



PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



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Why It Matters

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

The recently resolved federal government shutdown and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget impasse provided some stark realities regarding how our area can be impacted by government decisions made in Washington and Harrisburg. Since Central Electric Cooperative is not a government agency and is governed locally by our Board of Directors, we were able to make contingency plans to ensure our members' electric service would not be impacted by the inability of lawmakers to come to an agreement. Thankfully, despite the extended delay, our contingency plans went largely unused. There is value in the contingency planning itself, especially given the type of service we provide. With that said, cooperatives are in the contingency planning and emergency response business, and we work with our state and national associations to continuously improve our ability to respond to those emergencies.

When disaster strikes, electric cooperatives are regularly on the front lines working to restore power

in some of the hardest hit areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a critical partner in these efforts. Reforming FEMA into a stronger, more responsive agency will help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars, and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a disaster.

Why FEMA's Support is Needed for Electric Co-ops:

- Electric co-ops are not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities.
- They serve 92% of persistent poverty counties in America.
- Without FEMA aid, co-ops must pass disaster recovery costs directly to consumer-members, often causing electric bills to rise.
- FEMA provides essential coordination, expertise and funding that ensures electric systems can be restored rapidly and efficiently.

FEMA is not a perfect system. Its delays in funding approvals, complex documentation requirements, and a lack of consistency across regions that slow down recovery, straining local resources. While states play a critical role in

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disaster response, they cannot replace FEMA's essential function in delivering federal assistance.

Electric co-ops support common-sense FEMA reforms that will:

- Speed up reimbursements.
- Cut through red tape.
- Improve transparency and accountability.

Co-ops believe in making FEMA work better because a smarter FEMA means stronger communities, lower costs, and faster recovery.

The National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) supports the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025 (HR 4669), a bipartisan effort to reform and modernize FEMA. The legislation was passed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in September 2025.

Backed by sustained advocacy from electric cooperatives, the FEMA Act of 2025 would:

- Establish an expedited timeline for the reimbursement of emergency work.
- Streamline the process for approving and executing permanent repairs to critical infrastructure.
- Improve access to resiliency funding to help enhance reliability in preparation for future disasters.
- Allow for reimbursement of loan interest that is incurred during long FEMA processing timelines.

"The FEMA Act of 2025 is a vital step toward a smarter FEMA—one that protects taxpayer dollars and empowers local communities," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson.

Introduced by leaders in Congress, including Chairman Sam Graves, R-Mo., and Ranking Member Rick Larsen D-Wash., this bill helps ensure FEMA works for all Americans, especially the communities electric co-ops serve.

Congress is currently considering the FEMA Act of 2025, legislation to reform FEMA into a stronger, more responsive agency. Visit voicesforcooperativepower.com to learn how you can take action and urge your member of Congress to support this legislation.

Natural disasters are increasing in frequency and severity. That means bigger challenges and increased costs for electric co-ops. Disaster relief funding through FEMA is critical to restoring electric service after a disaster and improving future resilience. Without this assistance, recovery time and expense will increase drastically for small and rural communities that can least afford it.

FEMA Public Assistance ensures that disaster recovery doesn't mean disastrous bills for rural families.

This effort illustrates how independent cooperatives work together to leverage the grassroots advocacy that we have built across rural America. That grassroots advocacy is you. Your support for cooperative initiatives has a direct impact on your community and our ability to continue to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electric service. Thank you for your continued support of your cooperative and Happy New Year!

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Matthew P. Boshaw

CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti

Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO

Lisa A. Hoover

Director of Member Services

Christopher W. Kossman

Director of Information Technology

Fred E. Terwilliger

Assistant General Manager/COO



High School Juniors: APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

Youth Tour is a FREE, week-long, leadership-focused trip to Washington, D.C. happening June 15-20, 2026!

Explore

Visit historical monuments, museums and memorials in Washington, D.C.

Learn

Boost your team-building and leadership skills.

Connect

Build life-long friendships with students from all over the country.



