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# Power Lines

Photo from Unsplash

**Infrastructure**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

In November 2021, President Biden signed a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package into law. The new law includes significant investment and funding opportunities for cooperatives and the communities they serve. Included with the legislation are 32 programs in five broad categories that may make resources available to Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), either directly or indirectly. However, much work still needs to take place before federal agencies begin funding infrastructure projects. The Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Federal Communications Commission, and other agencies are working to outline the programmatic elements of these programs. The timeline for when and how federal agencies work to outline these programs will vary from agency to agency.

Since the passage of the legislation, you may have seen news reports about the various funding opportunities available. Given the questions we have started to receive, many of you have an interest in what CEC is doing and what part we may play in any project. As I write this article, none of the 32 programs have completed their planning for implementation. Our statewide and national associations, PREA and NRECA, are monitoring the status of the programs and keeping us updated, so we can take advantage of opportunities as they arise. The programs that are furthest along in planning are broadband and electric vehicle infrastructure.

CEC is not waiting until the project planning is complete to begin our efforts. In addition to monitoring the status, we have been meeting with other local agencies to identify how we can participate with their

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efforts to provide the best opportunity for our area to receive funding. CEC is also identifying grid resiliency projects that would impact our system. We have, and continue to meet, with those creating the guidelines to provide input into how funding would benefit our area the most. We recently participated in a grant proposal with a local economic development group that, while ultimately unsuccessful, provided a channel for future submissions.

“CEC’s relationships with PREA, NRECA, state legislators, federal legislators and local agencies puts us in a unique position to potentially have better access to the project funding.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Our efforts have been focused on the areas of electric vehicle infrastructure, grid resiliency projects and solar generation interconnection to the larger grid. Our overarching goal is to be prepared to take action as soon as resources are available.

Pennsylvania has established a broadband agency that will distribute funding throughout the state to those building broadband infrastructure. Similar efforts are underway at the state level for electric vehicle infrastructure. A virtual forum was held at the end of March that included PennDot, the Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, Pittsburgh Regional Clean Cities, Drive Electric Pennsylvania, electric utilities, and your cooperative to discuss electric vehicle infrastructure and funding.

There are certainly significant potential funding opportunities that could benefit CEC and the communities we serve in a wide variety of areas. What is less certain is which of these opportunities will actually come to be and in what time

frame they will be available. We anticipate the need to act quickly as programs are rolled out. CEC’s relationships with PREA, NRECA, state legislators, federal legislators and local agencies puts us in a unique position to potentially have better access to the project funding. This coupled with our advanced preparations and planning will give CEC members the best possibility of benefitting from these resources.

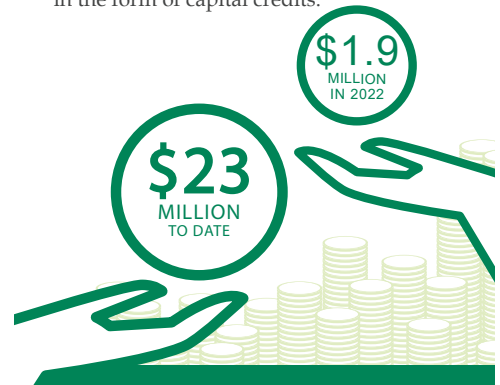
As things proceed, we will continue to keep you informed about what opportunities come to our area and what part we will play in them. I appreciate your interest in this important subject and thank you for your support in our efforts.

## Check your April bill for your capital credit refund!

### Did You Know?

Central Electric Cooperative has retired almost \$24 million to members to date – \$1.98 million in 2022 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.





## The Safety Linke



*Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.*



Manager of Safety & Loss Control

**Dylan Linke**

### Spring Digging

The upcoming spring and summer months often have folks planning tasks and projects. Whether you are planting trees, doing landscape work, completing a DIY project, or building an addition, your projects may include excavation work – Think Before You Dig! Call 811.

Underground utility strikes are dangerous and costly events — with many incidents damaging electric or gas lines, which can affect everyone in the area. The following points are some excavation best practices to avoid utility strikes.

- Always call 811 to have lines marked prior to digging. 811 notifies utility companies of your plans to dig and sends someone to mark any utilities in that area.
- Do not dig with machinery or pointed tools within the “tolerance zone” around marked utilities – typically 18 inches on either side of the outside edge of the underground facility on a horizontal plane. Use “soft digging techniques,” such as hand digging with blunt edged tools or vacuum excavation.
- Stop excavation and call 811 again if unmarked utilities are discovered or utilities are not found where they are marked.
- When working in a facility or on private

property that has privately installed lines, the lines most likely will not be part of the 811 system. Use other methods, such as ground penetrating radar, private locators, as-built drawings, and individuals familiar with the facility to locate lines before excavating.

There are many hazards to consider when excavating. Having a proactive approach prior to digging is important to avoid underground utility strikes. Please remember there are many other hazards and best practices not mentioned here.



**Digging into an Outdoor Project?**

Before you dig, dial 811 or visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.



## Lineworker Appreciation Day

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to keeping our community's lights on.  
#ThankALineworker on April 18.



## Meter Readings

with Laura Prosser

Member Energy  
Specialist



I regularly use this space to share ways to reduce electricity usage – and in turn save you money. This month, I want to share a way to save time and money, all while gaining convenience — Paperless Billing!

