

## Outage? MyClayElectric.

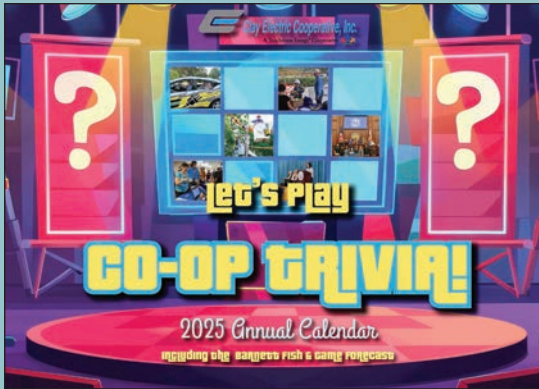
If the power goes out at your home or business, step No. 1 is to check your **MyClayElectric** app. As soon as you're logged in, it will tell you if we've detected the outage, and if so, no need to report a thing!



If the app says no outages are detected in your area, that's your cue to report it via the app. It's the fastest way for us to get a crew working on restoration.

Are smartphones not really your thing? You can still call in the outage. In case you missed our announcement last month, there's a new number for that: **1-855-939-3840**. It's also the same number to make a bill payment.

## Still time to grab a 2025 calendar



The 2025 Clay Electric calendars are still up for grabs at your district office.

Test your knowledge this year with co-op trivia. You're bound to learn something new!

The calendar also features the popular Barnett Fish and Game Forecast.

## SPACE HEATERS

Continued from front

You're better off improving the overall efficiency of your home. Here are some tips for that:

- Add caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors (low-cost option).
- Adding insulation is another step, depending on the size of your home.

We know it might be unclear what your home really needs — maybe it just seems to never warm up and you can't figure out why — and that's what Clay Electric is here for. Schedule a free energy survey with our Energy Services department. Just open your **MyClayElectric** app, tap "more" at the bottom and submit a miscellaneous inquiry for "free energy survey." You can also go to **ClayElectric.com/Energy-Surveys** or give us a call at 1-800-224-4917.

### Are you heating a small space?

Did you answer yes? If your home is energy efficient, but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than others, a space heater might suit your needs.

Just like a ceiling fan, only use a space heater in small spaces you're occupying, and if you leave the room, turn it off. Make sure it's properly sized for the room you're heating — most include a general sizing table.

An estimated 25,000 residential fires are associated with space heaters yearly, so make sure you're using a new model that includes the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

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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](mailto:NJones@clayelectric.com). Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Dec. 17 and Jan. 23 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

December 2024

## Are space heaters efficient? It depends.

December in Florida is a month that one day, you're able to get away with the windows open, while another day, you're bundling up due to a cold snap.

If it's the latter, you might think about clicking on the heater, and some might think that one of those smaller, portable space heaters will do the trick just fine. But before you do that, we want to remind you: Space heaters can be **energy hogs** and older ones can be **dangerous**.



Small space heaters are meant to heat a small area, and some people are trying to use these to heat their entire home, which can cause an energy bill spike. Whether you should use a space heater depends more on your home's efficiency and energy needs, and really, there's only one time they're worth using.

### Are you compensating for efficiency issues?

Those issues might include inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors or an inefficient heating system. If you answered yes, space heaters aren't practical in this scenario.

Continued on back

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

# You can't be a co-op without giving back

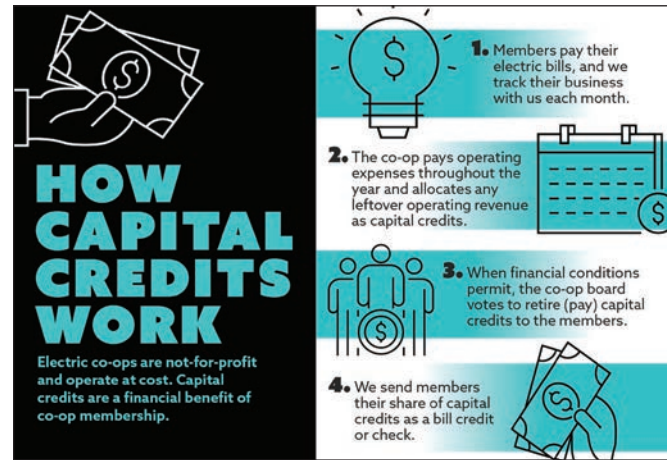
Clay Electric's mission is safe, reliable and affordable power to our nearly 200,000 members, all of whom give the cooperative a purpose. We're proud to serve each of you, and we — like other co-ops — are rooted in giving back to communities.

Throughout the year, many of our members help power that purpose by choosing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar amount. Those extra cents collected in Operation Round Up support local charitable organizations and community services. Last year, you helped raise more than \$1 million, and you're on track to do the same this year.

Your co-op also invests in students, providing the Youth Scholarship program exclusively for members who are high school seniors, and the Back to Your Future Scholarship program, which is limited to members age 22+ who are registered for and/or attending college. We also support the Youth Tour to Washington contest, which gives four high school juniors from the service area an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. during the nation's Youth Week.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, and as a member, we give back to you annually through capital credits. Because we operate at cost, we give any remaining funds back to you rather than outside investors or shareholders. Here's how that works:

You, our members, use the electricity provided by Clay Electric and pay your



monthly bills, and the co-op tracks how long you've been a member. Clay Electric pays operating expenses throughout the year, and if operating revenue is left, those funds become capital credits.

As long as financial conditions permit, the board of trustees votes to pay those capital credits back to members, and those credits are applied directly to your energy bill. Former members receive a check.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits. Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists.

## 3 trustee seats up for election, meetings in January

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

**District 1: Cindy Loose**, who will hold a meeting Jan. 9, 2025, at the First Baptist Church Keystone Heights, 550 E. Walker Dr., Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

**District 8: Jo Ann R. Smith**, who will hold a meeting Jan. 6, 2025, at the Wacahoota Methodist Church, 10111 NE SR 121, Williston, FL, 32696. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

**District 9: Karen Hastings**, who will hold a meeting Jan. 7, 2025, at the Marston Lodge at 11351 E. Highway 316 Fort McCoy, FL, 32134. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. 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](http://clayelectric.com/communications) for a copy of the Member Handbook.

For 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.

