

Space heaters can burn a hole in your wallet

Space heaters, which are designed to warm up small spaces, have become a popular solution for battling the winter chill. They offer convenience, portability and the ability to target specific areas, making them a choice for many seeking quick warmth.

However, the convenience they bring often comes at a price – an increased energy bill.

One of the primary reasons space heaters can hike up your energy costs is that some people misuse them. While they're intended for localized heating, some attempt to use them as the primary heat source for an entire room or even an entire home. This can lead to a significant spike in electricity consumption, as space heaters are generally less efficient and more power-hungry compared to central heating systems.

To mitigate this, it's crucial to use space heaters only where they are genuinely needed, such as in drafty corners, small offices or bathrooms. If you're trying to heat the whole house, it's more cost-effective to rely on central heating systems.

For a more energy-efficient approach to stay warm during the winter, consider other options based on your specific needs. Layering up with warm clothing, sealing drafts in your home and using programmable thermostats can help manage your energy consumption. Additionally, zone heating and using electric blankets can be energy-efficient alternatives to whole-house heating.

Choosing the right method to stay warm during the winter can help you strike a balance between comfort and cost-effectiveness.



Continued from front

When you log in, you'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous seasons, if you want to compare costs. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

MyClayElectric can be accessed from your desktop or laptop by visiting clayelectric.com/myclayelectric – or you can download the free app by visiting the **App** or **Google Play** stores.

Still time to grab a 2024 calendar



The 2024 Clay Electric calendars are still up for grabs at your district office. This year, the calendar focuses on energy efficiency, and ways for you to save on your monthly bill. It also features the popular Barnett Fish and 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 on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

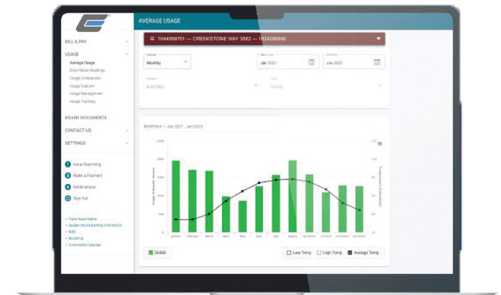
Power Line

December 2023

MyClayElectric: New look, new experience, same app

Have you logged in to MyClayElectric recently?

If so, you've noticed the improvements to the application in a simplified, yet enhanced design.



The new version of MyClayElectric puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze.

The architecture of the new platform also makes the system more adaptable for future changes.

Continued on back

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Be informed: 3 trustee meetings in January

It's always important to remind our members exactly what it means to be part of the Clay Electric Cooperative — the advantages of being part of an organization that's largely run by you, the people we serve.

Apart from our competitive rates and top-notch customer service, another benefit is the power of choice. In this case, I'm talking about Clay Electric's nine-member Board of Trustees, all of whom are elected by our members to ensure the cooperative remains focused on delivering reliable and affordable energy.

These individuals, however, aren't just anyone — they are each uniquely members of Clay Electric, and the election process underscores the cooperative's democratic structure, as it is run by and for its members.

Each year, three positions on the Board of Trustees are up for election. This year, the districts include:

District 3: Susan Reeves, who will hold a meeting Jan. 9, 2024 at the Windsor Baptist Church in Gainesville. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

District 5: Dewitt Hersey, who will hold a meeting Jan. 11, 2024 at the Sampson City Church of God in Starke. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

District 7: John Henry Whitehead, who will hold a meeting Jan. 8, 2024 at the First Christian Church in Lake Butler. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

One or two members who reside in these districts will be chosen as candidates who all members will later vote on. If you're unsure about the district boundaries, head to clayelectric.com/communications for a copy of the Member Handbook.

Notably, for these district meetings to be legal, at least 15 members of the cooperative within the respective district must be present; it's one of the few duties requested of you as a member of Clay Electric. A door prize will be given to a member who has registered for the meeting, and I implore members of these districts to attend and be properly informed ahead of online voting, which begins Jan. 29.

As we look toward the new year, your cooperative continues exploring ways to innovate new technologies to improve our services. While our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, we're committed to keeping your homes connected and powered at an affordable cost.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families, and if you missed my note in last month's edition of the Kilowatt, I want to again extend my warmest wishes and give thanks for you all this holiday season. Your trust and support in Clay Electric is apparent, and it drives our commitment to the communities we serve.

Turning our focus now to 2024, your cooperative will continue its mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity that you expect and deserve, combined with excellent customer service.

5 ways to safeguard your home this winter

As we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season:

- 1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.** If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually.
- 2. Inspect electrical cords.** Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked.
- 3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.
- 4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks.
- 5. Practice safety in the kitchen.** Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

