

Inside: Learn How To ...

Attend Our Town Hall Meeting

Make A Difference

Spring Clean Safely

“Watts” Inside

Busting Those Energy Myths	1–2
CEC’s Annual Pole Inspection	3
Make A Difference	4
Managing Your Electric Bill	5
Spring Pie Recipe	6

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PowerLines

Busting Those Energy Myths

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Each month I try to provide you with information about your cooperative or perhaps share some helpful tips. The inspiration for these articles comes from various sources. They include websites, industry publications, Central Electric Cooperative employees and even me. I do want to give credit where it is due as this month the idea came from one of my fellow cooperative managers. I thought the information he shared with his members was so well done that it would be a great benefit for you. This month I am passing along some information from a trusted resource to help bust some common myths about energy.

Myth #1: It takes less energy to have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I’m away than it does to heat up or cool down my house

when I am home.

If you’re going to be away for more than a few hours, then it is more cost effective to turn heat or air conditioning on once you return than it is to maintain a comfortable temperature while you are out. ENERGY STAR®, a joint program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy, recommend adjusting your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter by 8 degrees Fahrenheit while you’re asleep or away from your house. Do not go beyond this range as you can create a situation where your system will have a hard time catching up.

Myth #2: I can save money simply by installing a programmable thermostat.

On their own, programmable

Energy Myths/Page 2

Member Memories:

"I remember when CEC built the power lines to our new home in the rural countryside in 1966. I felt special and proud to have power."

*Mary Ellen Edinger,
member since 1966.*

If you have a favorite CEC memory and would like to be considered for this special column, please contact Jessica Brison at 1-800-521-0570 x2173.

Energy Myths/From Page 1

thermostats do not make your heating or cooling system more efficient. The money saving value lies in their ability to, once properly programmed, automatically regulate temperatures inside your house coinciding with when you're home and away. If you need help programming your thermostat, directions are usually available from the manufacturer's website. Today, some thermostats come pre-programmed with all the ENERGY STAR recommended settings. You can install them and then tweak the default settings to meet your specific needs.

Myth #3: When I turn off electronics like my television, game console or computer they stop drawing power from the outlet.

Even when turned off, most modern electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they are still plugged in. Chargers for mobile devices also consume electricity if plugged in, even when they are not actively charging the device. This wasted energy, sometimes called "phantom load," amounts to as much as 10 percent of a home's total electric use, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The solution: unplug your electronics when you've finished using them. Using a power strip helps you conveniently unplug multiple devices at once and if properly equipped can add an extra surge protection to those devices.

Myth #4: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) take forever to reach full brilliance, have inadequate light quality or unpleasant color, and make no difference on my utility bill.

As with many products, CFLs vary in quality. Color and brightness differ across manufacturers, and some bulbs simply work better than others. Looking for the ENERGY STAR symbol ensures that you're purchasing a high quality product. Also, be sure to install CFLs in fixtures that remain on for long periods, or that you use often to maximize your energy savings. In addition, make sure the bulb you purchase is made for the type of fixture or switch you plan to use. For example, some are made for enclosed fixtures or for use with dimmer switches. Remember, you should always dispose CFLs properly.

Hopefully, you will find these facts helpful and they might even save you some money. Please consider taking a few minutes to visit www.central.coop and try our Home Energy Calculator. It will help give you a clear picture on where your home uses the most energy. As always feel free to call us at 1-800-521-0570 with any questions.

I want to also remind you and invite you again to our 75th Annual Meeting on Sept. 29, 2012. Please call us for details and, as always, thank you for your patronage!

CEC's Annual Pole Inspection

As part of CEC's ongoing effort to improve system reliability, contracted pole inspection crews began inspecting poles March 19 on circuits originating from Clearfield substation in Butler County. The job was contracted to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. (Osmose).

Inspections typically include a visual inspection, sounding of the pole with a hammer and excavation up to 18" around the poles. Poles identified as having issues will either be addressed in the field by Osmose, or by CEC personnel at a later time. All Osmose representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification.

The project will last several months. CEC will give additional notice when the project is complete. If you have any questions please contact CEC's Matt Alderson, manager of operations and safety, at 1-800-521-0570 x 2206.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during these improvements.

You're Invited to CEC's Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

6 – 7:30 p.m.

**Sandycreek Volunteer
Fire Department Social Hall
624 Congress Hill Road
Franklin, Pa.**

Open discussion/Q&A with
CEC directors and staff.

Light refreshments available.

Please RSVP by April 18, 2012
to Chris Panian x 2171.

Save the Date!

Come join us for CEC's
75-Year-Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012 at
Whitehall Campgrounds in Emlenton, Pa.
RSVP today! 1-800-521-0570.
Visit www.central.coop for more
information, additional details to follow.

**After April 23rd there will no longer be
a night deposit box. Please make arrangements
to pay your bill by mail, over the phone or online
at www.central.coop. Sorry for the inconvenience.**

More Great Offers From U\$X Federal Credit Union

All members and their immediate family
are eligible to join U\$X Federal Credit Union.
Check out these great offers:

- New, used and refinanced auto loan
rates as low as 1.45 annual percentage
rate (model years 2010–2012)
- Fixed home equity loan rates as low as
2.75 annual percentage rate
- Home equity line of credit 2.0 annual
percentage rate.

