

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Co-op Electric Grid 101

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.

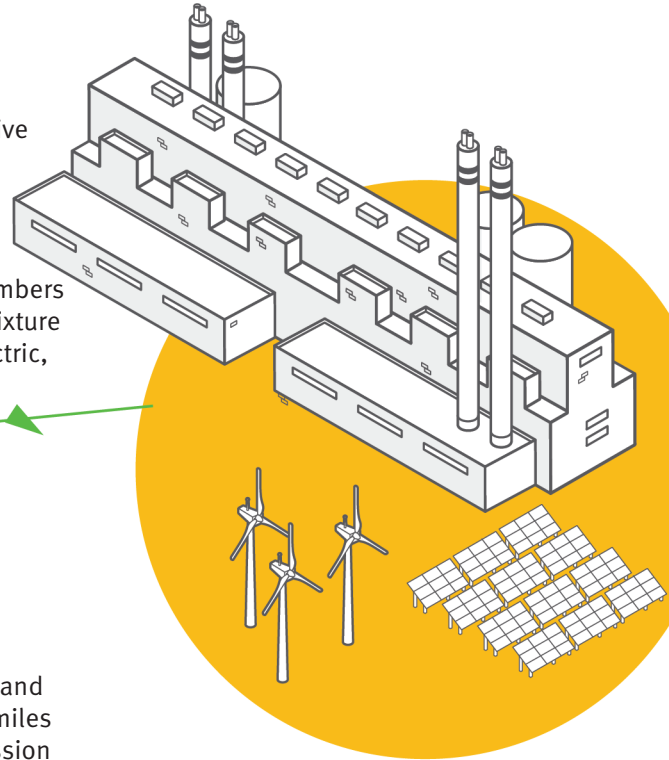
2 *A Scratched Up Tractor*

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4 *Deep Dish Pizza*

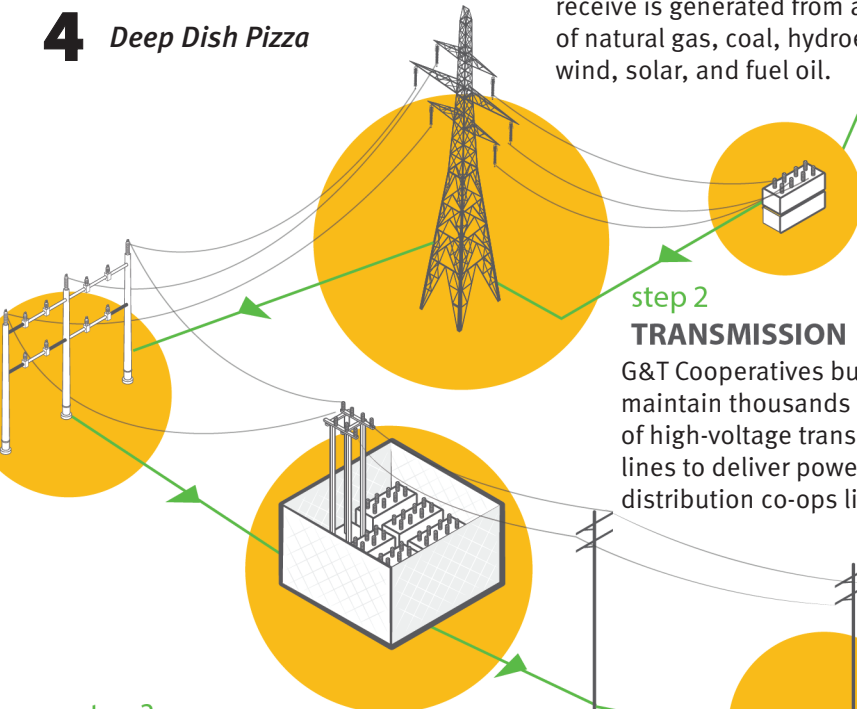
step 1 GENERATION

East Central Electric Cooperative purchases power from two Generation & Transmission Cooperatives, Western Farmers and KAMO Power. The electricity our members receive is generated from a mixture of natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, and fuel oil.



step 2 TRANSMISSION

G&T Cooperatives build and maintain thousands of miles of high-voltage transmission lines to deliver power to distribution co-ops like ours.



