

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Board Reviewing Options to Mitigate Rising Costs

↑↑↑ 108.9%
Increase in Wire Cost

2015 Wire per Pound
\$1.57

2023 Wire per Pound
\$3.28

↑↑↑ 74.9%
Increase in Transformer Cost

2015 Average Transformer
\$1,079.00

2023 Average Transformer
\$1,888.00

↑↑↑ 25%
Increase in Purchased Power

2015 Purchased Power
\$32,544,949

2022 Purchased Power
\$40,696,336

↑↑↑ 172.2%
Increase in Pole Cost

2015 Average Pole
\$167.50

2023 Average Pole
\$456.00

The East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) Board of Trustees is in the process of reviewing options to mitigate the financial impact of rising costs on the co-op.

ECE is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that works hard to control costs while still providing our members with

safe, reliable electricity. Despite rising costs, our team has kept rates steady since 2015.

A rate realignment and an increase in the customer charge are currently under review. Co-op members can expect more information about the board's decision in the September edition.

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit ecoec.com. To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

notes from the chair



by Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

A Solid Foundation — Construction & Energy

Our District meetings went well and were well attended. A new record in person attendance was achieved. By the time you read this our Annual meeting of 2023 will be history. Perhaps we will have a record-breaking attendance there too.

The Board of Directors voted to offer our members in 2024 a program that will provide assistance in making good energy decisions. The first step will be an energy audit that will show energy savings from home improvements. This program will provide a monitoring service that will show the savings from each improvement. The energy saving program will also assist our members with other things like EV charging and solar systems. The strongest part of this program is that we plan to be in the business for the next 80 years and beyond. We want to be your energy advisor. You are a member of a great Co-op and we hope you take advantage of the Co-op ideas. Give the office a call (918-756-0833) and ask to speak to someone about our energy

savings program. The operator can connect your call to the right person.

During the recent windstorm we had numerous outages, but our crew came to the job about midnight and worked tirelessly to get the power back on. It was reported we had about 80 poles down. Not bad out of over 140,000 total poles. Most of our members were courteous and understanding. My home was out about 20 hours. I called in to harass Genie (the manager's secretary). After the ice storm years ago, I purchased an apparatus that was installed behind my meter to plug my generator into. It would let my generator power the house without back feeding down the line to electrify linemen repairing an outage. My report to Genie--I keep my generator in the trailer barn that is only easily entered through an overhead electric door! It didn't matter anyway--my meter pole was on the ground with the meter smashed, so I couldn't plug it in anyway. I was relaxing in my electric recliner when the power

went off. Those things are difficult to get out of from a reclining position!

Some people bring happiness wherever they go--some whenever they go.

This one comes from Dwight.

A lady's horse was ailing and she spent much time and effort to remediate her horse but to no avail. The horse's health continued to spiral down. She called on a well known and respected veterinarian in the area to diagnose the problem. Every test known was examined and no indication was identified. The vet told the lady he knew a 'lady horse whisperer' and they agreed to give it a try. After several days of the horse whisperer dealing with the horse, she reported "the horse tells me the little people are killing him!" Confused and certainly doubting, a series of cameras were mounted in the stall. What they saw as they watched the film was unbelievable. Monkeys were having a hey day torturing the horse. They would jump from the rafters, the manger, and even from the ground, pull the horse's ears, throw things at it, chase it, and literally abuse the horse. Dwight, who was the area game ranger at the time, was called in and reported that indeed a nearby neighbor did have some monkeys that were often out ranging the area--Go Figure!!

Lowell Hobbs represents ECE District 2. To reach him, please call his cellphone at 918-695-5289.

Make time for *safety*.
Avoid hazards with overhead power lines.

Safe Electricity.org

Serving Our Members and Communities

We have compiled this photo essay with the help of employees from all across our co-op to convey how we feel about the work we do and the mission that drives us — Serving Our Members and Communities.



Kenny Rogers and Richard Myers handing out bottled water to attendees at annual meeting.

PHOTO CREDIT: KAYLEIGH HARRISON, COMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTATIVE



ECE crews (behind the camera) assessing damage after a spring storm.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRAD DUNCAN, LINEMAN-IN-CHARGE MAINTENANCE



Terry Metcalf volunteering with his church to hand out Thanksgiving dinners to those in need.

PHOTO COURTESY: OKMULGEE TIMES



Heath Durrett and Jeremy Hendrickson inspecting ecoLINK fiber internet components.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY NIX, ECOLINK SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR



Illuminating the work site on a late night outage.

PHOTO CREDIT: STACY BOURNE, LINEMAN-IN-CHARGE MAINTENANCE

Nobody tells you, you'll spend about 70% of your time as a parent checking your kid's phone for potential issues.
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Squash Relish

INGREDIENTS

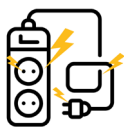
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12 C. squash, chopped | Sauce: |
| 4 C. onion, chopped | 2 1/2 C. apple cider vinegar |
| 4 large green bell peppers, chopped | 1 tsp. turmeric |
| 2 hot peppers, chopped | 2 1/2 tsp. celery seed |
| 5 T. salt | 1/2 T. allspice |
| | 6 C. sugar |

DIRECTIONS

Set all vegetables over night in salt. Rinse in cold water next day. For sauce, bring those ingredients to a hard boil. Add vegetables to sauce and bring back to hard boil. Cook together. Have rings, jars, and caps hot to seal.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

This harvest season, use a spotter when operating large machinery near overhead power lines. If a power line comes down or is damaged, make sure all workers know what to do to stay safe.

East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Office hours:
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Power Outage Hot-line
(918) 756-0833

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS!

ELECTION RESULTS AND PRIZE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE COUNTRY LIVING NEWSLETTER.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay online using SmartHub.

Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at 866-999-4584. Available 24/7. Convenience fee associated with payments.

Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations. Convenience fee associated with payments.

Pay using our drive-thru window Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:45 pm.

Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form at www.ecoec.com, or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.