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Kilowatts from Your
Electric Meter

Identify Electrical
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Win an iPad!

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PowerLines

Photo taken by Tom Myers of Franklin

The Green Debate

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

I am always on the lookout for good topics for these monthly articles. The ideas have come from the news, colleagues, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees, board members, Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) members (like last month) and even my family. I like it best when the idea comes from our membership because then I am more hopeful that the topic is something that will be of interest to you. To that end, this month's topic was prompted by a letter received from one of our members. It was a very nice letter discussing several issues and accompanied a donation to our Family Fund. (The Family Fund is made up of voluntary contributions and is used to help those in need with their energy bills.) It seems this member had received a solicitation from another energy provider asking if she had

interest in signing up for a “Green Power” program. The member asked if we had any such programs or how else we might be active in that area. She wanted to know and thought other members would be interested as well.

Back in November 2013, my article entitled “The Cheapest Kilowatt-Hour (kWh)” discussed the idea of conservation and some of the programs that CEC offers to help in that area. Some of those topics are relevant and I'll touch on them again. I won't reference the specific solicitation that our member received but instead will talk about “Green Power” programs in general.

First, let me describe what is usually meant by “green” power. Electricity generated from sources defined as renewable like windmills or photovoltaic's (solar) are often referred to as “green.” There are other “green” sources but these are the most prevalent. All of the

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electricity generated, regardless of the source, is connected to the grid and distributed to consumers. So the actual kilowatt that you use is a function of where you are connected to the grid and which generators are operating at any given time. The programs offering “green” power are asking that consumers pay a higher rate to help pay for the added costs associated with bringing these renewable sources to the grid. The end consumer doesn’t actually get the electron for which they specifically paid. Please don’t take my description as a judgment one way or another on this type of program: they have been successful in helping to fund additional renewable resources and have provided those who are wanting to help fund these projects an opportunity to do so.

In a direct answer to our member’s question, CEC does not offer a “green” rate at this time. As member-owners of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, we purchase all of our power needs from them. If we were to offer a different rate, it would require us to purchase the output of a specific renewable resource and pass that additional cost on to those who wanted to participate. Again, this is a perfectly acceptable program in which many electric companies participate. CEC has to follow renewable energy requirements prescribed by law, but we have chosen a very different approach. First, as I have mentioned on many occasions, the mix of

generation resources that we purchase includes a substantial portion (60 to 70 percent) of clean-emission nuclear and hydro power. Our hydro power is considered a renewable resource. The remainder of our power needs are purchased from power contracts that include solar projects and a mix of other sources. Additionally, as I mentioned in my cheapest kWh article, we offer voluntary demand side management programs that help decrease the demand in peak times, requiring less generation of any type.

We are in the process of considering additional conservation programs to make available to our membership. You probably hear advertising about these types of programs, appliance rebates and the like, from our investor-owned counterparts. These are good programs but in the case of the investor-owned utilities, the cost of the program is added into the customer’s rate, whether they participate or not.

So, for the time being, CEC will continue to provide clean and renewable resources as part of our generation mix without offering a higher rate for our members to participate. Don’t forget about our Load Management Program, a voluntary program that provides you with a monthly discount on your bill while CEC controls either your hot water heater, electric heat or both. If you visit our website

CEC’s 2012 Energy Sources:

- 54 percent nuclear (Susquehanna Steam Electric Station)
- 9 percent hydroelectric (Raystown Dam and New York Power Authority)
- 37 percent purchased on the open market

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you will see a section devoted to energy savings. Under this section you will find a link to a home energy use calculator as well as suggestions on steps you can take to use electricity more efficiently.

I hope this article illustrates that there are many ways to approach the integration of renewable

resources and conservation efforts into an electrical-supply system and that your cooperative is an active and successful participant in the process. I would also like to thank our member for the letter that prompted this topic. I am glad to hear from our members and discuss the issues that matter to them.



March has a lot of great days to celebrate: St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring, March Madness basketball brackets, and the beginning of Lent. That last one usually means giving up or abstaining from something. Why not try losing a few pounds of wasteful energy usage? Here are some quick tips to help you "fast" some kWhs from your electric meter:

- Inspect your air conditioning system using a qualified cooling technician before hot weather is upon us.
- Clean or replace window A/C unit filters.
- Clean the dust from your refrigerator, freezer or dehumidifier coils.
- Clean sliding glass door tracks of dirt and winter debris that can damage seals leading to energy loss.
- Gain more illumination by dusting off light bulbs.

Energy Fasting

- Dust off ceiling fans for better operation.
- Caulk windows and doors.
- Use foam sealants on plumbing or electrical penetrations in and out of your home.
 - Lower your heat setting a few more degrees with warmer days on the way.
 - Wash laundry in cold water.
 - Lower water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
 - Plant deciduous trees, like pines, on south and west-facing windows to reduce heating and cooling bills.
 - Replace incandescent lighting fixtures with CFL or LED lamps.

Together, we can all make a difference in energy savings by following a few simple measures. Learn more about ways to save around your home at www.central.coop and click on TogetherWeSave.com to take the energy savings home tour.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SAFETY

Residential Safety Checklist

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The home safety checklist below will help you protect yourself and your family from fire and other electrical hazards. These simple and easy steps will allow you to identify and correct electrical dangers commonly found in homes.

- Outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs which can overheat; replace missing or broken wall plates; make sure that there are safety covers on unused outlets within a child's reach.