Visit our website at central.coop for more information:



2026 Rate Change

After two years of shielding members from rate increases, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) will implement a rate change effective February 1, 2026. While this change is unavoidable, it has been handled with care.

CEC has worked hard to stabilize rates through our ownership in generation resources with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny). However, a mix of supply chain challenges, policy shifts, and surging demand has created a volatile energy market. After thoughtful consideration of rising power supply costs and the financial stability of the cooperative, CEC's Board of Directors approved an average 13% rate increase. Members will see this change to bills distributed after February 1.

To illustrate, the average residential member uses 906 kWh per month, resulting in a current bill of \$146.92. After February 1, that bill will be \$166.02, an increase of \$19.10 per month.

CEC reminds members to:

- Visit our Energy Solutions Center on central.coop for tools to lower usage and save.
- Use SmartHub to monitor and manage your energy habits.
- Explore our updated rebate program for energy-efficient appliances.

If you are struggling, please contact us about energy assistance programs at 800-521-0570.

Quantified

906 kWh

The average residential member uses 906 kWh per month, translating to a current bill of \$146.92.



13% RATE CHANGE

The same household using 906 kWh will have a bill of \$166.02 after February 1, 2026. The change translates to approximately a \$19 increase per month.

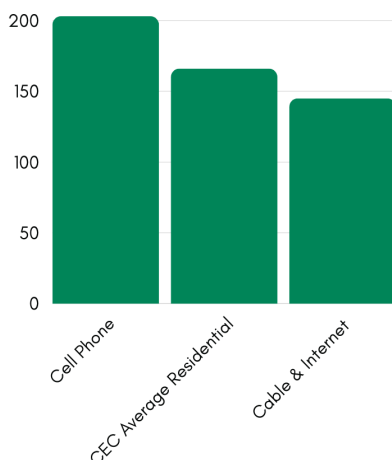
As this rate increase goes into effect, remember:

- We make every effort to mitigate costs and avoid increases.
- We are committed to our members and the communities we serve.
- As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, maintaining dependable service at the most affordable price remains our cornerstone.

Electricity continues to be of great value. For less than \$5.53 per day, it heats and cools your home, cooks your meals, cleans your clothes, and powers the technology that connects your life.

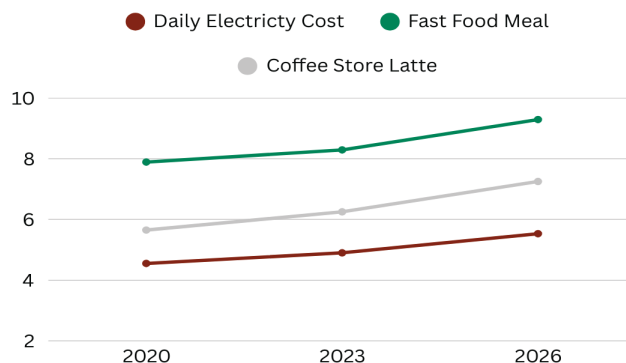
AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL COSTS

Electricity costs remain competitive among average monthly household bills.



ELECTRIC COST COMPARISONS

Compare costs of typical purchases to daily cost of electricity. Daily electricity costs remain under typical purchases.



Keeping You Safe from Scammers This Winter

by Grant Potsabay, The Safety and Loss Control Administrator

Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of this time of year by targeting consumers who are worried about high bills. They use convincing tactics such as fake discounts or urgent payment requests to trick people into sharing personal information or sending money. Staying informed and cautious is the best way to protect yourself and your family.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Beware of “winter bill relief” energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling your utility’s phone number located on your energy bill. Do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text. Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won’t pressure you for immediate action.



Employee Spotlight: Dan Conner



What do you do at CEC? I inspect, repair, and maintain CEC’s fleet.



What do you do outside of work or what is one of your hobbies? Off-road adventures on my side by side/camping.



What is one thing on your bucket list? Ride the Trans America Trail.



What was your first job? Mechanic Apprentice at PennDOT.



Do you have any pets? 2 cats.

Role: Mechanic
Employee Since: February 2025



Go Digital with Power Lines and Win!