Lock in introductory rates for 12 months!
Historically low interest rates to save you
money! Call 1-888-219-3159 or visit
www.usxfc.org for membership information
and loan options today!

**Sympathy is extended to the family and friends
of the late Bill Shreffler of Emlenton.
Bill served on the CEC Nominating Committee.**

Always Call Before You Dig!

Spring has finally arrived! It's time to plant a garden, install a deck or build an addition to your existing home. But wait; before digging check to see if there are any underground facilities. It's easy, just call the Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. at 1-800-242-1776 or visit www.paonecall.org for answers to all your questions. Make sure you call at least three working days before you plan to dig.

Whether you are a contractor, home builder or the general public the Pennsylvania Call System can assist you in digging safely. If you have any further questions feel free to contact CEC at 1-800-521-0570.

Attention High School Seniors: PREA Scholarship

A minimum of five, \$1,000 PREA Scholarships in Memory of William F. Matson are available for the 2012–2013 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 the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). Applicants must be high school seniors.

Applications and required information must be received no later than **May 11, 2012**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 1, 2012**. Scholarship awards will be announced at the PREA Summer Meeting in July. To download a PDF version of the application visit: www.prea.com or mail your request to: PREA Scholarship Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108–1266.

Make A Difference!

Join Co-op Owners for Political Action and make your voice be heard! ACRE is the electric cooperative movement's political action committee (PAC). Your contributions enable electric cooperatives to get our issues in front of legislators across the state and nation. Please complete the form below and join today!

Contributions to the 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.

Yes I want to Join!

There are two easy ways to pay:

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

Add a one-time contribution to your electric bill

- Regular: \$25
- Century Club: \$100
- President's Club: \$500
- Other

Please renew my amount at this level annually

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Membership Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

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: Chris Panian,
716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.**

Ken's Kilowatt Corner



By **Ken Maleski**
CEC Consumer
Marketing Representative



Here are some ways to manage your electric bill:

Home Energy Calculator – This tool is a great way to help you understand how much energy your house or appliances are using. Go to www.central.coop and click on the icon.

Together We Save – Another great tool that looks at a typical home, implements energy-saving procedures and adds up the savings. Go to www.central.coop and click on the icon.

Budget Billing – This program is great for members whose electric bills fluctuate throughout the year. It allows

Managing Your Electric Bill

members to pay a specific amount each month depending on their average usage. All accounts must be paid in-full by April. If the member's bill shows a credit balance, indicating over payment for the year, the credit may be applied toward the next budget year, or refunded upon request.

Automatic Bill Pay – CEC can set up your account to automatically draft a payment each month from a checking or savings account, or a debit or credit card. Obtain an automatic payment authorization form from our website at www.central.coop under the Account Center tab.

SAFETY

M A T T e r s

Spring Cleaning Safety

It's that time of year when cleaning your home, garage and yard are priorities. Keep in mind safe cleaning practices to avoid common injuries.

- Wear gloves and masks as indicated by safety recommendations when using harsh cleaning products.
 - Never use gasoline as a cleaning solvent. Also never use or store gasoline in your home because its vapors can readily ignite.
 - Use a stepladder or ladder to reach items out of



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operational Support

arms length. Before using a ladder outdoors make sure you are at least 10 feet away from all power lines.

- Always keep dangerous cleaning products locked up and out of reach of children.
- Keep children away from five-gallon buckets when used for cleaning. These buckets can present a serious drowning danger to young children. Always store buckets empty and upside down.

Recipe of the Month

Spring Pie

Ingredients:

- 9 inch pie crust
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1-3/4 cup sugar
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3-1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries

Directions:

Bake crust until light brown.

Filling – Melt butter, blend 1/4 cup cornstarch, 3/4 cup sugar and salt. Gradually add milk; medium heat until boiling over. Remove to stir in egg yolks. Return to medium heat and cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add vanilla. Let cool and pour into cooked crust.

Topping – Combine 1 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons cornstarch in saucepan. Blend in water and raspberries. Cook until thick over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove and cool with cover on. Pour over filling and refrigerate.

Thank you to Chrissy Leise for submitting the recipe!

Submit your recipe for a chance to win a special prize at the 75-Year-Anniversary Celebration and have your recipe published in "Power Lines."

Send Recipes to:

Jessica Brison at jbrison@central.coop or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

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Read Power Lines and



Last Issue's Winner:

Robert W. Kuhn of Enon Valley

Read your issue of CEC's Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$50 credit on your monthly electric bill by reading Power Lines and completing the quiz below.

Complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules or a faster entry you may complete the survey online at www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: All Osмосе representatives and CEC employees carry company-issued identification.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Deadline for the PREA scholarship is May 15, 2012.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: CEC's website features the Home Energy Calculator.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no right/wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ **Account No:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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