step 3 DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

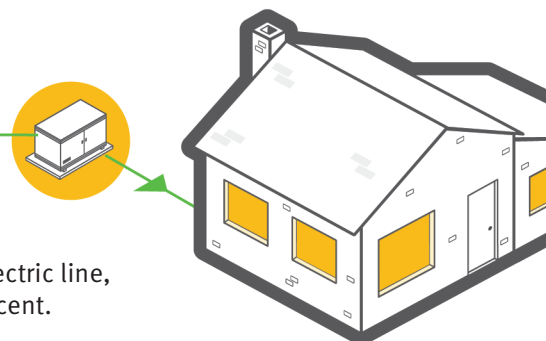
When power arrives at one of East Central's 24 substations, the voltage is reduced, making it safe to travel across distribution lines to our co-op members.

step 4 DISTRIBUTION LINES

East Central maintains 6,500 miles of electric line, with a power reliability rate of 99.94 percent.

step 5 FINAL STOP

A transformer reduces the voltage a final time and electricity arrives at your home or business, ready to be used at the flip of a switch.



notes from the chair

**A Scratched Up
Tractor***By Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees*

A friend shared this story with me, I knew at once that you needed to hear it too.

My Daddy smoked cigarettes my whole life. When my son turned a year old, I got up the nerve to ask him to quit. Without a word, he quit cold turkey.

In spring of 2012, Daddy and I were cleaning up after a storm. I could see Daddy was having trouble breathing. I stayed on my parents for a few months to get Daddy checked out. When they finally did, he was told that he had lung cancer. During treatment, half of his right lobe was removed. The doctor told him that quitting when he did probably gave him five extra years.

My son and I moved home when he was 8 and for the next five years we got to see Daddy every day. His cancer had been in remission, but it came back. Then COVID hit.

Daddy's air dropped to less than 50% so we took him to the ER. Mom was with Daddy. I had been outside calling family members. Inside, I was greeted by the ER nurse who told me that I would have to leave immediately. I asked why, and she replied that only one person can be in the hospital with each patient. She told me again to exit the hospital and I said "NO," so here came a security guard to remove me. Taken aback by what just happened, I called my brother. He told me get back in there, "If a bunch of rednecks can storm the Capital of the United States, you shouldn't be worried about a hospital security guard."

I was going back in, the guard was moving my way, when Mom came out in the ER lobby. There was nothing they could do for Dad. I told Mom, "We can't do this to Daddy, let's load him up and take him home." I was not going to let my Daddy die alone.

We headed back home to meet the hospice nurse and get the house ready. It was a cold and rainy day. The young man delivering the breathing machine, hospital bed and all the equipment needed help setting it all up. When it came time to test the breathing machine, he had forgotten a power cord, so he had to go back to the city.

Later that evening, Daddy was sent home. It was really pouring down outside and the ground was spongy. I told the young man with the cord to park out of the way so the ambulance could get in, but he misjudged the ditch and slid into it, front end first.

When the ambulance arrived, I showed her where she could pull in front of the shop where there was concrete, lights, and a sidewalk straight to the front door. The driver instead decided to back up to the front porch where the ground was still soft.

I was never so happy in all my life when they opened the back doors of the ambulance and there was Daddy. Out came the gurney, and the wheels just sunk in the ground. The women couldn't move it. There was a lot more calamity, but eventually I lifted Daddy up five steps into the house. Daddy was back home. I gave him a big hug and kiss and said I would be right back.

I went outside to assess the damage. With some careful instruction, the ambulance made it out, leaving some big ruts. Now to the equipment delivery van. This boy was clueless, I grabbed a log chain and told him to wrap it around the frame so I could pull him out. He had no clue what I was talking about. So, I rolled around in the mud and hooked up the chain.

I had to go back in the house to get the tractor keys. Daddy called me over to his bedside, he said for me not to put a scratch on his tractor.

I went back outside, and explained to the young man how to drive as I am pulling him out of the ditch. I told him when you feel the wheels come out of the ditch let off the gas, so you don't keep coming backwards and run into me. I started the big Kubota and off we went. The van came out of the ditch and kept coming. It all happened so fast. His plastic bumper was broken in two and he had knocked out a taillight hitting the front grill of the tractor.

I was cold I had mud all over me, but it was all worth it to have Daddy back home. When I went inside, Daddy hollered at me, "You didn't hurt my tractor did ya?"

I never left my Daddy's side. We had him for a week. Outside of giving birth to my son, it was the most precious time. My Daddy taught me to be honest, hardworking, loyal, and caring. My life was forever changed with him in it and is now forever changed with him gone. I know I will see him again and I am forever thankful that GOD chose him to be my Daddy.

