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CEC's 85th Anniversary Celebration

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Power Lines

Photo by Gary Smay of Butler

Essential

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) is a distribution cooperative. That is an important designation because we build and maintain the distribution facilities that supply the essential service of electricity to our members. For CEC to do this, a contractual agreement with our generation and transmission cooperative (G&T) is needed to bring the power to our distribution system. We have input in the decisions of our G&T because CEC is part owner with all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives and one of your member-elected board members represents our interests on the G&T’s Board of Directors.

I would like to describe the relationship CEC has with the larger electric grid and generation supply to show how essential those resources are in supplying safe, reliable, resilient and schedulable power to our membership.

Large generation facilities that can generate more or less power as demand fluctuates are often referred to as baseload generation. Baseload generators, regardless of their fuel source, are essential to the stability and availability of electric service because they are schedulable — which means it can be scheduled and/or adjusted to meet energy demands. The primary fuel sources for these generators are coal, natural gas, large-scale hydro and nuclear. The amount of electricity that comes from each of these changes over time based on cost, availability and environmental concerns.

The increase of environmental concerns has led to fossil fuel based generators providing less of the electricity supply. The influx of renewable alternatives has been small in comparison to the total energy consumption — as these resources are not schedulable,

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they have not been able to replace other generation sources. For various reasons, many coal power plants have closed. The closure of these large schedulable resources decreased the available reserve capacity and created significant concerns in the resiliency of the electric grid. These concerns are no longer hypothetical, as the Texas power crisis in February 2021 demonstrated. Many factors led to the problems, but they all pointed to the resilience of the electrical infrastructure. Simply put, removing resources prematurely without replacements in place leaves little reserve and little room for error. When circumstances in Texas created an environment that pressed the system to its limits, there was no contingency available.

Following the 2011 Fukushima Nuclear Plant disaster, caused by an earthquake and subsequent Tsunami, Germany decided to close all its nuclear generating facilities. At the end of 2021, they closed half of those plants (about 4 Gigawatts worth of generation) and the other half is scheduled to close at the end of 2022. These premature closures in Germany have already led to a five-fold increase in generation costs and a subsequent increase in the use of coal and natural gas fueled generators to meet the country's electric needs.

While circumstances will continue to evolve, right now renewable energy sources do not provide a like-for-like replacement for the large scale, schedulable, baseload resources. The premature closure of these facilities

has put our electric grid in a less resilient position. Nuclear facilities are an essential part of our energy supply mix. They provide a large scale, schedulable, carbon free, cost-effective resource. That said, every resource has its drawbacks, but we must maintain a diverse mix of generation resources that considers the need for schedulable, resilient, cost-effective generation that takes a thoughtful and reasonable approach to environmental concerns.

Our G&T is positioned well to address these concerns and has learned from the events mentioned. They own a hydroelectric facility, are part owner of a nuclear facility, have long-term purchase agreements with additional hydroelectric resources, and purchase from the marketplace to ensure the supply needs of our members are met. They also recognize the value of increasing the supply and managing demand to keep costs in check. It is essential we do not close generation resources without a viable plan for replacement. The more we continue to cut into our reserves, the more common events like those in Germany or Texas will be.

CEC will continue to develop a contingency plan, maintain a diverse portfolio of generation that takes all issues into consideration, and advocate for the best interests of our members to maintain this essential service. Thank you for your continued support.

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Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

Congratulations to Our 2021 Coloring Contest Winners!

Thank you to all the kids who entered the coloring contest!



Katie Clever, age 7,
of Butler



Sophia Savannah, age 10,
of Butler

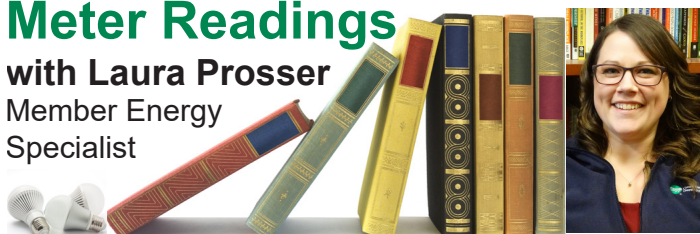


Sienna Gregg, age 11,
of Butler

Meter Readings

with Laura Prosser

Member Energy
Specialist



“With great power comes a great electricity bill,” my husband recently shared with me. I can only assume he was complimenting the appearance of the CEC statement we received this month. No?

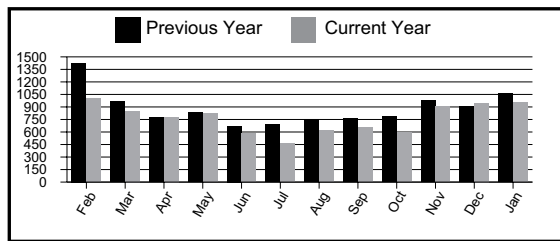
Well, I do think the cooperative’s statements provide a nice layout and some helpful energy usage features. Let me give you some examples.

