

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

Photograph by Bonnie Broad, My Best Friend

Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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Rate Pressures

BY MATT BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

The Board of Directors and staff at CEC only prioritize safety above the rates our members pay. A good indicator of this is that CEC has not had a rate increase since January of 2023. Our budgeting process is detailed and includes a wide variety of components necessary to efficiently operate your cooperative. Rate making can be equally complicated. If we look at it simply, from the 50,000-foot view, we can break it into two primary areas: generation & transmission (G&T) costs and distribution costs.

The distribution costs include wages, benefits, vehicles, poles, wires, insurance etc. Distribution costs are easily definable and make up about 50% of our total costs. G&T costs, making up the other 50%, include the energy we purchase, and the services needed to bring that energy to our substations. CEC has been able to keep increases in distribution costs relatively small compared to the rising costs of G&T. We have maintained the size of our workforce for decades even as our membership grows. By increasing

our inventory levels ahead of spiking inflation and recent tariffs, we've been able to manage the cost and availability of material. These strategic efforts have helped mitigate both the frequency and magnitude of rate increases.

Although our G&T cost increases have outpaced our distribution cost increases, the cooperative business model has held rates lower relative to those in the marketplace. As an electric power cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC), has limited exposure to the marketplace through its ownership of generation resources. While the approach limits the exposure to the market, it does not eliminate it. We have been notified that AEC will be giving us a rate increase in 2026. There are several variables that go into rate making that, at this time, have yet to be determined, meaning we do not yet know what the magnitude will be.

The news has been inundated with stories highlighting the value of artificial intelligence and the need for data centers to support it. However, what is often overlooked in this discussion is the amount of power needed to supply these data centers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The electric demands

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created by these data centers typically range from 300 to 700 megawatts (MW) for each facility. As a frame of reference, the peak demand of CEC's entire membership is 65 MW. These extreme additional demands on an already overstressed electric grid result in one of two outcomes. The first is, as with any supply and demand marketplace, there is a significant increase in costs. Secondly, and inevitably, there is an inability to supply all the electric demand, resulting in some being left without power.

I am not speculating or giving opinion. The marketplace is experiencing unprecedented cost increases caused by dramatically increasing demands, decreasing supply and restrained transmission infrastructure. As I mentioned, our business model has limited our exposure to the upward pressures, but they are impacting us more each year. We are actively working with our G&T provider to limit and mitigate the costs, but we will be receiving an increase that will require CEC to have a rate increase in 2026. We do not yet know the magnitude of the increase or how much of it we will be able to absorb but we thought it important to make you aware. Additionally, I hope this serves as a call to action for our membership to use your voice and reach out to legislators to encourage efforts towards a more structured and managed integration of these significant demands into the electric grid.

We will continue our efforts on your behalf to mitigate our rate increases moving forward because we recognize that while there is benefit to having a lower relative rate, the rate still has impact on the lives of our members. Our member-owned and governed, not-for-profit model has never been more valuable than it is today.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

CEC Holiday Closures:

Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving

(normal business hours resume Nov. 28)

Dec. 24 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 for Christmas Day

(normal business hours resume Dec. 26)

Dec. 31 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

(normal business hours resume Jan. 2)

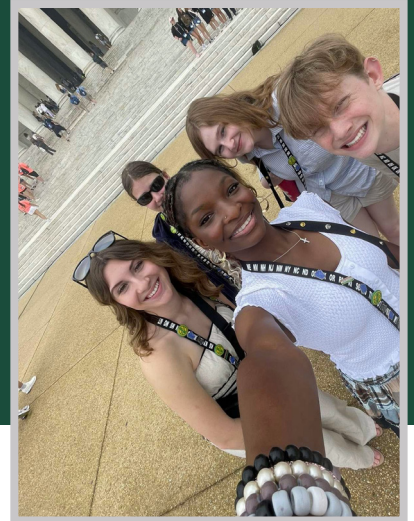
ENTER THE CEC CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST

Members must submit a photo or video of their display at central.coop by Dec. 7. The contest is open to residential and commercial members.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

High School Juniors, **APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR!**



High school juniors can join students from across the country for a FREE week-long trip to Washington, D.C.! Youth Tour applications are now open and we are looking for students to participate in this leadership-focused, once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses paid trip. CEC will sponsor students to participate in Youth Tour from June 15-20, 2026. This fun, and educational trip will provide students with resume-building skills and activities. Visit www.central.coop for more information and to apply!