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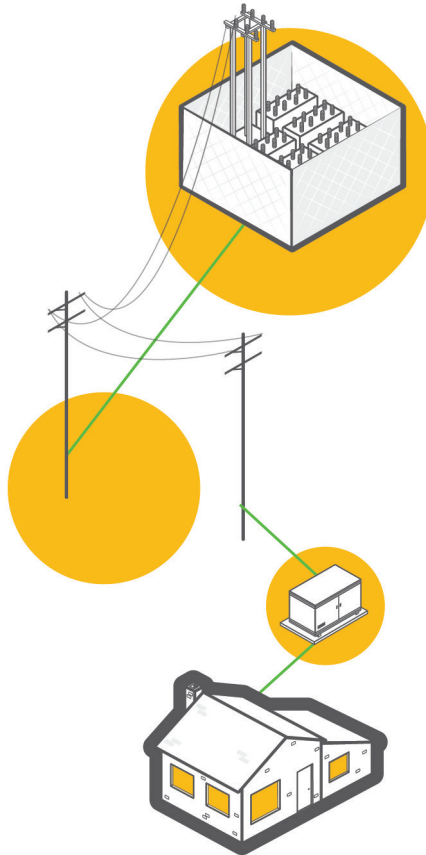
Meet Our Next Level Team: Engineering Department

East Central Electric Cooperative is responsible for 6,500 miles of distribution electric line, connecting 36,000 meters to reliable power. It's a system that requires planning and precision. Whether you're building a house, a neighborhood, or a multi-million dollar manufacturing facility, our dedicated Engineering Department will ensure you get the power you need.

The Grid Guru



The electric grid is a living machine that is constantly expanding to meet the growing needs of the people who rely on it. At East Central Electric Cooperative, the task of monitoring and managing that growth falls to our Engineer. Our Engineer manages load growth through load studies and our 4-year construction work plans. He is also responsible for our smart grid infrastructure communications and monitoring power quality system-wide. As more and more members build rooftop solar, his duties also include adjusting for power generation feeding back onto the grid from our members' homes.



The Operations Organizer



Smart technologies use sophisticated internal communication systems to operate efficiently. So do smart cooperatives. Our Administrative Assistant provides crucial support and facilitates effective communications between the eight departments that comprise Operations and Engineering. She processes contracts for Operations and Engineering, processes solar applications, generates work orders, and takes member calls to answer technical questions regarding wiring and solar.

The Power Pathfinders



Over the last 5 years, the East Central Electric Cooperative Distribution System has grown an average of 400 meters a year. For each individual, that call is as simple as, "Hey, I'm building a house, come set my meter." The workload that follows that call primarily falls to our team of Staking Technicians. These guys design and complete the staking of new electric lines for commercial and residential services, prepare staking sheets and related agreements to accommodate the construction of services, and assist with the maintenance of existing infrastructure. They also redesign existing lines when there is load growth to increase capacity and move lines for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation when there is a bridge or highway reconstruction project.

New Number to Pay by Phone

In February, East Central Electric Cooperative updated our pay-by-phone bill-pay option and got a new number.

To make a payment over the phone, please call:

844-963-2851

For a complete list of bill payment options, please visit:

<https://www.ecoec.com/ways-pay>

Tune in to Local Ladle

We love sharing exciting new developments in the communities we serve. That's why, this year, we're bringing them into your kitchen! Check out our pilot episode of Local Ladle: Watts Stirring in Your Home Town.



Each month we will introduce you to a special guest to talk about topics of importance to the communities we serve.

Watch on YouTube @eastcentralelectriccoopera5493



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Some things should never be left to luck, including projects that involve digging in your yard. Call Okie 811 at least two days prior to your digging project for a free underground utility location service.

SOURCE: SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

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Deep Dish Pizza

INGREDIENTS

- 3 C. Bisquick
- 3/4 C. water
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- Shredded cheddar
- Oregano or Parsley
- Favorite pizza toppings

DIRECTIONS

Mix together Bisquick and water. Pat dough into bottom and up sides of cookie sheet. Puree tomatoes in a blender and pour into a saucepan. Thicken with cornstarch and seasoned salt. Heat on low to prevent scorching. Put tomato mixture over the dough and spread evenly. Add your favorite pizza toppings. Top with grated cheddar and sprinkle with oregano and/or parsley. Bake at 425° for 20 minutes, until golden brown.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



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