

# PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

## “WATTS” INSIDE

- 3 Good Neighbor Scholarship
- 3 CO-OP News
- 4 Winter Road Safety
- 4 Employee Spotlight
- 5 LIHEAP Enrollment is Open
- 6 5 EV Tips for Winter
- 7 Energy Explorers
- 8 White Chocolate Party Mix Recipe

## We Need to Introduce Ourselves

**BY MATT BOSHAW**  
CEO & General Manager

First, let me say Happy New Year and welcome you all to 2025! Now, let's get down to business. In case you were unaware, there was a major election in November of 2024. Cooperatives are politically active. Thus, we formed national and statewide associations – the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) and Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) – to represent our interests, at national and state levels, in both political and regulatory matters.

Cooperatives' political advocacy differs from that of an investor-owned utility in several ways. I've often mentioned that I have worked for three different types of electric companies including an investor-owned utility, public power, and an electric cooperative. While the service they provide is similar, there are significant differences that impact how we approach political advocacy.

Our advocacy begins with education. You might be surprised (or perhaps not) how little some of our elected officials know about electric cooperatives. Following an election cycle, it is

extremely important to educate legislators about cooperatives and how they operate. Given the considerable number of new faces in the Pennsylvania legislature this year, this effort will require even more attention. It is during this education process that we get to tell the cooperative story, and, thanks to our members and the cooperative business model, we have a great story to tell. We often start with the sentiment that we are member owned and governed, providing an essential service as a not-for-profit cooperative. This often sparks questions, as many legislators, and people in general, aren't aware that different types of electric companies exist. With no investors or profit motive, cooperatives can focus entirely on serving those that are receiving our service, the voters. We advocate for legislation and regulation that supports our ability to provide safe, reliable, affordable power to our member-owners, again, the voters. At this point in the conversation, we emphasize how we represent the actual people instead of a corporation or investors. This distinction provides us with credibility and keeps the discussion going even though we do not bring big dollars to the lobbying process. Our credibility allows us to be a trusted resource for our legislators on energy-related issues.

*Continued on page 2*



Here in Pennsylvania, the story keeps getting better. The way we are structured is unique in today’s electric marketplace because we are generation owners through our generation and transmission cooperative. The fourteen cooperatives that make up PREA founded and own Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC) just as our members own CEC. AEC holds ownership stakes in generation assets like the Susquehanna Nuclear Generating Station and the Raystown Hydroelectric facility. Additionally, AEC has access to long-term contracts for more hydroelectric power, which together give the PREA cooperatives one of the most carbon-free generation portfolios in the country. These resources help to insulate us from some of the market volatility but also augment our efforts with the legislators.

Of course, this is only the condensed version of the great story that we, as cooperatives, have to tell. NRECA and PREA serve as our lobbyists with federal and state legislators and regulators, respectively. There are approximately 900 cooperatives nationwide, with 14 that are members of PREA. This many voices from disparate areas of the state and country can be difficult to represent with a single voice. Both associations have created processes to allow member systems to bring issues, debate them, and provide clear direction for their advocacy of us. That said, when it comes to cooperatives, when you have met one of us, you have met one of us. While there is a great deal of common ground, advocating for our individual issues remains our responsibility. Locally, we have plans to strengthen relationships with our local legislators so they understand what matters most to us and so we can be a trusted, credible resource for their energy related questions.

You have the ability to offer support to these efforts through participation in America’s Electric Cooperative’s Political Action Committee (PAC). CEC’s Board of Directors, employee group, and members are all eligible to participate in the PAC. As I mentioned, our strength is in our numbers, not our dollars. The greater the number of participants in the PAC, the more credible the lobbying efforts of our national and statewide associations will be. This is because the most important part of our story is that we represent the interests of our members.

Every year, following an election cycle, our political advocacy and education efforts are crucial, and with so many new faces this year, it will take even more of our involvement. If you’re interested in getting involved, visit our website or contact us and ask about becoming a member of the PAC. Thank you and once again, Happy New Year!

