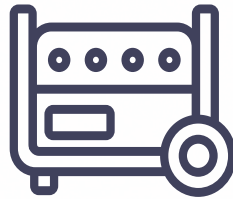


**2** Notes from the Chair



**3** Quick Guide to Generators



**4** Yellow Squash Casserole

# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Minimizing the Impact of Power Cost Adjustments

East Central Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that works hard to control costs while still providing our members with safe, reliable electricity. Our team members strive to minimize the impact of any necessary price increases. In fact, our last rate increase was in 2015 – almost a decade ago.

In that decade, we have seen run-away inflation exacerbated by a global pandemic, 100-year storms, and supply-chain failures. Each of those has played a factor in the increasing costs of fuel sources used to create electricity, and in turn, an increase in the cost of electricity for consumers.

The increasing cost of fuel is reflected in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) portion of each of our member’s electric bills. The PCA is a pass-through cost based on the wholesale cost of fuel. The PCA is set monthly by our wholesale power suppliers, KAMO Power and Western Farmer’s Electric Cooperative, and it changes based on the cost of fuel used to generate electricity.

Wholesale power suppliers generate electricity from many sources including hydroelectric dams, solar and wind farms, coal-powered steam generators, and steam generators powered by oil and natural gas. When the cost to generate power goes up, so does the PCA.

Ted Hilmes, CEO of KAMO Power, said, “KAMO Power’s member distribution cooperatives will see increased power costs beginning April 2023. The increase is due to factors affecting most businesses and industries, as well as individual family budgets.”

“The cost of fuel has significantly increased compared to past years, causing a direct increase to power supply costs. In addition to fuel costs, high rates of inflation,

high interest rates and global supply chain congestion are increasing the costs of equipment and materials used to construct and maintain the transmission and generation assets that provide the service,” Hilmes said. “Despite these real challenges, KAMO was able to minimize the cost increase to our member cooperatives through financial flexibility and operating cost control.”

ECE General Manager Tim Smith emphasized that the PCA is a pass-through cost.

“In keeping with our cooperative principles, the money we receive on our member’s electric bills goes out to pay for the costs of providing service,” Smith said, whether that’s reflected in the PCA for the cost of fuel, or the energy charge for the cost of the poles and wire that get electricity to your home. “We work hard with our industry partners to keep those costs as low as possible, every day.”

**POWER COST ADJUSTMENT**

Month	Previous Year	Current Year
Jan	100	100
Feb	100	100
Mar	100	100
Apr	100	100
May	100	100
Jun	100	100
Jul	100	100
Aug	100	100
Sep	100	100
Oct	100	100
Nov	100	100
Dec	100	100

Item	Amount
Electric Service Information - Rates For Your Service	
Map Number	12345
HOUSE	
Service Address	123 Main St
Account Number	12345678
Previous Balance	100.00
Less Payment Received 01/15/2021	(50.00)
Meter Reading Date	01/15/2021
Rate	1.0000
Previous	1.0000
Current	1.0000
Energy Charge	1.0000
Power Cost Adjustment	1.0000
Operating Charge	1.0000
Security Light - Ckt 1	1.0000
Operation Readings	1.0000
Gross Revenue Surcharge	1.0000
YTD ROUNDUP CONTRIBUTION - \$6.28	
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>118.00</b>

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit [ecoec.com](http://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*

### Honors, Updates, and Trouble with Cows

March has been a busy month at the Co-op, including the Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City. Rural Electric Co-ops from across the state are big sponsors of this event. This gives the 4-H and FFA youth a great chance to meet and rub shoulders with our political team.

The following week our Board went back to the Capitol expressly to visit with our legislators regarding upcoming legislation that is important to the co-op world. We personally visited the offices of 21 of the House of Representative members that serve in the counties we also serve. Then we personally visited the offices of 11 senators that serve our territory. We were well received and know that our time spent at the capitol last year was well remembered. Governor Stitt even came in to our meeting and visited with us!