CEC’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) allows us to gather your usage data every day from the meter. Next to your meter number, the bill lists the exact dates of usage, along with the total number of days. A typical bill is for 30 days, however, this may not always be possible. A couple extra days can impact your bill, especially in a high usage month.

On the back of each bill, you will find a summary specific to your account and usage for the month, as well as a comparison to your usage from

Great Electricity Bill

the previous month and year. The chart also incorporates number of days in the billing period and average temperatures to help you understand the bill and make comparisons.



COMPARISONS	DAYS	KWH	AVG TEMP	AVG KWH/DAY
Current Month	32	950	33	30
Previous Month	30	947	38	32
Same Last Year	32	1065	32	33

Avg Cost Per Day: \$4.15

Beside the chart on the back of your bill, you will find monthly energy-efficiency recommendations.

Lastly, scan the QR code on the back of your bill to get our SmartHub app on your mobile device. In the app, you can see your billing information and the daily usage data we gather from your meter.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Office Electrical Safety



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 76,000 office workers nationwide suffer disabling injuries every year. Although the most frequent types of incidents are slips, trips and falls, many injuries also occur as a result of contact with electrical equipment.

Almost everything in an office operates on electricity. Electrical equipment used in an office is potentially hazardous and can cause serious shock and burn injuries, if improperly used or maintained.

If the body contacts an electrical circuit, a shock will occur. The electrical current will enter the body at one point and leave at another. The passage of electricity through the body can cause pain, burns, destruction of tissue, nerves and muscles, and even death (electrocution).

Here are some important tips to follow regarding electrical safety in the office:

- Only use properly grounded or double-insulated equipment.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Do not plug power strips into other power strips.
- Only use equipment that has been approved by a national testing laboratory, such as UL.
- Minimize the use of extension cords and only use them for temporary needs. Do not plug two extension cords together.
- Do not cover power cords or extension cords with rugs or mats.
- Do not run electrical cords through aisles.
- Unplug or disconnect machines before servicing or repairing.

- Do not ignore warning signs. If an item feels hot, makes an unusual noise (buzz or hum), smokes or sparks, take it out of service immediately and tag it "Do Not Use."
- Inspect cords and equipment regularly, and report any defects immediately.
- Unplug cords by gripping the plug — do not pull the cord.
- Cover or guard any exposed electrical components or wires.
- Do not use electrical equipment or appliances near water or wet surfaces.
- Never use electrical equipment when your hands, or the equipment, are wet.



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

Technology Improvements for 2022 at USX Credit Union!

You are invited to become a member and take advantage of the newest technologies at USX!

In 2021, USX Federal Credit Union (FCU) announced a significant investment in upgrading computer systems. As a member of USX FCU, these upgrades will make banking easier, faster and more efficient. All with the continued first-class experience you've come to expect. The anticipated completion date for these upgrades is Oct. 3. In addition to a change in core computer systems, as a member you can take advantage of state of the art online banking and mobile banking solutions.

USX FCU is proud to announce it has also

added contactless transactions right from your cellphone. You can now use your USX FCU VISA® debit or credit card with Apple Pay® and Google Pay®. If you already use these services, simply add your USX FCU card to your account.

As a member of CEC, you are eligible to join USX and bank where you want, when you want, how you want! If you have questions, please call the USX Member Contact Center at 888-219-3159, visit your local branch or visit www.usxfcu.org.



Attention High School Seniors: PREA Scholarship

At least five \$1,000 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) scholarships, in memory of William F. Matson, are available for the 2022-2023 college year.

Who is eligible?

The PREA Scholarship Trust Fund offers scholarships to children of members and employees of electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who belong to PREA. Applicants must be high school seniors

and able to furnish necessary aptitude test scores, transcript and financial need information.

Applications and required information must be received by **May 6, 2022**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 17, 2022**. Scholarship awards will be announced at the PREA summer meeting in July. To download the application and learn more, visit www.prea.com

Help us celebrate our 85th Year!

To celebrate CEC's 85th anniversary in 2022, there will be a variety of activities and giveaways throughout the year.

To kick off the celebration, we're hoping you'll submit any stories or photos you have of or about CEC.

These can be submitted through CEC's website or by mailing them to: CEC, Attn: 85th Anniversary, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

Future anniversary announcements will be posted in this newsletter and on our website. Thanks for a great 85 years!



Recipe of the Month

Artichoke Dip

Ingredients:

- 12-ounces artichoke hearts, chopped
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup canned pimentos, drained and chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Baguette, sliced and toasted for dipping

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the artichoke hearts, feta, pimentos, garlic, mayonnaise and Parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper, then place in a baking dish. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove the baking dish from the oven and stir the dip. Return the dish to the oven and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes until golden brown and bubbling. While the dip is baking, slice and toast baguettes. Serve dip with toasted baguette slices.

*Thank you to Marie Cherrison
for submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Rita Criley of Butler

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Louis Piciacchio of Wexford

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: Our generation supplier recognizes the value of increasing the supply and managing demand to keep costs in check.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: CEC does not offer usage and comparison data on member's monthly statements.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: It is okay to use electrical equipment when your hands are wet.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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