

Inside: Learn How To ...

Save Money on Your
Winter Energy Bill

Be Safe with Portable
Heaters

Make a Difference: Join
the MAAC

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines

2014 Photo Contest Entry
Photographed by Nicholas Manolis of New Castle

The “New” Thing

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

It’s important to note that I am a self-described electricity geek. I take pictures of utility poles and equipment on vacation, much to the embarrassment of my wife and children. I love to talk about the business I work in and the exciting changes and challenges involved in providing an essential service in a technical environment. This energizes me, no pun intended.

Twenty-five years ago I was a new employee of a large investor-owned utility in the Chicago area. I had my electrical engineering degree, an enthusiasm for a new job and no clue about the electric utility business. I had the opportunity to attend an “All Engineers’ Dinner” at a large transmission and distribution conference. Young engineers from all over the country filled a ballroom and were joined at their tables by an executive from their respective companies. The keynote speaker was the CEO of an investor-

owned company other than mine. I don’t recall most of his speech, but there was a part of it that has stuck with me and has been relevant to me throughout my career. He said that he had been asked by a young engineer with his company if, given some of the changes that were being discussed, the utility business was a good career path. These changes included deregulation, distributed generation and alternative energies. The response that he shared was that, not only was this a good career path, but it was made more so by all of those exciting potential changes.

Flash forward a few years. I was now armed with a greater excitement about changes that were coming and had enough knowledge about the business to be dangerous. I attended a presentation about distributed generation. The speaker was dynamic and I left convinced that this was the immediate future of the electric utility industry and that we needed to

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change our business model. (Distributed generation business models are still being discussed as the next “new” thing.)

A few more years down the road, I found myself listening to a particularly energetic university professor extolling the virtues of using buoys to generate electricity. Several coastal communities bought into the technology believing it was much closer to commercial viability than it actually was.

Today, we talk about wind generation as though it is a new technology, but it has been commercially integrated into the power grid for upward of 40 years. Solar, fuel cell, micro turbine, wave/tidal, and geothermal power generation are just a few other alternative generating sources that have been studied and available for many years.

Now, 25 years later, I attend meetings and seminars and read articles that bring these same issues to the forefront of the energy debate. What have I learned in all of this time? In a word — patience. The business model of a large power plant, regardless of the primary source, connected to transmission lines bringing power to distribution systems like Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) has proven exceptionally safe, reliable and economical for over 100 years, 78 in the case of CEC. There is a place for all of the technologies and business models in a comprehensive energy policy but it’s important to ensure that we implement them when and where

they make business sense. Electric utility companies are not the enemy of new and innovative technologies. In fact, the utility industry leads in the research, development and use of these technologies. While our focus is not always the same — investor-owned utilities are driven by profit, and cooperatives are focused on member service — all of us electricity geeks are single-minded in our desire to take the best new technologies and use them to provide the best service we can. If my story illustrates nothing else, it’s that electric utilities have been researching and developing new technologies to better supply electrical needs since Edison and Westinghouse fought about the best way to bring it to you over 100 years ago. The next best thing isn’t always so new, but when it adds value, your cooperative brings it to you.

I couldn’t be happier that I was lucky enough to hear that speech 25 years ago and be part of the group of dedicated people, geeks though we may be, who bring you the technologies that allow you to utilize the wonderful tool that is electricity. We have a vested interest in staying current with the changing technologies and their impact on our system and our members. Thank you for taking your time to read about your cooperative and, if you see me, don’t be surprised if I want to talk about electricity!

“The next best thing isn’t always so new, but when it adds value, your cooperative brings it to you.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO & general manager

Ken's
ilowatt
orner



www.central.coop
Check it out!

By Ken Maleski
Residential Analyst
& Advisor



Now that November is upon us with colder weather and less daylight, energy use begins to increase because we spend more time inside. Here are some ideas to lower your energy costs:

- Swap 15 incandescent bulbs with more efficient LEDs or CFLs that last 25 times longer and use at least 75 percent less energy.
- Install foam gaskets behind your electrical outlets and light switches — it will help reduce air leaks through even the smallest gaps and cracks.
- Set your programmable thermostat to reduce heating when you're asleep or away from home. You could save up to \$180 per year!
- Replace the furnace filter monthly.
- Make sure all heating vents are open and unblocked by furniture or other items.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.

Fall Checklist

- Service oil-fired heating systems every year and gas-fired systems every three years.
- Clean the clothes dryer lint trap after every use.
- Clean refrigerator and freezer coils.
- Keep the draperies and shades on windows open during the day, to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and closed at night to keep the heat in.
- Skip the dry cycle setting on the dishwasher and open the door to air dry dishes.
- Seal around window air conditioning units that remain in place over the winter.
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees and add an insulating blanket.

