

**Inside:  
Learn How To ...**

**Win a Visa Gift Card  
or Bill Credit** by  
completing Member  
Survey

Make a Difference by  
joining ACRE®

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# PowerLines

Photographer: Kathryn Stover of Valencia

**Clean Power**

*by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager*

Over the many years I have been in the electric utility business, I have been “accused” of being both anti-wind and anti-solar generation, and pro-wind and pro-solar generation. I have always been surprised by this as I am neither pro nor con. I think our generation portfolio should be diverse and inclusive to meet our needs and address concerns. I believe I have a unique perspective to see both sides of the debate, but there is no simple solution. The integration of renewable resources into the electrical system has challenges.

The truth is, as a utility professional that has always worked for distribution companies, I am much more focused on affordability and accessibility for our members than the source of the electricity. I focus on what I have found to be factual about the energy grid. I have written articles in the

past describing the fact that when people discuss different generation sources, for the most part, they are discussing the fuel used to run the generator. For many years, there has been an effort to expand the integration of renewable alternatives into the generating portfolio. At first glance this seems obvious. If we can produce the electricity required cost effectively, and do it with less pollution, why haven’t we done it already? The answer, as is often the case, is that there is more to it than that.

The current electric grid has large generating facilities, a transmission grid to carry electricity over long distances, and a distribution grid that provides service to customers. The grid has expanded and seen substantial technological improvements and efficiencies over the years, but with some isolated exceptions, has remained much the

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same since we first started providing electric service throughout America.

“CEC has been operating, for over 30 years, a voluntary, demand-side management program in partnership with our statewide association allowing the curtailment of usage during peak demand times. The result is lower cost to our members and a delay in the need to build additional generation resources.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

When people refer to renewable sources of energy, including wind and solar, they are referring to alternatives to more traditional sources of electric generation like coal, large scale hydro, natural gas and nuclear. There is often a perception that wind and solar technologies are new, but they have been commercially available alternatives since the 1940s and 1950s and have been around much longer than that.

There are two primary concerns regarding extensive use of wind and solar in the generating portfolio. The first is cost, but debate over costs can get complicated as subsidies and regulations get added to the mix. For that reason, I would like to focus on the system. A traditional large generator produces thousands of megawatts (MW). For example, the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station has two units of 1,350 MW each, for a total of 2,700 MW. In contrast, solar and wind generators produce much smaller amounts and therefore a greater number need to be built to replace a single large-scale facility. Typical wind turbines are sized from 1.5 MW to 3 MW by comparison. Scheduling is another concern. Wind and solar generators are only available when the wind is blowing at an appropriate speed or the sun is shining. As an alternative, electric storage is required and while this is becoming more viable, it isn't available for widespread, large-scale use yet.

With all that said, I would like to keep you informed of the efforts Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has made, and continues to make in this area. CEC has been operating, for over 30 years, a voluntary, demand-side management program in partnership with our statewide association allowing the curtailment of usage during peak demand times. The result is lower cost to our members and a delay in the need to build additional generation resources. Remember, the least expensive and least polluting kilowatt-hour is the one we don't use. CEC also offers assistance to members who choose to install renewable resources of their own in the form of our Renewable Energy Assistance Program (REAP).

Perhaps more impactful than either of these programs, with regard to the clean power effort, is the makeup of the power sources we purchase. One hundred percent of our purchased power comes from our generation and transmission cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative. The power consists of a mix of owned assets and long and short-term contracts with outside entities. Approximately 65 percent of our power supply is from our two owned assets that have zero emissions.

The Raystown Hydroelectric plant is considered a tier one renewable generator. The Susquehanna Nuclear facility

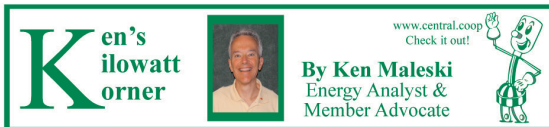
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provides a substantial portion of our capacity needs with zero emissions. Our additional power requirements are met through a combination of long and short-term contracts including additional hydroelectric purchases.

Allegheny Electric Cooperative also reviews renewable resource projects for viability on a regular basis. You would be hard pressed to find another

utility with a lower carbon footprint than CEC. While I avoided the cost discussion, it is important to note we have accomplished these efforts cost-effectively for our members. CEC takes our stewardship of the electrical system very seriously and understands the long-term importance of these issues to our members, and our communities.



Those warm autumn days are starting to wane and most of us have turned on our heating systems. That means heating costs are about to take a big chunk out of your wallet. So now is the time to do maintenance on your heating system. Homeowners can do these maintenance tasks themselves:

- Vacuum inside furnace to remove dust and debris.
- Oil blower-motor at appropriate ports.
- Check duct work for gaps and leaks.
- Replace furnace filter.

Here are a few tasks to leave to an HVAC professional:

### Fossil Fuel Systems

- Combustion gases analyzed and compared to unit specifications.
- Heat exchanger checked for cracks and corrosion.
- Burners checked for proper ignition, burner flame and flame sense.
- Carbon monoxide test.