Several years ago the Okmulgee County Cattlemen's Association developed a steer feed-out program for the 4-H and FFA students in Okmulgee County. This program helps educate all involved in the production of beef for food. There are many guidelines in the program, and the end result is a public auction of those beef calf carcasses which are sold by the half. In 2022 we raised \$118,359.00 all of which went to the participants at the close of the auction. We had fewer calves in the 2023 recent auction and gave back to the 4-H and FFA students \$86,040.75. There is no deduction taken from the participants. The cash awards given are from OCCA members' donations. All the proceeds from the calf sale go entirely to the youth. At the recent OCCA annual meeting three of the founding fathers of the Okmulgee

County Cattlemen's Association were recognized for over 50 years of dedicated service and leadership. Travis Meyers, meteorologist from Channel 6 in Tulsa, was in attendance and presented the awards to Dave Miller, Jack Lawson, and me. What a thrill it was to be a part of this group!

If you have or are planning to have an electric vehicle, East Central Electric needs to know. There is a discounted charge if you charge the car in off-peak hours; and if we know where the electric charger is located, it helps us prepare our system for the added load.

ECE offers energy audits on request with no charge. We can help guide you on energy efficiency, and Associated (one of our energy suppliers) offers some cash assistance in rebates for energy efficiencies. Call us at 918-756-0833.

Several years ago when my Dad was still actively involved in the ranch, one of his cows was having difficulty delivering her baby. After our attempts to help was fruitless, we called the vet. After much effort and nothing worked (the calf was obviously dead), we decided to cut the calf up inside the cow and remove it a piece at a time. It was obvious the cow was not doing well, I asked the vet, "will you take this cow for your fee?" "Sure" he replied. The next day the cow was dead and Monty called the Doc. "Where do you want this cow?" "Where is she?" asked the Doc. "Right where you left her yesterday, we just wanted to know where to put your cow!"

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

## SAVE THE DATES

**District Meetings  
for members in  
Districts 1, 3 & 6**

June 22  
6:30 p.m.

East Central Electric  
Multipurpose Room

2001 S. Wood Drive,  
Okmulgee, OK

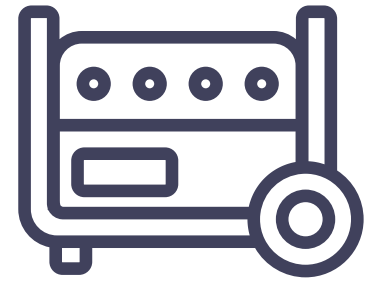
**Annual Meeting  
for all co-op  
members**

July 27  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

OSU-IT Covelle Hall

1801 E 4th St.  
Okmulgee, OK

# A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS



With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.

## RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

### Recreational Inverter

**Up to 2,000 watts**

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

### Midsized Inverter

**Up to 3,500 watts**

Weighs up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

### Portable Generators and Large Inverters

**Up to 7,500 watts**

Weighs about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

### Home Standby

**Up to 20,000 watts**

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

## SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community. Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

**Mommin' ain't easy**  
We can help

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bark App

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Contact us at **(918) 756-0833** to subscribe to bark for \$12/mo



## Yellow Squash Casserole

### INGREDIENTS

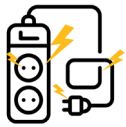
- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 6 yellow squash, sliced    | 1 C. grated cheese           |
| 1/4 C. chopped bell pepper | 1 can cream of mushroom soup |
| 1/4 C. chopped onion       | 16 Ritz crackers, crushed    |
| 1 egg, beaten              | Salt and pepper to taste     |
| 1/2 C. milk                |                              |

### DIRECTIONS

Boil squash, onion and pepper until crisp tender; drain. Combine all other ingredients except 1/4 cup cheese and 1/3 cup crackers. Mix with squash. Pour in casserole dish and top with remaining cheese and crackers. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

If floodwaters are infiltrating your home, do not touch electrical equipment. Know that standing water could be energized and avoid entering floodwaters.



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Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178  
(918) 756-0833  
www.ecoec.com



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

Power Outage Hot-line  
(918) 756-0833

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President

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Vice President

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Jim Hall, District 6  
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Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

Tim Smith  
General Manager

### 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.