# Do You Know A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR?



Encourage them to apply for the Youth Tour! Earn a free, week-long, leadership-focused trip to Washington, D.C. June 16-21, 2025



HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: EARN A FREE WEEK-LONG LEADERSHIP-FOCUSED TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- 🕒 Deadline to apply: Feb. 6, 2025
- 📅 Selection Day: Feb. 17, 2025
- 📅 Trip Dates: June 16-21, 2025
- 🌐 [www.central.coop/youth-tour](http://www.central.coop/youth-tour)



## MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Matthew P. Boshaw** | CEO & General Manager
- Chester Conti** | Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO
- Lisa A. Hoover** | Director of Member Services
- Christopher W. Kossman** | Director of Information Technology
- Fred E. Terwilliger** | Assistant General Manager/COO



# GOOD NEIGHBOR SCHOLARSHIP

## Applications Are Open!

One of the best investments a community can make is in education. Each spring, CEC awards scholarships to graduating seniors or adults going back to school who live at a residence receiving electricity from the co-op. CEC will award 10 scholarships of \$2,500 in 2025.

Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution, complete the application on our website, and submit a 500-word essay. The funds used for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits and does not impact members' rates in any way. Employees and directors of CEC, along with members of their immediate families, are ineligible. Visit [central.coop/good-neighbor-scholarship](http://central.coop/good-neighbor-scholarship) to apply!



### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE & TECH/ VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Our scholarships are open to students going to college, students going to a tech/vocational school and adults returning to school.



**\$25,000 GIVEN YEARLY**

We award approximately \$25,000 in scholarships each year to students within our service territory.



**APPLY NOW!**

Applications are open now on our website. The deadline to apply is **March 14, 2025**.

## CO-OP NEWS: CEC Employees Donate Gifts to Families in Need

Throughout the month of November, 12 CEC employees put together 36 bags of Christmas gifts to donate to local families in need.

CEC worked with the A-C Valley School District FIRST Program to participate in their "Angels for Christmas" gift-giving initiative. The co-op has participated in this program for many years and is proud to support our community. Stay updated with more news like this on our website!







## Winter Road Safety: What Every Driver Should Know

by Grant Potsbay, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

**D**riving demands careful attention throughout the year, but winter introduces additional hazards that require more caution. Wet and icy roads, reduced daylight hours, and poor visibility due to snow, rain, or fog can make driving hazardous. To help you and your loved ones stay safe this season, here are some essential driving tips for navigating your next journey.

During winter, you should never rush to reach your destination. Instead, leave a few minutes early. By doing this, you're providing yourself with more time, reduced stress, and careful driving. Winter weather may lead to slow-moving traffic, which can be frustrating for many drivers. However, it is crucial to remain calm, maintain a safe speed, and keep a safe distance between vehicles. The "two-second rule" works well on dry roads and in ideal conditions, but in winter conditions you should extend it to four seconds to reduce the risk of a collision.

A well-maintained vehicle is key to navigating winter roads safely. Before hitting the road, make sure your car is in good condition. This includes having adequate tread on your tires, your engine is tuned for colder weather, and all lights function properly. Additionally, keeping your windshield washer fluid full and cleaning your headlights regularly will improve your visibility.

In bad weather conditions, it's usually better to wait for conditions to improve rather than risk driving on

hazardous roads. If your vehicle breaks down, stay inside it to stay safe and avoid exposure to elements.

Turn on lights and 4-ways, when needed, to keep everyone and yourself safe while traveling in these conditions. It's also important to adjust your speed according to the road conditions. The posted speed limit may not be safe during winter weather, so always drive slower if the roads are slick or visibility is poor. Keep in mind that some roads may appear wet but are frozen, especially on overpasses, bridges, and shaded areas. This "black ice" is particularly dangerous because it is often invisible, so exercise caution when driving in these areas.