- Cords: Make sure that cords aren't cracked or frayed; keep out of traffic areas; do not nail or staple to walls, baseboards, or any other object; do not place under carpets or rest furniture on them.

- Plugs: Plugs should fit securely into outlets; never remove the



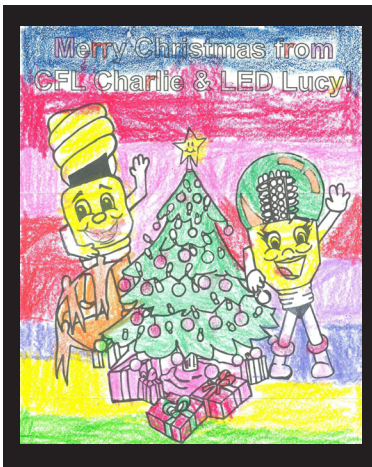
Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operations Support

third prong; never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.

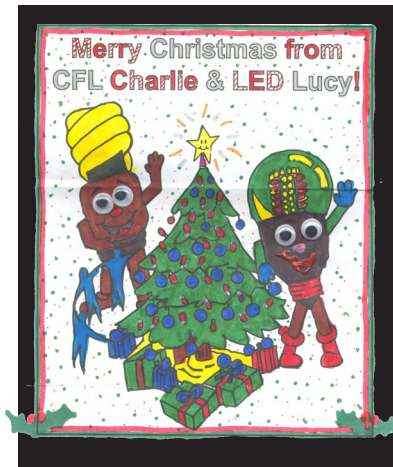
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs): GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred and interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from shock. Test GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Light bulbs: Check wattage of all bulbs to make certain that they are correct for the size of the fixture; replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; make sure bulbs are screwed in securely — loose bulbs can overheat.

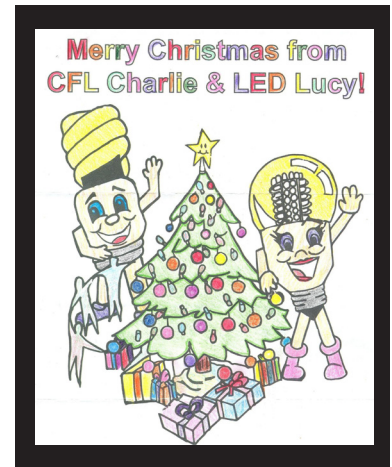
Congratulations to Our 2013 Coloring Contest Winners!



Olivia Smith, age 5,
of Emlenton



Ethan Miller, age 10,
of Fenelon



Chelsey Kabel, age 11,
of Fenelon

Go Paperless for a Chance to Win an Apple® iPad!

Help CEC reduce its carbon footprint by signing up for paperless billing. Did you know for every 1,000 members who are paperless, over 24,000 envelopes, 36,000 sheets of paper and \$5,000 in postage are saved each year? Check out how paperless benefits you and your cooperative.

Paperless Benefits

- View your electric bill anytime with 24/7 access to your secure online information.
- Receive an automated email notification when your monthly electric bill is ready.
- Easily review your electric usage, payment and billing history.
- Pay your electric bill online for free.

The following payment options allow for paperless billing: online bill payment through SmartHub, automatic bill pay (bank draft), recurring credit card payments or bill pay service offered through your bank. Below are instructions to sign up for your online account access and paperless billing.

How to Sign Up

If you are not currently signed up for online account access with SmartHub:

- Sign up for new online account access through SmartHub at www.central.coop and complete the information required.

- Log into your SmartHub account, click on My Profile on top menu then choose Update My Printed Bill Settings. Click on Turn off Printed Bills and choose Yes to confirm.

If you have an existing online account with SmartHub:

- Log into your online SmartHub account and click on My Profile on top menu, then choose Update My Printed Bill Settings. Click on Turn off Printed Bills and choose Yes to confirm.

Another benefit is that if you turn off your paper bill before July 31, 2014 you will be entered into a drawing for a free iPad! The drawing will be on Aug. 1 with the winning member notified shortly thereafter. If you have any questions about this contest or going paperless please call us at 1-800-521-0570.

SmartHub is user-friendly and it lets you manage all aspects of your CEC account from a computer or a mobile device. Some of its features include making a payment and viewing electric usage 24/7. To learn more about SmartHub and what it has to offer you please visit www.central.coop.



Our 2014 Photo Contest is Coming!

Start thinking about which photo you will enter in our 2014 Photo Contest! Look for information on this contest in your April Power Lines newsletter.

Recipe of the Month

Cheese Danish

Ingredients:

- 16 ounce cream cheese, softened
- 1-1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup raspberry or apricot jam
- 2 packages of refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 4 ounces sliced almonds

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix cream cheese, vanilla and sugar in a bowl. Unroll one can crescent roll dough on a cookie sheet, sealing perforations. Spread cream cheese filling on dough, leaving 1/4 inch edges. Top with jam. Unroll second can of dough and lay on top of first layer. Seal edges with edge of fork. Brush with beaten egg. Sprinkle with sliced almonds. Bake for 30 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before cutting.

Thank you to Pauline Wick for submitting this recipe!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Spence at rspence@central.coop or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Member and Community Relations

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Karl Shreffler of Emlenton

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Frank Dydek of Harrisville

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop/quiz.

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: CEC purchases a substantial portion (60 to 70 percent) of clean-emission nuclear and hydro power.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: A loosely screwed in light bulb cannot overheat.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Setting your water heater to 120 degrees will add kWhs to your electric bill.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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