

MEMBER SERVICES

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric website (clayelectric.com) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)

PROJECT SHARE - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

REMOTE METER READING (RMR) - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

SURGEBLASTER - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

PAYMENT STATIONS - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1.50 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online (clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS - Clay offers a credit and debit card payment option. To make a credit or debit card payment, call Western Union SpeedPay at 1-888-822-0545 or visit clayelectric.com

3040-20075

Trustee district meetings set for early February

Members of the co-op will gather at four trustee district meetings in early February for the purpose of selecting candidates for the co-op's board of trustees.

Districts 3, 5 and 7 are up for election. A special election for District 8, which covers portions of Levy, Marion and Lake counties, will be held due to the death of incumbent trustee Cedrick Smith last fall.

Susan Reeves is the incumbent trustee for District 3. The District 3 meeting will be held at the Windsor Baptist Church in Windsor on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Robert "Doc" Mullins holds the trustee seat for District 5. Mullins has decided to not seek re-election. The District 5 meeting will be held at the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke on Thursday, Feb. 9.

John Henry Whitehead is the incumbent trustee in District 7. The District 7 meeting will be held at the Lake Butler Community Center in Lake Butler on Monday, Feb. 6.

The District 8 trustee meeting will be held at the Williston Woman's Club in Williston on Monday, Feb. 13.

All of the meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Registration of members begins at 6 p.m.

Each year, three positions on the co-op's nine-member board of trustees are up for election. Members within the respective districts select one or two members to be candidates for the board of trustees. These candidates are voted upon by all members who attend and register to vote at the Annual Meeting in March.

At the district meetings, General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis will show a "Year in Review" video which highlights significant events of the past year.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

January 2012

We're upgrading our computer system to better serve you

This month Clay Electric will implement a new customer information system (CIS). This system, which is critical to the co-op's daily operations, handles all aspects of customer account services including billing, customer information, service orders, customer contacts, capital credits and more. The new system, from Harris-Cayenta, is more flexible and will enhance Clay Electric's ability to meet the changing service needs of members, as well as to adapt to future changes.

The current computer system being used by the co-op will no longer be used after Jan. 17. Customers will not be able to access their accounts on the Clay Electric website or make payments by telephone from the evening of Jan. 17 - 23. Payments will be accepted at Fidelity Express locations and at district offices. The co-op encourages customers to wait until Jan. 25 to make online payments or other changes to their accounts. There will be no late payment penalties for customers whose payments are unable to be processed during this time.

Please have patience with us as we complete this change that will enable us to better serve you in the future.

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Triadstate Energy Cooperative 

Eleven energy tips that can help you lower your electric bills in 2012

With a new year comes the many resolutions folks make that they hope will help them lose weight, exercise more and save some money. And usually by the end of the month quite a few of these resolutions get broken or forgotten.

If one of your resolutions for the new year is to save money, we offer the following 11 energy tips that can help you lower your monthly electricity bill, and that means more money in your pocket. Whether you save that money, or spend it, is up to you.

1 One of the most effective ways to control the amount of electricity you use is to understand the impact thermostat settings have on your electric bills. How much electricity your cooling and heating system uses monthly is a direct result of your desired level of comfort. Of course, there are other factors, like how energy-efficient your home is, the age and efficiency of your cooling and heating equipment, and the outdoor temperature. But the thermostat setting you choose largely determines how much you'll spend on electricity. It's a matter of personal comfort, but here are some suggestions: During winter, set the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower. During the summer, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. Every degree below 68 (when heating) and every degree above 78 (when cooling) can save 5 percent on your heating and cooling cost. Energy savings can also be realized by lowering the thermostat several degrees during (winter) sleeping hours. In the summer, bump the thermostat setting up a couple of degrees if the home will be unoccupied for more than a few hours.

2 Check your heating/air conditioning unit's air filter monthly and clean or replace if needed. Why not check it every time your electric bill arrives. Dirty filters reduce the

efficiency of your heating/air conditioning system, and this costs you money.

3 Had your home's heating/air conditioning unit serviced lately? If it's been over a year, it's time to have it done. Units that are properly maintained can provide more efficient service and are less likely to break down.

4 When buying a new appliance, look at its energy guide label. This label shows the energy efficiency of the appliance in comparison to other appliances of the same size. Typically, the more energy-efficient an appliance is, the higher its purchase price but the lower its lifetime operating cost.

5 If your clothes dryer is located inside a portion of your home that is cooled or heated, it will vent a considerable amount of conditioned air outside while operating. To reduce this effect, open a window near the clothes dryer so it can pull in outside air. If the laundry room can be separated from the conditioned area of your home by closing a door, please do so.

6 One way to reduce the operating time of your home's heating and cooling system is to ensure that its air distribution (duct) system is in good shape. If you notice accumulations of dust in your home when the heating/air conditioning system has operated for a while, it's probably due to leaks in the duct system. A leaky duct system can contribute to higher monthly electric bills by reducing the efficiency of your heating/air conditioning system. If you suspect that your duct system has leaks, it will probably pay to have it inspected.

7 Check the thermostat setting of your water heater. There's no reason to heat water to a temperature higher than 120 degrees. Heating

water to a higher temperature only boosts your electricity consumption.

8 Home lighting isn't a major part of your electric bill, but over time, using the proper type of light can help save you money. Consider using fluorescent lighting in areas where lighting is required for extended periods. Use incandescent bulbs in areas where light is needed infrequently. Keep lamp globes clean to obtain maximum benefit from the bulb's output.

9 Exhaust fans can have a role in helping lower your electric bills by removing high levels of moisture. Run kitchen exhaust fans during cooking and for 20 minutes afterward to remove cooking odors and excess moisture. Run bathroom exhaust fans during baths or showers and 20 minutes afterward to remove excess moisture.

10 If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is kept closed except when in use. Understand that while a crackling fire provides a pleasing ambiance, it's not very energy-efficient. As the fire burns in the fireplace, it pulls air that your home's heating system has heated right up the chimney.

Got an older refrigerator in the garage? Eliminate it if possible, **11** because it's probably costing you as much as \$30-\$40 per month, depending on the garage temperature. If you can't part with it, at least unplug it until it's actually needed for extra storage.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: KRichardson@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Jan. 26 and Feb. 29 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.