If you see a vehicle with lights flashing on the side of the road whether it is an ambulance, police car, or utility truck – slow down and move over! When you see this while driving, you must abide by the "Move Over" law. This requires drivers to give a one-lane buffer to stopped vehicles, or slow down to 20 mph less than the posted speed limit if you are unable to move over. This law is essential for protecting our linemen while they work in hazardous conditions, and helping them return safely to their families at the end of the day.

The winter season is a fun and beautiful time, but it also presents significant driving challenges. Even in ideal weather, driving remains a risky activity, but by following these safety tips, you can help ensure the safety of yourself, your passengers, and others on the road. Planning, staying alert, and maintaining your vehicle are all critical steps in preparing for the season's hazards. Safe driving habits can help you enjoy the winter months while keeping you and your loved ones safe.



**Role:** Operations Assistant  
**Employee Since:** August 2022

## Employee Spotlight: Carrie Ward



**What do you do at CEC?** I am the Operations Assistant. I assist the Operations department with their daily tasks and help cover dispatch during outages.



**What is one thing on your bucket list?** Someday I would like to own a beach house where I can retire with my husband, and our children can come visit with their families.



**What is something you've always wanted to try and learn?** I want to tear down and rebuild an Allison transmission.



**What is your favorite family tradition?** Every year my parents pick a day to host our family Christmas, and it is an all-day event. There are around 30 of us and you never know what you will walk into. One year, we were handed nerf guns and told, "You're gonna need this!"



**What is your least favorite food?** Pot Pie! Pie crust... yum! Gravy... good. Veggies and turkey... okay. Everything together... nope!





## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

### LIHEAP Enrollment Now Open

by Izzy Cellucci, Communication Representative

Winter has arrived, bringing cold temperatures, and everyone is looking for ways to stay warm. While heating your home can be costly, there are alternatives to turning the thermostat down. Individuals and families who are struggling to pay high energy bills may be eligible for assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides assistance to reduce the costs of home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related home repair.

The 2024-2025 LIHEAP application period opened November 4, 2024, and will continue through April 4, 2025. This program offers cash grants to eligible families or individuals that are sent directly to your heating utility company or fuel provider. Available grants include cash grants that are a one-time payment, ranging from \$200-\$1,000, and crisis grants ranging from \$25-\$1,000. Households experiencing a heating crisis may be eligible for a grant through the LIHEAP crisis program. This grant would be for an emergency that puts you in jeopardy of being without heat. For instance, if there is broken equipment or your heat source was terminated by your utility, you may be eligible for assistance.

Most importantly, grants provided by LIHEAP do not need to be repaid.

Eligibility for LIHEAP is based on income guidelines, which can be found on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania website. As Pennsylvania State Representative, Donna Oberlander explains, the guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level. For example, the gross income limit for an individual is \$22,590 and for a family of four it is \$46,800. Assistance through LIHEAP is available for both renters and homeowners. You do not have to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify. Eligibility requirements change from year to year, so if you did not qualify in the past, you may qualify for assistance now.

In addition to LIHEAP, Central Electric Cooperative offers other assistance programs such as Family Fund and Hardship Grant. All these programs are here to assist our members. CEC is committed to helping those who are struggling to pay their bills. If you think you may qualify, visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or call 800-521-0570 to learn more about our energy assistance options and how to apply.





## 5 EV Tips for Winter

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

As colder weather approaches and electric vehicles (EVs) become more popular, one question I often get asked is, “do lower temperatures affect charging?” Whether you’re already an EV owner or are considering making the switch, here are five tips that could help you make the most of your EV in the colder months. Please keep in mind that the information given may vary depending on the make and model of the EV, as each one has unique features.

