

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



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Knowledge is (spending less on) Power

The days of being surprised by your electric bill are at an end. New features available in the SmartHub app give you more insight and control over your power and how you use it.

Bill Analysis

The Bill Analysis tool allows you to compare your bill with previous months or years and view the impact of various appliance categories.

Energy Detail

The Energy Detail tool provides a graph like the one below to display your energy charges by appliance type for each bill cycle.

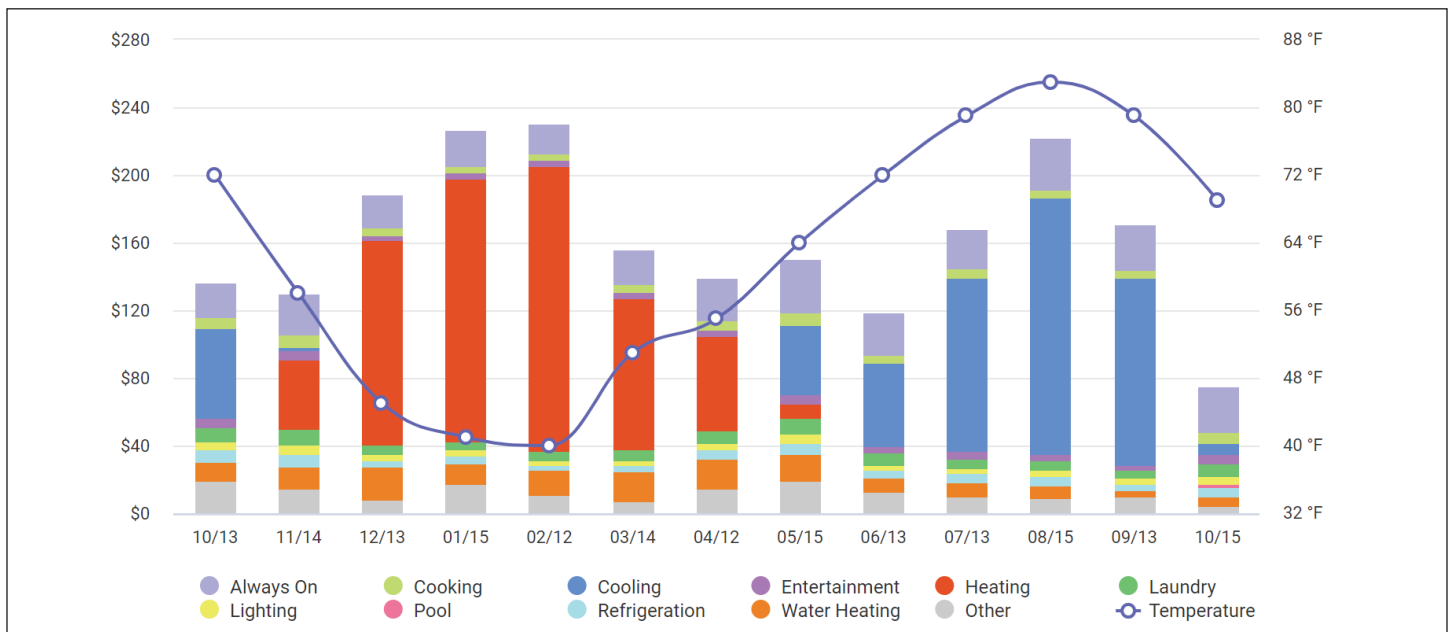
Build Your Home Profile

These new SmartHub tools use energy signatures and algorithms to attribute energy use to specific appliances. You can improve and tailor these results to your home by completing the home profile builder.

Bill Projection

In your SmartHub settings, you can set up notifications for High Usage Alerts and Bill Projections to give you advance notice of increases in electrical use.

Questions? Give us a call at 918-756-0833.



Example of an October to October energy detail report for a member with a moderately sized, single family household.



Our fiber to the home project was completed by the date of our annual meeting in July, 2023. We are still installing the high speed internet and will continue this for a long time, but our system is up and ready for all to take advantage of this special way of life. Also, we are commencing to include some unserved or underserved areas in our buildout outside of our electric service area. If you are outside our footprint and would like to be included, just know we will be trying to get you served also.

Our FORE tour was completed last week. We toured Pensacola Dam and Fort Gibson Dam to observe and learn how electricity is produced the cheapest way known—by hydro. It is so fascinating and these 2 electric producing dams have been in production since the early 1950’s with much of the same mechanical instruments still producing as well as ever.

When the board members need to attend a meeting out of state,

it is normal for ECE Executive Assistant Genie Trammell to make our reservations for us. There is a reservation that we need to make for ourselves. That is our reservation in heaven. No one else can do this for you—it is all up to you and Jesus.

If you are reading this and have not made yours, I urge you to do it now. Don’t delay another moment.

“There is a reservation that we need to make for ourselves. That is our reservation in heaven.”

- LOWELL HOBBS

There is still time, but time for you may not last. I made mine a long time ago, and my reservation is still good for when God takes me home.

Our friends, Ed and Gloria, formerly lived between our home and Morris, so

it was easy for us to visit often. On one visit Ed asked me if Donna was always ready to go to church when I was. He said Gloria was so slow it infuriated him to the point that by the time they got to church they were really needing to be church. He wanted to know how I handled it with Donna when she was slow getting ready. I said “I just sit in the pickup and honk the horn. I just let it blow! I saw in his eyes that he was buying my tale so I added... “I even keep the motor running so as not to run the battery down with all the honking!”

