

Notify us if you use a solar energy system

The State of Florida requires the co-op to keep track of the amount of electricity received via customer-owned alternative energy sources.

At present, the co-op has more than 3,200 members who own solar systems. These systems generate electricity for home use and excess power is returned to our distribution system. Using a special meter, the co-op records the amount of electricity returned.

If you own or plan to have one of these systems installed, make sure you've signed an Interconnection Agreement with us. If you plan to increase the size of your existing system, you must also let the co-op know. It is a state requirement, and it is your responsibility to notify us if you are operating or plan to operate an alternative energy system.

Letting us know is important for safety reasons and for billing purposes, and to ensure you receive credit for putting power back into the co-op's distribution system.

Call our Energy Services Division at 1-800-224-4917 to let us know if you have solar or you are interested.



The Salvation Army partnership

To ensure the efficient and equitable distribution of funds, Clay Electric has partnered with the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, with its well-established network and expertise in providing aid to those in need, works in tandem with Clay Electric to assess the financial needs of members applying for assistance. This collaboration ensures that funds reach those who genuinely require support, adhering to a fair and transparent process.

How to donate & apply

If you are a Clay Electric member who would like to make a donation, please visit ClayElectric.com/project-share for an application as well as a list of the local Salvation Army offices and contact information.

If you are a member interested in applying for help, contact your local Salvation Army office or head to our website for more information.

Stop by for a 2024 calendar

Clay Electric's 2024 calendars are available this month for members to pick up at the co-op's six district offices. Quantities are limited.

The 2024 calendar focuses on "energy efficiency is for everyone"

The calendar includes important co-op dates and the Barnett Fish & Game Forecast.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Nick Jones at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: NJones@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, Nov. 16 and Tuesday, Dec. 12 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

_____ November 2023

Project Share: Help your neighbor keep their lights on

Project Share is a program that exemplifies the power of helping one another in times of need. It's a heartwarming testament to the adage that "neighbors help neighbors," ensuring that the lights stay on even when the path ahead seems dim.

Clay Electric has made it convenient for members to participate in Project Share. Members can choose to designate a specific, tax-deductible amount to be added to their monthly electric bill. This option allows for a consistent and ongoing commitment to the cause.

Alternatively, one-time donations are also accepted. This means that members can contribute as much or as little as they can afford, whenever they choose.

For Clay Electric members, by Clay Electric members

A significant aspect of Project Share is its exclusivity to Clay Electric members. This program embodies the principle of the community coming together to support its own. Every contribution, whether big or small, directly impacts the lives of fellow members who may be going through tough times.

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 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

10 ways to avoid climbing energy bill as temperatures drop

Fall is here, and as temperatures begin to dip, we want to help you stay warm and cozy in your homes without breaking the bank.

Here are some tips to keep the chill out while saving on your utility bills:

1. Adjust your thermostat: Lower your thermostat by a few degrees and wear warmer clothing indoors to maintain comfort without overusing heating.

2. Use a programmable thermostat: Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures when you're asleep or away from home, optimizing energy usage.

3. Use ceiling fans: Run ceiling fans in reverse (clockwise) on low speed to circulate warm air trapped near the ceiling down into the living space.

4. Maintain your heating system: Schedule regular maintenance for your heating system to ensure it operates efficiently. A well-maintained system is more cost-effective.

5. Take advantage of sunlight: Open curtains and blinds during the day to let in natural sunlight, which can provide free warmth. Close them at night to retain heat.



6. Seal drafts: Inspect doors, windows, and other openings for drafts. Seal gaps with weather stripping or caulk to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering.

7. Insulate your home: Proper insulation in attics, walls, and floors reduces heat loss, making your home more energy-efficient. Consider adding or upgrading insulation.

8. Limit space heater use: Use space heaters sparingly and only in occupied rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room to avoid energy waste.

9. Seal fireplace dampers: If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is tightly closed when not in use. An open damper can allow warm air to escape and cold air to enter.

10. Upgrade to LED bulbs: Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs. They use significantly less energy and last longer, reducing both electricity consumption and re-placement costs.

Have Thanksgiving with costs in mind

Baking pies, roasting a turkey, cooking ham and heating side dishes for your family's holiday feast can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work.

Consider using your stovetop, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, pressure cooker, electric skillet, blender or food processor to prepare your meal.

Here are tips for energy-efficient meal preparation:

- Treat your family by smoking, grilling or frying your turkey outdoors. It is quicker, and the flavor is a nice change from a traditional, oven-roasted turkey.

- Use the microwave to heat vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.

- Consider serving some food that doesn't need to be cooked. Add variety by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Consider simple desserts, such as frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.

- When you use the oven, resist opening the door. Every time you peek inside you let out heat, and the oven has to work harder.

- Bake everything at the same time: pies, bread, turkey, ham and potatoes. The more your oven can do at once, the less time you need to use it. Leave enough space between items for air and heat to circulate.

- The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a large burner wastes heat from the part of the burner that does not touch the pot.