**Charging:** Colder temperatures do affect the charging time. When temperatures drop, your EV’s software reduces the charging power to protect the battery from stress. This is because the chemicals in the lithium battery, used to power the EVs, slow the process when there are colder conditions. Some studies show up to a 36% power in-take decrease in the same amount of charging time.

**Range:** EV owners are used to monitoring their range, but in winter, it’s even more important. In colder months, temperatures can reduce how far your EV can travel on a single charge. For instance, some models show a decrease in range from 250 miles to only 188 miles.

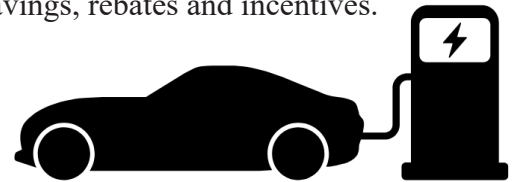
**Planning:** Owning an EV could mean you need to plan trips more carefully. Be sure to map out the distance

you are going and the charging stations along the way to prevent running out of power. When planning your trip, remember the different types of charging stations and which is the right charger for your needs. Level 1 chargers are more for casual drivers or those with short commutes. Level 2 chargers are quicker than the Level 1 charger and more convenient for those who drive longer distances. Then, the DC fast chargers are used for long road trips, providing rapid charging when needed most.

**Parking:** Whenever possible, try to park your EV inside a garage or sheltered area. Keeping the vehicle indoors helps prevent slower charging times, as the battery will be pre-warmed. This also saves energy because the vehicle will require less power to heat the cabin once you’re ready to drive.

**Conditioning:** There are two types of conditioning that can help optimize your EV use. Battery conditioning; the practice of warming your battery after an overnight charge, and cabin conditioning; warming your car cabin prior to driving away (These may be features your EV offers in an app). Driving a cold EV while using the heater will use more energy than driving a vehicle that has been warmed up.

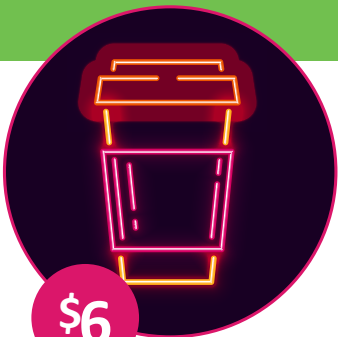
I hope these tips help you navigate the colder months with your EV. I’d like to remind you to visit our website ([www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)). Under the Electric Vehicle tab, you’ll find a wealth of information regarding EVs, types, chargers, fuel savings, rebates and incentives.



## Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That’s real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

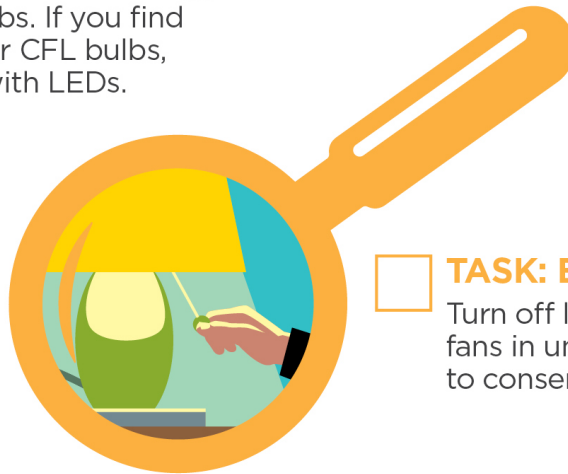
Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

# ENERGY SAVINGS SCAVENGER HUNT

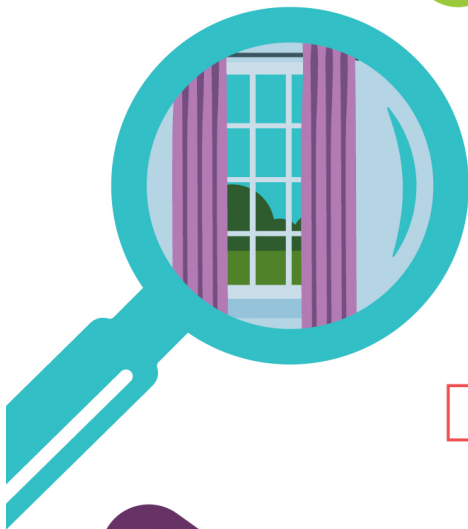
Saving energy at home is a great way to help the environment (and save money). With the help of an adult, look for ways you can save energy around your home. Use the tips below to get started, then check off the areas where you've identified ways to save!



