

House won't cool down? Schedule a free energy survey

If you feel like your HVAC unit is working overtime and your home isn't cool enough, why not schedule a free energy survey with Clay Electric — your trusted energy partner?

Our Energy Services team looks at various factors like insulation, air leaks and we'll determine if your air conditioner is working as it should be. We'll also check the efficiency of your appliances to see if you could be saving money there, too.

Members can reach out to Energy Services through the MyClayElectric app and submit an inquiry through "Contact Us," or head to clayelectric.com/energysurveys.

We're committed to empowering our members with the information and resources needed to make informed decisions about energy usage.

EXTREME HEAT

Continued from front

Here are some tips:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.
- Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms. They can make you feel 4 degrees cooler. (Remember to turn off when you leave the room)
- Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
- Close drapes and blinds during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.

MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit ClayElectric.com to access your account information:

- View current charges and account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Report a power outage or view status
- View energy usage and find ways to save
- Request Paperless Billing
- Sign up for automatic monthly payments

OPERATION ROUND UP — A program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit organizations in Clay Electric's service area for the purpose of improving the quality of life of our members and their communities. Participating members' electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount. The funds are placed in a separate account to be allocated by the Clay Electric Foundation.

SURGEBLASTER — High quality surge protection equipment at a low price.

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

METER ACCESS — Clay Electric's AMI meters include technology allowing them to be read remotely. These meters improve meter reading efficiencies and accuracy, but even with remote reading capabilities, the member is responsible for keeping the meter clear of obstructions and providing the co-op with access to the meter. The meter is Clay Electric's property and we require access. Providing access allows staff to conduct maintenance or obtain a manual reading.

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 Aug. 22, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

August 2024

Sweat finances less during August's extreme temps

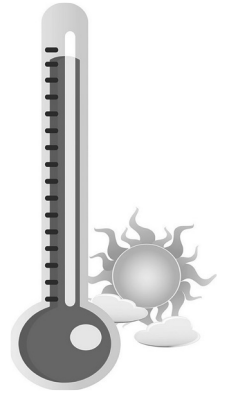
It's already been a scorcher of a summer, and as August is historically the hottest month of the year, chances are good it'll be a hot second before relief is in sight.

As a member of a not-for-profit cooperative, you receive your electricity at cost. But as members collectively stay indoors to avoid the heat, air conditioners will no doubt be working overtime.

That increase causes spikes in demand, which we call energy peaks. During these peaks, Clay Electric works closely with Seminole Electric Cooperative, our wholesale energy provider, to continue a balanced supply of electricity for the communities we serve.

When demand spikes, so does the production of electricity, which in turn means more spent during the peak. Those higher prices along with the increase in usage are why these hotter months typically produce the highest bills of the year.

Conserving energy during Clay Electric's peak hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday) helps during extreme summer heat, but members all have to work together to make a collective impact.



Continued inside

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Your daily power likely costs less than a morning latte

Just the other day, I was at the grocery store when a gentleman opened a refrigerator door on the dairy aisle, scoffed out loud at the cost of milk, shut the door and walked away empty-handed.

A gallon of milk, a carton of eggs, a loaf of bread — everything at the store has gone up. But do you know what remains a remarkable value? The cost of electricity.

Did you know: People now spend about \$6 on average for a latte during their morning caffeine run? (No more scrounging around for loose change in the cupholder.) On top of that, a simple fast food run for lunch averages about 10 bucks.

But, for all-day power, the average daily cost is only \$4.57 — that's less than \$5.

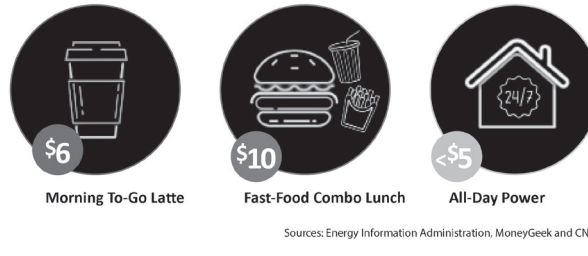
Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate.

Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



As your member-owned cooperative, Clay Electric will continue to do everything it can to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value. It's not easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions.

Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Clay Electric considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members.

Remember, we'll never charge you more for your power than it costs us to deliver it to your home or business. That's the advantage of being part of a cooperative.

\$2K scholarships available for adults

If you are an adult in school or returning to college, you may want to consider applying for a Clay Electric scholarship.

For almost 30 years, the co-op has given scholarships to high school seniors to assist them with their higher education goals. This year, the co-op is again awarding five \$2,000 "Back to Your Future Scholarships."

This scholarship program is limited to any student/applicant, age 22 or older, who meets the following criteria:

- Home/residence must be served by Clay Electric
- Applicant cannot be a previous winner of a Clay Electric Scholarship
- Applicant has earned a High School Diploma or GED Completion Certificate prior to the application
- Applicant must be registered at and/or attending an accredited college or trade school for the spring 2024 semester.

The scholarships will be awarded based on need; leadership and/or community service; and educational goals and career plans. Applications must be received by Sept. 13.

Visit ClayElectric.com/scholarships or your local district office for an application.