

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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To Report an Outage
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Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2024 Scholarships

CMEC awarded seven scholarships to area students. "Education, Training, and Information," along with "Concern for Community," are part of our guiding cooperative principles. Applications are due each year on April 30th.

Congratulations!



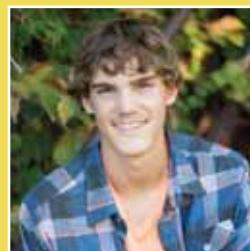
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Mattoon

Electricity Provides Powerful Value

By Maura Giles, NRECA

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink was setting me back \$10, and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. This got me

thinking — is this the best value for my money?

You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

Ronald Bennett

As a member-owned cooperative, CMEC does everything within their power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our

control, but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because they're a cooperative, they consider the impact of those costs on members as well.

As communities continue to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured your cooperative always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. That's real value.



Morning To-Go Latte

\$6



Fast-Food Combo Lunch

\$10



All-Day Power

<\$5

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

Benefits of Mutual Aid

Did you know electric cooperatives use a collaborative approach to emergency planning and response? The mutual aid model allows co-ops to help each other out after major storms and disasters. It is essentially neighbors helping neighbors. One of the seven cooperative principles is “Cooperation Among Cooperatives.” Mutual aid embodies this principle and is a vital part of how we operate and serve members of our local communities. Electric co-ops know we’re strongest when we work together.



Pictured left to right, Linemen Bob Schafer, Jake Logue, Grant Cooper, Mitch Stanciu, Koty West, and Marcus McDowell, sent to assist Carroll Electric Cooperative Corp, Berryville, AR, May 2024



Pictured left to right, Linemen Grant Cooper, Koty West, Brandon Slifer, and Brock Cook, sent to assist EnerStar Electric Cooperative, Paris, IL, June 2024



Pictured left to right, Linemen Koty West, Brandon Slifer, Grant Cooper, and Mitch Stanciu, sent to assist Corn Belt Energy Corp., Bloomington, IL, June 2024



Safety First

CMEC lineworkers performed pole top and bucket rescue in June as part of their ongoing required training. A mock mayday call was also simulated to help us be better equipped in case of an emergency.

Words of Thanks

“Thank you so much for your generous donation toward the fireworks that will be a part of the Oakland Independence Celebration! We very much appreciate it.”

From OIC Committee, Oakland Chamber of Commerce



Chat with Us over Coffee

We will have Coffee on the Co-op on Wednesday, Aug. 28th, at Jackson Avenue Coffee, 708 Jackson Ave. in Charleston from 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Stop by to say hello, chat about the co-op, and meet your CEO.

In Case You Missed It

Capital Credit Allocations were printed on member bills mailed in July. Allocations are the amount of Capital Credits a member has earned that year based on their patronage or kilowatt hours (kWh) purchased from the co-op. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of Capital Credits. CMEC has retired Capital Credits through 1983. For questions on Capital Credits, call our office at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmeccoop.org.

Join us on Friday, Oct. 4
for our 2024 Member
Celebration & Annual Meeting
at Peterson Park, Mattoon.



Contact Information

Keep your contact information up to date. This helps us serve you better! Members can update their information by calling our office at 217-235-0341, emailing info@cmeccoop.org, or logging into Smarthub at www.cmeccoop.org.

Thank You

to those members who took the time to complete our 2024 Member Survey.

Our Mission

Our CMEC mission statement is **“To serve our members.”** That's the co-op difference. We are not-for-profit, member-owned, and governed by the Seven Cooperative Principles.



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmeccoop.org