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

CEC is excited to announce that Power Lines is now available digitally! Members can now opt-in to receive a digital copy of Power Lines delivered straight to their inbox each month. Each issue will include the same great information you've come to expect from the printed version included with your paper bill. Going digital means faster access to news, energy tips, and updates at anytime!

How to opt-in for digital power lines:

1. Log into your SmartHub Account.
2. Navigate to Settings, then select Manage Notifications.
3. Check the box to receive Digital Power Lines.
4. Follow the on-screen prompts to confirm your contact methods.
5. Click Save.

Win an Energy Efficiency Kit

If you make the switch, CEC will automatically enter anyone who signs up for Digital Power Lines into a drawing to win an Energy Efficiency Kit valued at \$60+! The kit includes a usage meter, power strip, LED light bulb, and more.

Want two chances to win? Enroll in paperless billing for an additional entry! Plus, members who go paperless receive a one-time \$10 bill credit.

How to go paperless:

1. Click Paperless Billing under Settings.
2. Slide the buttons on.
3. Click Yes to save.

Important dates:

Members must sign up for Digital Power Lines or enroll in Paperless Billing by March 30, 2026. Prize distribution begins in January 2026 and continues until the end of March or until supplies are depleted. For more information, call 800-521-0570.

GIVE

AWAY

**WIN YOUR OWN
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY KIT!**

Simply enroll in paperless billing, or sign up for digital Power Lines by 3/30/2026 to be entered into the efficiency kit drawing. Signed up for both? Get two entries! Visit central.coop for more information or signup on your SmartHub account today!

POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to Ease Grid Strain This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 Degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.



Big Impacts to Conserve Energy

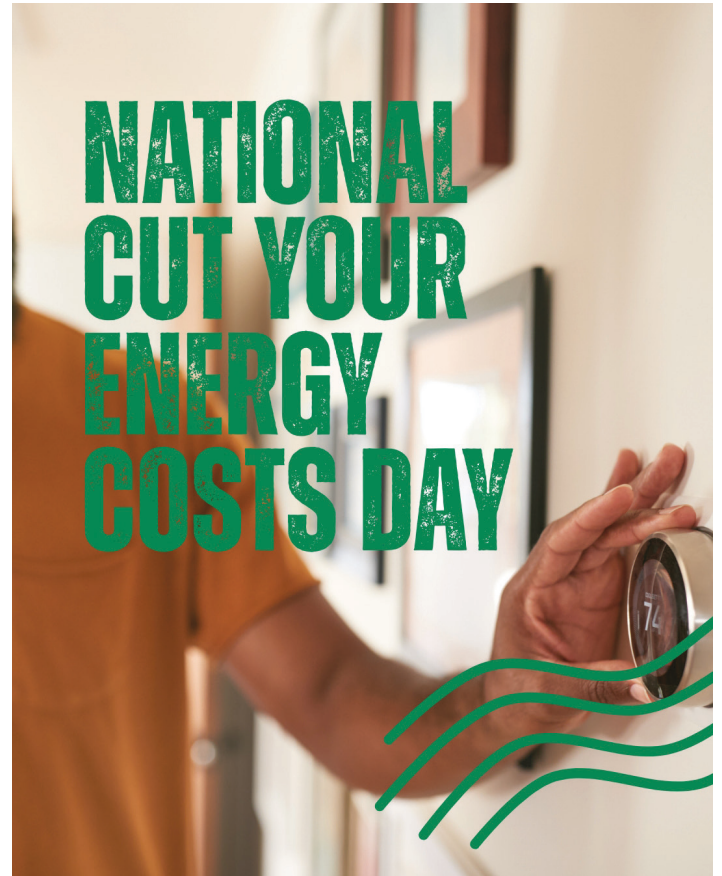
by *Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist*

The start of a new year can bring a desire for change, so why not have that change be something that can benefit you, and your wallet, all year round? January 10 is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day. The day promotes energy efficiency and encourages finding ways to reduce energy consumption. Let me help you get a great start to the year by giving you simple, beneficial tips to save your money and reduce your environmental impact.

