."

FRP expects the new solar facilities to be commercially operational in 2023. These agreements will significantly increase Clay Electric's access to renewable energy resources, which includes a 2.2 megawatt Cooperative Solar facility operated by Seminole and located in Hardee County.

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 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 at noon Thursday, Nov. 19 and Thursday, Dec. 17 in Keystone Heights.