



# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## Conquer Hot Temps and High Bills

Summer months can bring higher energy costs and cause high demand on the electric grid. Keeping your home comfortable can be expensive.

Implementing energy efficiency solutions can lower your summer electric bills, keep your home cool, and reduce demand on the grid.

### Efficiency

One cost effective step: update your insulation. This will keep cool air in your home and hot air out. You can add more insulation on top of existing insulation in your walls and attic.

Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequately sized vents or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.

Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before you clean. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters and replace disposable ones. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the unit. Hose off any

accumulated dirt. It is a good idea to call a professional to inspect your unit in the spring or early in the summer.

On moderate days, turn off the air conditioner and open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house. On hotter days, consider investing in a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.

Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs near your home, but away from power lines, to provide shade. You can also look into installing awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.

If you are shopping for a new air conditioning unit, look for one with the blue Energy Star label. An Energy Star air conditioner will save money in the long run by using less electricity. East Central Electric Cooperative Members can also take advantage of a \$50 rebate on the purchase of a Energy Star

rated room air conditioning unit. Visit the ECE website or call for details.

### High Bill Concerns

Temperature extremes have a serious impact on electric costs. On average, heating and cooling make up 42 percent of your annual energy bill.

As a member-owned and operated electric cooperative, East Central exists to serve you. If you need to set up a payment plan that works for your budget, get help making ends meet, or find a convenient way to pay your bill, we have options to assist you.

Call the Cooperative at 918-756-0833 to see how we can help you.



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

# What You Focus On

Great News! It appears this year's District Meetings for district 4 (Mike Vernon) and district 7 (Dwight Luther) will be held at our new building on Thursday, June 16, 2022. I hope members in districts 4 and 7 will attend the meeting to hear what your co-op is doing and to view our new building. I know you will be pleased to be among the first to see and use our new facilities. It should be complete and under budget.

There have been over 200 contractor individuals working and not one reported lost time injury. Also along those lines, at our last board meeting East Central Electric has nearly 900 working days without a lost time injury. A few years back we started focusing on no work place injury as a goal and success is being achieved. That further confirms my belief that what you focus on produces results.

Our ecoLINK build out is continuing on as fast as we can to accommodate our members with high speed internet if they want it. Be sure to register online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) or call the office (918-756-0833) to make your request known. Even if you have already called, don't hesitate to call again to confirm your schedule.

Our Okmulgee County Cattlemen's Association has just returned from our annual tour. Tyler Richter is our current president and also served as our tour director for our 51st tour. It was an awesome tour north through Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. We missed the last

2 years because of covid issues. With the help of some incredible sponsors over the last 51 tours we have been able to visit many ranches, feedlots, experiment stations, harvest facilities, industries, manufacturing plants, shipping facilities, museums, sales facilities and just about anything you can name. We laugh a lot and have a good time. I invite you to join up with us.

When I started to school in 7th grade we moved from our short city life back to the country to a farm on the Arkansas River. At the uppermost part of our leased land was a huge house. My Dad let a widowed father with 5 kids move there. Damon was a

year younger than I was, and we became good friends. At 12 years of age and the oldest boy he was maturing pretty fast. One day as he scouted about, he observed an unattended car parked in our pasture near his house. He located the men hunting. He asked if they had permission to hunt there. They asked him, "Just who should we have permission from?" Damon told them Mr. Hobbs. The men then said to Damon...If we are still here when Mr. Hobbs comes, you ask him if it will be OK for us to hunt here. Damon said, I thought you all would get smart with me and that is why I let the air out of all your tires. So if you don't want to be here when Mr. Hobbs comes, then you should start now.

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

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**"East Central Electric has nearly 900 working days without a lost time injury."**

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- LOWELL HOBBS

## District and Annual Meetings

**District 4 Meeting**  
June 16  
6:30 p.m.  
East Central Electric Multipurpose Room  
2001 S. Wood Dr.  
Okmulgee, OK

**District 7 Meeting**  
June 16  
6:30 p.m.  
East Central Electric Multipurpose Room  
2001 S. Wood Dr.  
Okmulgee, OK

**Annual Meeting**  
July 28  
OSU-IT Covelle Hall  
1801 E 4th St.  
Okmulgee, OK

**Beeline Drive-Thru**  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**In-Person Registration**  
5 to 7 p.m.

**Business Meeting**  
7 p.m.

# Keep Your Cool While the Power's Out

Severe summer storms can cause outages that last days. When a power outage occurs during hot weather, take steps to maintain safety and comfort until power is restored.

Remember to call your co-op immediately to report the outage.

Dress in loose, lightweight clothing and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.

Use natural ventilation to cool homes, and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.

Drink plenty of water and avoid heavy meals, caffeinated drinks and alcohol.

Keep refrigerator or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods can stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk and other dairy products in a cooler with ice.

Use safe alternative food preparations, like an outdoor grill.

Check on friends and relatives—especially children, seniors, and

those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.

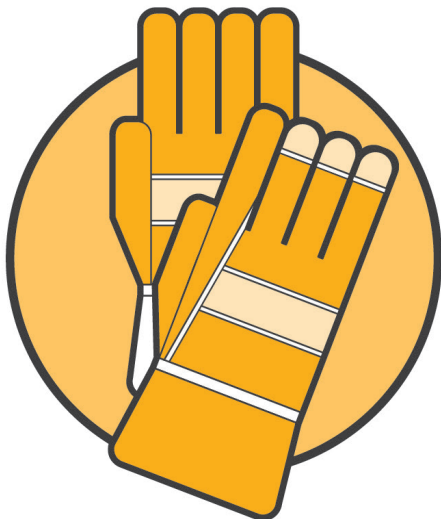
Keep a first-aid kit in your home and one in your car.

Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.

Take your family and pets to a basement or other cool location if you have one. Also consider going to an air-conditioned public place during warmer daytime hours.

## Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



### 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.

Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.

### 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.

Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.

### 3. Read *all* the reviews.

Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.

### 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.

Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).

### 5. Talk timeline.

Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.





Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit us online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED  
**1,268**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED  
**\$284,500**

APPLICATIONS GRANTED  
**882**

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION  
**48¢**

TOTAL GRANTED  
**\$2,132,661.57**



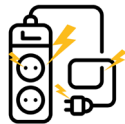
## Grandpa's Cole Slaw

### INGREDIENTS

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 head cabbage, shredded                | 6 mandarin oranges, diced |
| 1 (12 oz.) bag petite carrots, shredded | 1 C. vinegar              |
| 3 medium red sweet apples, diced        | 1 C. buttermilk           |
|   | 4 T. sugar                |
|   | 1 C. mayonnaise           |

### DIRECTIONS

Shred cabbage and carrots. Mix well. Add buttermilk, vinegar, and mayonnaise. Mix to taste. Add apples and oranges. Mix well. Enjoy!



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't put your life on the line while fishing or boating. Respect thunder and lightning and seek shelter away from the water. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



## East Central ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 1178  
2001 S. Wood Drive  
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(918) 756-0833  
[www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com)



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

Power Outage Hot line  
(918) 756-0833

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Vice President

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### 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](http://www.ecoec.com), or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.