## Heating System Tune Up

### Heat Pump Systems

- Refrigerant checked for proper charge level.
- Inspect and clean indoor and outdoor coils.

Both systems should have a static air-pressure and temperature-rise check. In addition, an amp-draw test should be conducted on the blower motor and compared with what is listed on its name plate.

If all your HVAC contractor does is stick a vacuum hose inside the furnace to remove dust and debris ... do it yourself. If your furnace technician does half the stuff on the list above, they're earning their keep. Always ask your technician what they'll be doing before hiring him.

Preventative maintenance is about catching a problem before your furnace quits. So make the call now, before your heating professional is overwhelmed with requests from people who didn't do preventative maintenance.

**Why not sign up for energy saving "E-Tips" by contacting Ken Maleski at [kmaleski@central.coop](mailto:kmaleski@central.coop).**

## Don't forget to take the Member Survey

for a chance to

**win a Visa Gift Card or Bill Credit!**

Visit [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) to take the survey or for more information.

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Meter Access

When meters are blocked it limits CEC's effectiveness. CEC personnel need to occasionally access your meter to do maintenance or check readings. This ensures your bills are accurate and timely. In some cases, blocked meters can pose dangers to both you and CEC employees. Here are some ways you can help ensure CEC has adequate access to your meter.

- Make sure there is a safe and direct path to your meter that is free of obstructions such as debris, overgrown trees or bushes.
- Ensure there are no holes or objects in the path to the meter that may cause someone to trip, slip or fall.

- Have vegetation around the meter trimmed on a regular basis.

- Have pest control experts remove any types of nests.

- If you have a dog that stays outside near your meter during the day, contact us to arrange a time we can access the meter.

- Follow the National Electric Code's free-space requirements.



## To Celebrate the Holidays CEC will be Closed:

- Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving (normal hours resume Nov. 24).
- Dec. 22 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve.
- Dec. 25 for Christmas Day (normal hours resume Dec. 26).
- Dec. 29 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve.
- Jan. 1 for New Year's Day (normal hours resume Jan. 2).

## Check out our Photo Contest!

You can vote online until Oct. 20 and the winners will be posted online Oct. 25 at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) and in the December issue of this newsletter.

## Make a Difference: Join ACRE®!

As a cooperative member you recognize that balancing electricity needs and environmental goals is becoming difficult. You want to know how much this is going to increase your electric bill and also what our nation's elected officials are doing to ensure that electricity remains affordable.

As a member-owned electric cooperative we have the responsibility to provide elected officials with the information they need to make good decisions and effective policies. You can help make sure these important lines of communication stay open by supporting the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) Co-op Owners for Political Action®. ACRE® is a grassroots organization of electric cooperative employees, directors and member-owners that is a growing force in Washington, D.C. and state capitals nationwide. ACRE® is a nonpartisan, political action committee focused on the future of electric cooperatives. Your decision to participate in ACRE® will support legislators who fight for electric cooperative members.

**Many small voices joined together have a mighty impact. Please consider adding your voice to this worthy and deserving cause.** Join Co-op Owners for Political Action® by completing the adjacent form and sending it in with your bill. You can also visit our website at [www.central.coop](http://www.central.coop) or contact your ACRE® coordinator, Emily Bartley, at 800-521-0570 x2126.

*Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*

### Membership Form

*Yes I Want to Join!*

#### There are two easy ways to contribute:

1. Have the amount added to your next electric bill.
2. Submit a check made payable to PREA ACRE.

#### Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill:

- Regular Member: \$25
- Keystone Member: \$50
- Century Club Member: \$100
- President's Club Member: \$500
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Please renew my amount at this level annually.

#### Membership Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Election Law requires  
the following information for contributions  
equal to, or exceeding, \$200.**

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to  
Central Electric Cooperative,  
Attn: ACRE,  
P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

## Recipe of the Month

### Pumpkin Streusel Cake

#### Streusel:

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Mix all together and set aside.

#### Cake:

- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 can solid packed pumpkin, 16 ounces
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup butter, softened

Combine together with a mixer for about 3 minutes.

**Directions:** Spread half of cake batter into a greased, cake pan. Sprinkle half of the streusel over the batter. Spread remaining cake batter over streusel. Top with remaining streusel, bake 40-45 minutes at 350 or until tooth pick comes out clean.

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

## Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to: Renee Tritten at rtritten@central.coop  
or mail to CEC, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

## CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw  
CEO & General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs  
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:

**Nancy Miller of Seneca**

Last Issue's E-Winner:

**James Egger of Polk**

Read Power Lines and 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](http://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:** About 65 percent of CEC's power supply is from assets that have zero emissions.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. True or False:** You should never vacuum inside your furnace.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. True or False:** You could win a Visa gift card or bill credit by going to CEC's website and completing the member survey.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are we doing?** (no wrong answer)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Acct. #:** \_\_\_\_\_



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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