Members can access SmartHub, our online account center and mobile app, 24/7. Once enrolled, you will receive monthly emails when your bill is available. The email includes the bill amount and due date, as well as a link to access your bill online anytime, anywhere. In addition, you will also have a link to access this newsletter.

While the number of members enrolled in SmartHub is high, those who have committed to

## Paperless Billing

strictly online access remains low. I encourage you to unclutter your mailbox, save stamps and go paperless! All newly enrolled paperless billing members will receive a \$10 one-time bill credit.

**In addition, all members who sign up for paperless billing by May 16 will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 bill credit — CEC will give away five, \$100 bill credits!**

If you want to take the hassle out of bill paying, enroll in our auto-pay program for another \$10 one-time bill credit. Through this program, your monthly amount can be automatically deducted from a bank account or credit card on the due date of the bill — saving you time and the burden of a late charge.

Members who wish to go paperless can opt-in within SmartHub. If you are new to SmartHub, sign up at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or call 800-521-0570.

*CEC employees and directors, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible to win the bill credits.*

## Submit Your Photo and Win!

CEC invites you to submit your best photo for our 2022 Photo Contest. The top three winners will receive a prize: a \$100 bill credit for first place, a \$50 bill credit for second place, and a \$25 bill credit for third place. Submit your photo for a chance to win! The photo can be of beautiful scenery, power line equipment, landscapes, or anything! Members must submit their photo before June 10.

Members will vote for the top five photos from June 17 to July 29. Then voting begins for the top three photos from Aug. 5 to Oct. 21.

Voting will take place on CEC's website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop). You will also have the opportunity to vote using a ballot in the September issue of this newsletter.

Winning photos will appear on CEC's website and in future publications of this newsletter. Winners will be announced in late October.

### Rules:

1. Only one entry per membership.
2. A CEC member must have taken the photo within one of CEC's seven service counties (Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer and Venango).
3. The photo should be submitted electronically through CEC's website by June 10. When submitting a photo, you must include where the photo was taken, your name, CEC account number, and a title for the photo.
4. Employees and directors of CEC, along with their immediate families, are ineligible.
5. The prizes will appear as a credit on the winners' bills and may not be redeemed for cash.

Questions about the contest should be directed to Kessa Stydinger at 800-521-0570 or [kstydinger@central.coop](mailto:kstydinger@central.coop).

*By submitting a photo to this contest you grant CEC permission to use the image in any and all of its publications, including internal and external newsletters and website, without payment. However, photo credit will be given. CEC reserves the right to disqualify any photo deemed inappropriate or offensive.*

## Help Make a Cooperative Difference: Join ACRE®!

CEC cares about giving members reliable and reasonably priced electricity. While many of the cooperative's decisions are made internally, sometimes the decisions that affect our membership are made by legislators in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.

CEC recognizes the importance of expressing concerns and providing information about co-ops and rural communities to our nation's leaders. As mentioned in Mr. Boshaw's Infrastructure article, CEC's relationship with national, state and local legislators greatly benefits the co-op and our members.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action provides a voice for electric cooperatives. ACRE® is a non-partisan political action committee that aids legislators who support cooperative initiatives.

Your participation in ACRE® will support legislators who understand our interests and fight for co-op members. For just a few dollars, you can help CEC strengthen and enhance our grassroots network. Members can also support ACRE® initiatives by knowing co-op issues, engaging with local legislators as an electric cooperative leader, and by voting.

Each membership makes a difference. Please consider making the commitment to support the future of rural communities with ACRE®.

You can add your voice to this important cause and join ACRE® Co-op Owners for Political Action by filling out the adjacent form and sending it in with your electric bill. For more information, visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or contact your ACRE® coordinator, Kessa Stydinger, at 800-521-0570.



### Membership Form

#### There are two easy ways to contribute:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to PREA ACRE.

#### Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill:

- Regular Member: \$25
- Keystone Member: \$50
- Century Club Member: \$100
- President's Club Member: \$500
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please renew my amount at this level annually.

#### Submit a check:

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Members Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Election Law requires  
the following information for contributions  
equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return this form to:

ACRE

c/o Central Electric Cooperative,  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

*Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*

## Recipe of the Month

### Banana Coconut Cake

#### Topping Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ginger

#### Directions:

Mix ingredients together.

#### Cake Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup ripe bananas, mashed
- 1/2 cup yogurt or buttermilk
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 eggs

#### Cake Directions:

Cream butter and sugar. Beat eggs in one at a time. Add bananas, buttermilk or yogurt, and vanilla. Mix dry ingredients together, then add to mixture. Pour half the batter in a nine inch pan then spread half the topping on top. Add remaining batter then topping. Bake at 350 degrees for about 50 minutes.

*Thank you to Carole Mrozek for submitting this recipe!*

## CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti  
Director of Finance and  
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman  
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal  
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger  
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover  
Director of Member Services

## Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

**Mary Jo Brozenick of Kittanning**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**Robert Adams of Valencia**

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop).

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

**1. True or False:** CEC will not take advantage of opportunities from the infrastructure package.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** There is no need to call 811 before starting excavation work.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** All members who sign up for paperless billing by May 16 will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 bill credit.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Stydinger