Tips to Improve Energy Efficiency:

1. Set your thermostat to the lowest, comfortable, temperature.
2. Use a Smart/Programmable thermostat.
3. Replace or clean your furnace/air conditioner filters regularly.
4. Use weatherstripping and caulking around windows and doors to insulate and seal leaks.
5. Use thermal curtains for blinds to keep heat in.
6. Switch to LED bulbs because LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs.
7. Turn off lights and unplug appliances when they aren't in use.
8. Wash/dry full loads of laundry in cold water.
9. Utilize Energy Star® Appliances as they are designed for greater energy efficiency.
10. Lower water heater temperature by setting it at 120° to prevent energy loss.
11. Match pot size to the burner when cooking on an electric stove.
12. Use oven light and window because opening the door can drop the temperature up to 25°.

National Cut Your Energy Costs Day is a great reminder for us to revisit our habits and find opportunities to save energy and money. While heating and cooling can have the biggest impact on your energy usage, it's still just as important to remember the small things. Being aware of those small and consistent changes can lead to annual savings and benefit the environment at the same time.



Good Neighbor Scholarship Applications are Open!

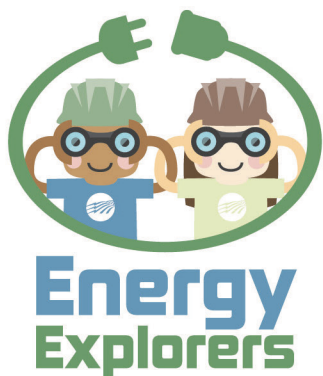
One of the best investments a community can make is in education. Each spring, CEC awards scholarships to graduating seniors or adults going back to school who live at a residence receiving electricity from the co-op. **CEC will award 10 scholarships of \$3,000 in 2026.**

Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution, complete the application on our website, and submit a 500-word essay. The funds used

for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits and does not impact members' rates in any way. Employees and directors of CEC, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible.

Visit central.coop or scan the QR code to learn more and apply!





POP QUIZ

Electricity Terms

How well do you know terms related to electricity? Test your knowledge! **Read the definitions below. Then, look at the word bank to match the correct terms to the definitions.** You can only use the words once, so choose carefully. Check your work in the answer key.

Word Bank:

Conductor	Circuit	Insulator
Volt (Voltage)	Static Electricity	

1. A complete path that electricity flows through.

2. Something that allows electricity to pass through, such as metal or wire.

3. The standard unit of measurement for electricity.

4. Something that does not allow electricity to pass through easily, such as rubber.

5. Electricity build-up caused by rubbing two surfaces together.

Answer Key:
 1. Circuit 2. Conductor
 3. Volt (Voltage)
 4. Insulator
 5. Static Electricity

From the Kitchen of:
Gregory Kelly



RECIPE: CAULIFLOWER CHEESE PATTIES

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329,
Parker, PA 16049

INGREDIENTS:

1 head cauliflower
2 large eggs
1/2 c. cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 c. panko bread crumbs
2 tsp. cayenne pepper
salt and pepper to taste
olive oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut cauliflower into florets and cook in boiling water until tender (about 10 minutes). Drain. Mash the cauliflower while warm.
2. Stir in cheese, eggs, panko, and seasonings.
3. Coat the bottom of a griddle or skillet with olive oil over medium-high heat. Form the cauliflower mixture into patties about 3 inches across. Cook until golden brown (about 3 minutes on each side). Keep each batch warm in the oven while you cook the rest and enjoy! Makes 8 patties.



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative



Your Board of Directors

From left (back row): Kenneth Durrett, Vice President, Butler County; Jared McFarland, Forest County; Robert Smith, Butler County; Jody Weaver, President, Clarion County; **(front)** Richard Weaver, Clarion County; Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Dana Kellogg, Venango County; Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.



central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

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Outages: 800-282-8610

Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**ON THE GO AND
IN CONTROL.**

MANAGE

your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



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Catch up at www.central.coop

Read past issues of Power Lines and
stay up to date on CEC news.