A few weeks passed before Gloria called Donna. “I wish Lowell had never told Ed about honking that horn for me. He’s driving me crazy!” Donna told her “Lowell is not going to be honking the horn for me—maybe once but certainly no more.” I am too clever to put her to the test.

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

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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.



44,210 Home Fires
480 Deaths
1,370 Injuries
\$1 Billion Property Damage

Average annual losses caused by heating equipment in the US from 2016-2022.

88% of home heating deaths involved stationary or portable space heaters.



Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or use any device with a damaged power cord.

SOURCES: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION & NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Give-A-Watt Provides a Light in the Dark

Times were tough in 2022 for a particular co-op member who has chosen to remain anonymous. A large, unexpected but necessary purchase set her family back.

“My spouse and I both picked up second jobs from the fall to the end of the year to catch up,” she said. “The end of the year is when we struggle the most financially with taxes, balloon payments, extra propane, and wood. While we are certainly not afraid of hard work, sometimes you just don’t have enough rope to tie up all the loose ends.”

Unbeknownst to this individual, a family friend nominated her to be a recipient in the East Central Electric Cooperative Give-A-Watt Program.

“I always make sure my bills are paid first. Anything left over is secondary. Can you imagine my surprise when my electric bill was already paid?”

“I thought it was an error. I called and verified and sure enough,

someone had graciously donated money towards my bill.”

ECE members set a new record in 2022 for the amount of donations raised and the number of electric bills paid (\$2,653 for 32 members).

“The money aspect certainly helped tremendously, but what really made a difference and touched my heart is the fact that at a very difficult time of year, someone cared enough to help out a stranger like me,” she said. “I didn’t and wouldn’t ask for help. I believe in being resilient, but the fact remains that someone saw the bigger picture and stepped in to help another person in need. That genuinely lifted my spirits.”

ECE’s Give-A-Watt program was created in 2015 by Marketing Coordinator Amy Nix.

“I created the Give-A-Watt program because I wanted to address the real-life challenges faced by those who may not qualify for traditional assistance or who might be hesitant to seek help due to pride.” Nix said.

“The core value of the cooperative, ‘to improve the quality of life for others,’ shines through in the Give-A-Watt program. It exemplifies the idea that our cooperative is not just about providing electric or internet service, but is deeply committed to the well-being of its members,” Nix said. “The fact that members, employees, and directors have come together to donate to this program demonstrates that we are not just a business but a cooperative community working together to improve lives.”

From recipient #32, “My family and I are appreciative of East Central Electric Cooperative for having a unique program like Give-A-Watt to bless their members and their community. And to whoever nominated me and the anonymous donors especially, thank you for helping keep our lights on and literally giving us a ‘Merry and Bright’ Christmas!”

If you find yourself in the position to lend a hand this year, consider donating to the Give-A-Watt program. If you have questions about the program please give us a call at 918-756-0833.

“What really made a difference and touched my heart is the fact that at a very difficult time of year, someone cared enough to help out a stranger like me.”

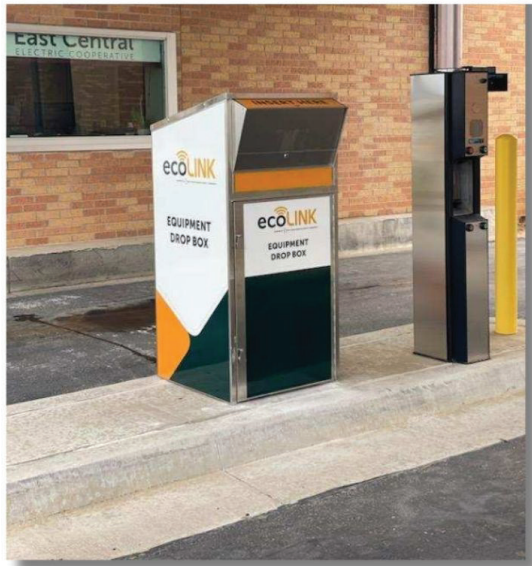




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EQUIPMENT DROP BOX

ecoLINK's EQUIPMENT DROP BOX has been installed in the center median of the East Central Electric Drive-Thru. Subscribers may now drop off equipment after hours.



Please NO PAYMENTS in the Drop Box.



This box is for the return of ecoLINK equipment ONLY.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Even when the power is out, damaged electrical equipment may still be energized. If you see downed lines or other damaged equipment, stay far away and call the co-op immediately.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



Root Beer BBQ Pork Ribs

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 3 lbs. pork side ribs
(about 2 racks) | 2 C. prepared BBQ sauce |
| 2 (12 oz.) cans root beer | 1 tsp. salt |
| | 1 tsp. pepper |

DIRECTIONS

Remove silver skin from the back of ribs. Sprinkle ribs generously with salt and pepper, and place them into the bottom of a 6 quart slow cooker. Pour the root beer over top. Cover and cook on low for 5 hours or 3 hours on high. Remove ribs from slow cooker, setting aside. Discard liquid from slow cooker. Place ribs back inside and coat in barbecue sauce. Cook on high for another hour. Gently remove from slow cooker and serve in sauce.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



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