Sign up for weekly energy saving tips (E-Tips) by emailing kmaleski@central.coop. For more energy-saving ideas, visit us at www.central.coop.

SAFE Y MATERS

Portable Heater Safety

Portable heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the winter months. Two out of three reported home heating fires, and associated deaths and injuries, involved portable space heaters. The following tips will help you stay safe while using portable heaters.

Purchasing Checklist

When shopping for a portable heater, choose a model with:

- temperature control,
- an automatic shut-off device,
- a seal of approval from an independent testing

laboratory indicating that it has met basic safety standards.

Operating Checklist

- Keep portable heaters three feet away from anything flammable.
- Always place portable heaters on flat surfaces.
- Always turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Avoid using household extension cords with portable heaters. If you must use an extension cord, make certain that it is a heavy duty cord.



CEC's 78th Annual Meeting

CEC conducted its 78th Annual Meeting on Aug. 21 at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center near Emlenton. During this meeting our members re-elected Bette Walters of Forest County and Althea Smith of Venango County to the board of directors.

Almost 1,000 people attended the meeting. Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) catered the dinner and the Windy River Band provided entertainment. The meeting opened with the Parker Post 7073 presenting the American flag and CEC's Stacey Bechtel singing the National Anthem. Ronald Powers of Cheswick won the grand prize of a \$100 bill credit and Frank Russell of Emlenton won a \$50 bill credit.

Since the annual meeting, the board of directors has elected officers Jody Weaver, board president; Kenneth Durrett, vice president; and Althea Smith; secretary/treasurer.



CEC's Board of Directors



2014-2015 Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC)



Appliance Rebate Program a Success!

CEC's Appliance Rebate Program was a huge success! We issued 171 rebates from April 1 to Sept. 1, 2015. Members saved money on the initial appliance purchase and will continue saving monthly with a more efficient unit.

Rebate funding was depleted much sooner than expected because of an overwhelming member response. CEC looks forward to beginning a new round of rebates in January 2016. Watch for updates in this newsletter or on our website at www.central.coop.

Make a Difference: Join the MAAC!

Are you interested in serving on a respected committee and sharing your ideas with cooperative members? Then the Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) is the perfect opportunity for you! CEC is looking for members to serve on the 2016-2017 MAAC committee. This committee is designed to establish effective communication between cooperative members, the board of directors and management.

As a MAAC member you have the opportunity to discuss and contribute your ideas on issues directly concerning cooperative members. You will also have the chance to submit recommendations to the board of directors and management on improving services and procedures. The committee will meet eight times (once a quarter) throughout the 2016-2017 term.

We will select representatives from the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest and Venango. In staying with the cooperative's bylaws, Allegheny County members shall be affiliated with Butler County and Mercer County members with Venango County.

MAAC members will be residential members with their permanent residence on cooperative lines in the county they represent. In addition to

residential members, the committee will also include a seasonal representative who is required to have a seasonal camp on cooperative lines somewhere within the service area. All interested members must be in good standing with the cooperative to be considered. The board of directors will appoint members if there are no volunteers for a specific county.

Those who have served on either the MAAC committee or CEC's board of directors are ineligible.

We would like to recognize the 2014-2015 MAAC members for their dedication and outstanding efforts. They are: Francis & Loretta Posey of Armstrong County; Dave & Linda Carney, and Ronald & Peggy Morrison of Butler County; Randy & Mary Gilbert, and Larry & Lola Ritts of Clarion County; Jeffrey & Dena Hartzell of Forest County; Bob & Marilyn Betzold, and Greg Miller of Venango County; and seasonal representatives Ken Filer and Jim Nelson.

If you are interested in serving on the MAAC committee please complete the coupon below and send it to: Central Electric Cooperative, MAAC Committee, 716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049. Coupons must be returned by Dec. 1, 2015. If you have any questions please contact Chris O'Donnell at 800-521-0570 x2170.

Member Aware Advisory Committee

I would like to volunteer to serve on the 2016-2017 MAAC Committee

Name: _____

Residential or Seasonal (circle one) Account Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ County: _____

Recipe of the Month

Sweet Potato Bake

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cold mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup margarine (butter) melted
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

*Thank you to
Joanne McVay for
submitting this
recipe!*

Topping:

- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3 tablespoons margarine melted

Directions: Beat sweet potatoes, milk, sugar, margarine, egg, vanilla and salt until fluffy. Place in greased 1-1/2 quart baking dish. Combine topping ingredients until blended, sprinkle over top. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes until golden brown.

Send in your recipes to be shared today!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Tritten at rtritten@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:

Daryl Pollock of Parker

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Bob Rodgers of Butler

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.

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.

1. True or False: Swapping 15 incandescent bulbs for more energy efficient ones can reduce your energy use by at least 75 percent.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Any extension cord is fine to use with portable heaters.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: When a technology adds value we bring it to you.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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