- TASK: Bright Ideas**  
Ensure your home uses energy-saving LED bulbs. If you find incandescent or CFL bulbs, replace them with LEDs.

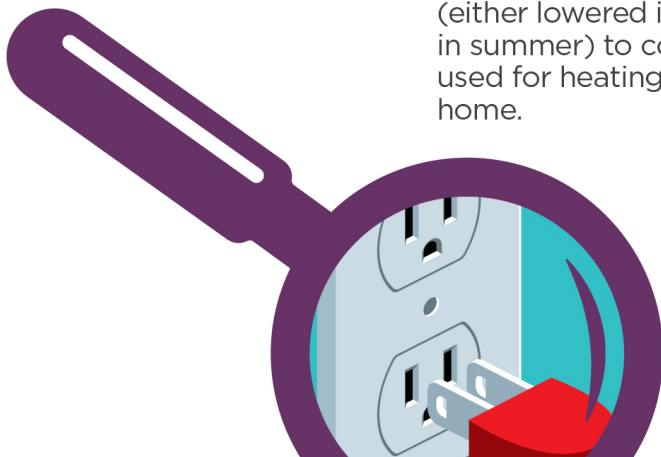


- TASK: Empty Rooms**  
Turn off lights and ceiling fans in unoccupied rooms to conserve energy.



- TASK: Sealed for Savings**  
Check windows to make sure they are closed and locked. Sealed windows help prevent air leaks, which saves energy.

- TASK: Set to Save**  
Check the thermostat to see if it can be adjusted a few degrees (either lowered in winter or raised in summer) to conserve energy used for heating or cooling your home.



- TASK: Slay Energy Vampires**  
Energy vampires are devices that consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug these items, like phone chargers and tablets, when you're not using them.



From the Kitchen of:  
**Darrell Kingan**

RECIPE: **WHITE CHOCOLATE PARTY MIX**



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (14 oz.) package of mini pretzels
- 5 c. Cheerios cereal
- 5 c. Corn Chex cereal
- 2 c. salted peanuts
- 1 lbs. M&M candies (I like to use holiday M&M's)
- 2 (12 oz.) package of white chocolate chips
- 3 Tbs. oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, combine first 5 ingredients; set aside.
2. In microwave safe bowl, heat chocolate chips and oil for 2 minutes; stir every 30 sec. Microwave for 10 more seconds; stir until smooth. Be careful not to heat too long or else it will burn.
3. Pour chocolate over cereal mixture and mix well. Spread on wax paper. Cool, then break apart. Store in airtight container. Makes about 5 quarts. Enjoy!

Send your own recipe to:

Izzy Cellucci; icellucci@central.coop or mail to P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049



**Central Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy\* Cooperative



## Your Board of Directors

**From left (back row):** Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Vice President, Clarion County; Kenneth Durrett, Butler County; Richard Weaver, Clarion County; **(front)** Ken Etzel, Venango County; Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County; and Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County.

 [central.coop/meet-your-directors](http://central.coop/meet-your-directors)

**MISSION:** CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

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Outages: 800-282-8610



**Newsletter Editor: Izzy Cellucci**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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IN CONTROL.**

**MANAGE**

your account

**REPORT**

service issues

**VIEW AND PAY**

your bill

**RECEIVE**

key notices

**MONITOR**

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your  
hand and online.*



**Missed an issue?**

**Catch up at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop)**

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