Students will explore D.C.'s many museums, monuments, and memorials.

They'll experience sights honoring figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Lincoln, and explore memorials dedicated to American conflicts like WWII, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

They will experience sights like the the Air & Space Museum, the Holocaust museum and events such as a dinner cruise on the Potomac and live theater at the Kennedy Center.

Learn our nation's history and discover their place in our democracy.

Youth Tour students have the opportunity to visit the Capitol Building and participate in a meeting with their elected representative where they can ask questions, and learn about the work done on Capitol Hill.

They'll also learn about cooperatives, our nation, and the impact they have on their community and country!

Experience the excitement of Youth Tour with students from across the country.

Lifelong friendships have begun from sharing Youth Tour experiences.

They'll join a network of Youth Tour alumni that includes senators and CEOs. Youth Tour opens students up to networking connections, valuable experiences, and exclusive scholarships, as well as an amazing trip they'll never forget!

Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

by Grant Potsubay, Safety and Loss Control Administrator

This month I found a basis for my article from our nationwide association, NRECA, to highlight important safety insights for your home this winter. As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season:

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

Speaking of power strips...

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Safety starts with awareness and a little preparation goes a long way. By taking a few simple precautions, you can significantly reduce the risk of fire and electrical hazards in your home this winter.



Role: Senior IT Specialist
Employee Since: 2000

Employee Spotlight: Stacey Bechtel



What do you do at CEC? End user support. I manage our phone system, mobile devices, and maintain computer equipment and software.



Tell us a professional success story that makes you proud. While working full-time and having a family, I returned to college (at night and online) to prepare for my current position, graduating on the Dean's List.



What is one thing on your bucket list? Travel to Ireland.



Do you have any pets? I inherited my dad's cat. Her name is "Fatty."



What is something you've always wanted to try to learn? To play the piano.

CEC Employees' Holiday Traditions

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative



In the spirit of the Holidays, CEC employees are sharing their favorite traditions from throughout the year. I asked 9 of them what they look forward to the most whether it be family gatherings, friends, games, or trips. Here's what they had to say:

Acts of Kindness

Holidays mean something different to everyone, but for many, it's a time to look outward and find meaningful ways to give back during the season.

Katrina, Executive Assistant: *"Every year on Thanksgiving morning, I go and work at a homeless shelter with my mom. Then we will go back and have dinner with my family. Usually, there's about 30 to 35 people there."*

Jeff, Chief Mechanic: *"We have a tradition where everyone puts money in an envelope to pay for people's food in another country. It's called ELCA Good Gifts and so, based on how much money is collected, you can see how much you get to donate to other people like 3 whole pigs and a chicken if there's enough."*

Traveling and Gathering

With all the mayhem that comes with celebrations, it's the people you surround yourself with that seem to make it worthwhile.

J.P., Lineman: *"20-ish of us, including 9 nephews and nieces, and a dog, get together every Christmas. It's always chaotic, but I like being off and hanging out with everybody."*

Ashlie, Member Service Representative: *"We always go to a Pirates game for Father's Day and tailgate outside of PNC Park."*

Chester, Director of Finance & Accounting/CFO: *"On the day after Thanksgiving, my family goes down to the Strip District. We browse stores and get a 'big fish sandwich' from Wholey's. Then we make our way up to market square, go through there and ice skate in PPG square. After all that, we head home and make an Italian*

feast from everything we got at Penn Mac. We do the traditional dinner on Thanksgiving, but the next day's always the best day."

Good Eats and Sweets

Adding flavor by the dozen (and then some) to a couple of Pennsylvanians' favorite holidays.

