

THE GRID

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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



Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative employees and members collected over 3,200 pairs of new socks during October as part of National Cooperative month. One Stop Community Christmas is a collaborative effort by local organizations to help families in need during the holiday season. The program serves residents of Coles and six other counties in southeastern Illinois including Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby. The co-op had a competition between the employees with the outside personnel winning. IBEW, along with other businesses, also donated funds and socks.



Pictured left to right, CMEC Communications Coordinator Carla Bradbury and One Stop Volunteer Suzi Coffman



Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Coles-Moultrie Electric Co-op (CMEC) works with our wholesale power partner, Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), which is also a

cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, PPI knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings, when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

CMEC remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply. To learn more about your co-op's power supply, contact us at info@cmeccoop.com.



Welcome Journeyman Lineman Addison Ess to CMEC

What is a kWh?

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the standard unit of measure for electricity use and is equal to 1,000 watt-hours. For example, a 100-watt light bulb running for one hour uses one tenth of a kWh. If electricity costs \$.10 cents per kWh, it costs one cent per hour to operate that bulb. To discover ways to reduce your energy costs, visit cmeccoop.com or request a copy of Your Unique Energy Needs by emailing info@cmeccoop.com.



A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

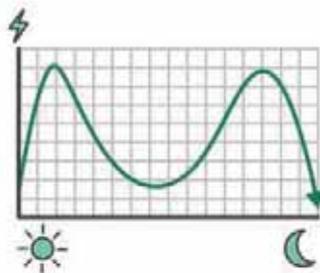
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

Regional Grid Operators



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

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Words of Thanks

**Thank you so much for drawing my meal ticket.
The lunch was really good.**

From a CMEC co-op member

**We want to thank you for inviting us to Industry Day. A lot of
information and knowledge was shared that will help us in our
future career options. We appreciate the time you spent with us.**

From Charleston High School students



SCHOLARSHIPS

CMEC will award
six \$500 scholarships and a
\$1,000 Randall Beasley
Memorial Scholarship in 2025.

Deadline to apply is
April 30, 2025.

Applications are available
on our website or can be
requested by emailing
cbradbury@cmeccoop.org.

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Having a Backup Plan



If you or someone in your household depends on electric medical equipment, we will do all we can to assist you during a power outage. Examples of lifesaving medical devices include an oxygen concentrator or a ventilator. Although CMEC will do all we can, it is best to have a backup plan in place for weather or other events that may cause prolonged power outages. Visit www.safeelectricity.org to learn more about preparing for an emergency.



CMEC members can now pay cash at participating locations using a barcode on their Smarthub account. Check out pay.vanilladirect.com/pages/retailers for participating locations. These include Dollar General, CVS Pharmacy and Walmart. Some businesses may accept both cash and a card payment. Your Smarthub can be set up by visiting our website at www.cmeccoop.org. This gives our members another convenient option for making payments in and around our service area.

Remote Reconnect or Disconnect

CMEC utilizes available technology that allows us to disconnect and/or reconnect your electric service without an employee being physically dispatched to your meter location. This allows for more flexibility in the time management of co-op employees, which in turn benefits our members. Be aware that a meter site may be disconnected or reconnected, and power may be restored at any time without an employee or member at the meter site.

Capital Credits

Capital Credits, also called "margins," are paid out to members when the Board of Directors determine it is feasible for our cooperative. You, or someone you know, may have unclaimed Capital Credits. Our board recently approved Capital Credits for 1986 and 1987 to be paid out. When CMEC distributes checks, sometimes former members cannot be found. This is another reason to keep your contact information up to date. We encourage you to check our Lost Members-Unclaimed Capital Credits listing on our website at www.cmeccoop.org, or contact our office for assistance at 217-235-0341.

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