Connie, Member Energy Specialist: *"I don't know if this really counts as a holiday, but on the first day of deer season, while everyone's hunting, the rest of my family and I always make hundreds of dozens of holiday cookies. We have always kept track of how many we make and what kind. The oldest card goes back to 1988 when they made 30 dozen. Last year, we did 132 ½ dozen. Once they're all made, we disperse them amongst everybody."*

Bill, Senior System Engineer: *"My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is the leftovers: Turkey, gravy, stuffing, beans, pumpkin pie. After Thanksgiving, we always have waffles with Turkey gravy. Mmmmm."*

Traditions that Play

Celebrating the holidays with friends, fun, and a little friendly competition.

Chris, Field Service Representative: *"On Thanksgiving, I always go and play soccer in the morning with some buddies from high school."*

Stacey, Senior IT Specialist: *"Last year I started my newest tradition and have a girls' day, Christmas pajama party with my friends. We hangout, play games, and do a gift exchange."*

Everybody spends their time during the holidays a little differently from giving back to indulging in good food to just enjoying each other's company. We hope you soak up moments like these wherever you may be with the people you care about most this holiday season.



2025 Central Electric Cooperative employee group photo.



Prepping Your Home for Holiday Travel

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

Holidays for many means traveling to spend time with family, and friends. If this sounds like you, then I have some proactive tips to help lower your energy usage while you're away.

1. **Adjust your thermostat:** Lowering it while away helps reduce your usage. You could also take advantage of a Smart Thermostat that may have an automated vacation mode.
2. **Adjust your water heater:** Turning the temperature of your water heater down while away keeps it from heating unnecessary water.
3. **Use smart power strips:** With smart power strips, you can control holiday lights and other items directly on your phone from anywhere.
4. **Use timers:** Set timers for holiday displays to help keep usage down while allowing you to still enjoy the view.
5. **Unplug items:** Unplugging items while you're away is a simple way to conserve energy.

6. **Close curtains and windows:** Keeping curtains and windows closed helps keep heat in.
7. **Utilize LED Lights:** Choosing LED lighting not only in lamps but holiday displays as well, helps conserve energy since LEDs use less energy.

The holidays can be a stressful time, but being proactive can help ease your mind and make a big difference with your electric bill. By following the provided tips, you are given a great start on ways to save. Focus on what matters most, while knowing your energy use is under control as you travel this season.



Enter CEC's Christmas Lights Contest!

One of the best parts of the holiday season is seeing homes and businesses shining with festive lights. CEC loves to see it all and that's why we're thrilled to kick off our annual Christmas Lights Contest!

The Contest is open to all commercial and residential CEC members. A photo or video of your display must be submitted on the website by December 7th to participate. All participating members have the chance to win a prize upon entry. First place, also known as the Griswold Award, will receive a \$500 bill credit and \$500 donation

to a charity of your choice. Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit, and third place a \$100 bill credit.

Voting for the contest's winners is open to all CEC members and can be found on our website at www.central.coop. You can check out each entry and vote for your three favorites until voting closes on Dec. 19th. The winners will be announced on Dec. 22 on our website and in February's Power Lines Newsletter.

Be creative, but safe too! Do not overload your outlets. Do check your wires and cords for any damage, and be mindful of ladder safety as you deck the halls.

This contest is an opportunity to showcase your Christmas spirit and bring our communities together. We encourage everyone to join in, both by creating your displays and by voting for your favorites. We can't wait to see this year's entries and celebrate the holiday season together. Have fun, be safe, and good luck!



FALL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fall is in full swing, and that means the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and the holiday season is just around the corner! But the fall season also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

Check your work in the answer key.



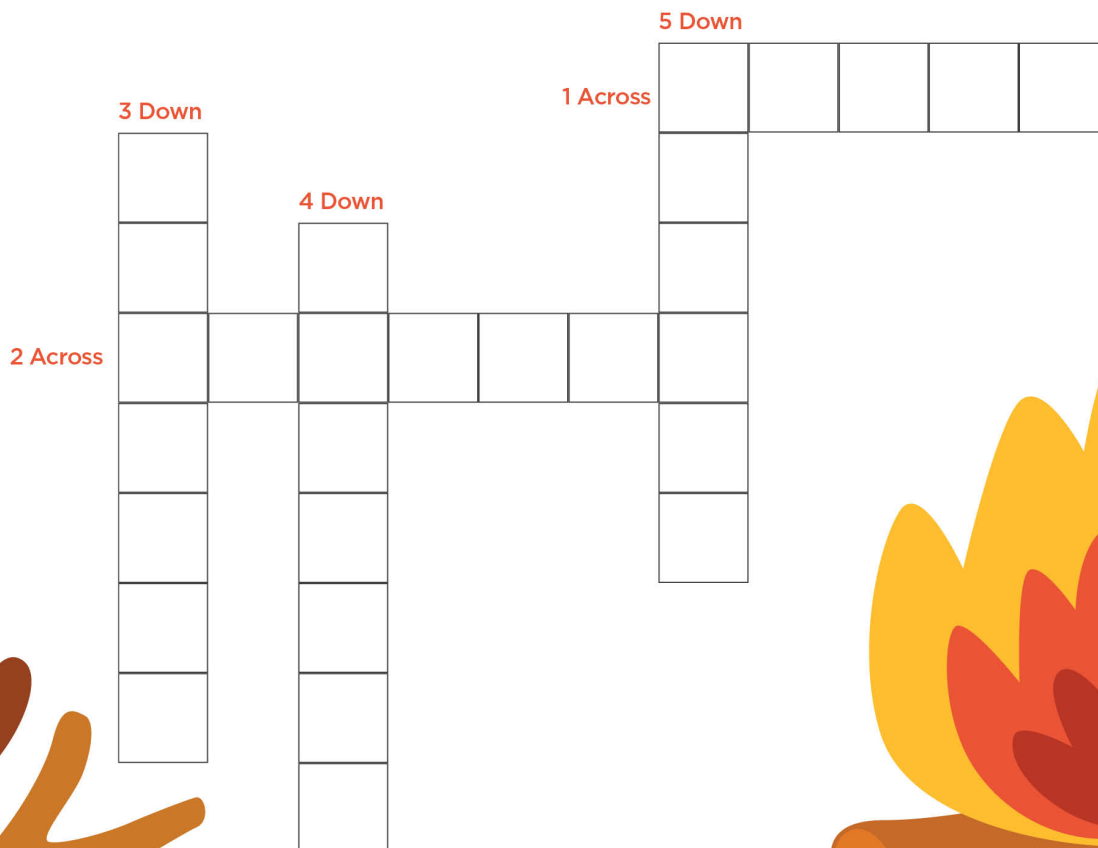
1 Across: An _____ should always be in the kitchen when something is cooking.

2 Across: Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, _____ and other cooking appliances.

3 Down: Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.

4 Down: Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.

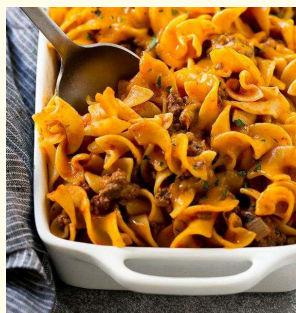
5 Down: Smoke _____ should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.



Answer Key: 1 Across: adult; 2 Across: toaster; 3 Down: matches; 4 Down: candles; 5 Down: alarms

From the Kitchen of:

Kathy Guth



RECIPE: **BUSY DAY CASSEROLE**

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. ground beef	1 tsp. parsley
1 Tbsp. veg. oil	1 tsp. of garlic powder
1 onion, chopped	salt & pepper to taste
12 oz. can of corn	
8 oz. egg noodles, cooked	
1 c. cheddar cheese, grated	
10 oz. can of tomato soup	
1 green bell pepper, chopped	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large skillet, heat oil and add onion, green pepper, and ground meat. Cook until meat is browned.
2. Add corn, soup, and spices. Mix well and bring to a simmer.
3. Add cooked noodles and 1/2 c. of cheese. Spoon into 2 qt. casserole dish. Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top.
4. Bake at 350° for 30 to 45 min. Enjoy!

Send your own recipe to:

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



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.

