

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Retiree Luncheon

CMEC invited all retirees to the co-op for lunch on May 11, 2023. Everyone enjoyed sharing a meal and catching up on the latest industry changes. Amy Borntager, CEO, discussed the many challenges our co-op has faced in the last few years and thanked them for dedicating their lives to serving our members.

Ways to \$ave

Check out these resources and tools on our website (cmec.coop) to help you plan to conserve energy and lower your monthly bill. Contact us at info@cmec.coop if you would like information emailed to you.

- 101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money
- Building the Home of Your Dreams
- Home Energy Savings Guide
- Smarthub App
- Unique Energy Needs



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER

6

MEMBER CELEBRATION

Join us Friday, Oct. 6,
at Peterson Park in
Mattoon for our
Member Celebration
& Annual Meeting.

Coffee
on the Co-op



Join us for
coffee & conversation

Wednesday, July 26
7-8:30 a.m.

The Depot in Neoga

Stay tuned for next month's location!

All members are welcome!



Go Paperless and Win

Sign up for paperless billing:

1. Login **or** create a SmartHub account on our website, cmec.coop.
2. Go to *Manage My Registered Accounts*.
3. Go to *Update My Paperless Settings*.
4. Click "off," and it will ask you, "Are you sure you want to set account to paperless?"
5. Click "Yes."

The 2,000th member to sign up will receive a \$100 bill credit.

Paperless Bills

Go Paperless!!

Would you like to turn off paper bills?

☒ Yes

☐ No

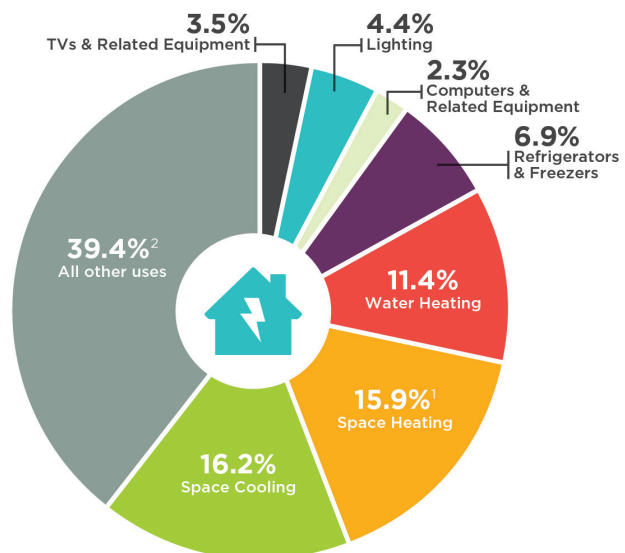
Please note that this will apply to all accounts registered with this email address.

Submit

Cancel

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.
²Includes miscellaneous electronics, clothes washers and dryers, cooking equipment, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.



Reminder

Members can enroll or sign up for Air Evac, also called Air Med Care Network Membership, through CMEC for \$5 per month on your electric bill. Forms are available by emailing info@cmec.coop. Visit www.airmedcarenetwork.com for more information.

We're Here to Serve You

"We're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

CMEC was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way a community could bring electricity to an area where there was none. In doing so, your co-op helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape

and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

So, the next time you hear "We're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life. **Keith Nolle**

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through SmartHub or our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



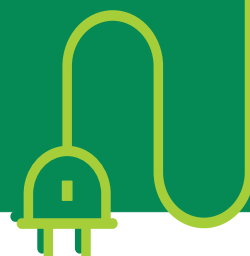
**Office will be closed
Tuesday, July 4, for
Independence Day.**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



FREE & EASY

ways to save energy

(Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference)

Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

16%



1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than \$500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council,
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Safe
Electricity.org®

Becoming a Lineman

CMEC visited Mattoon High School's Basic Construction AG Class to talk about co-op jobs.



Left to right: Lineman Bob Schafer, MHS Teacher Hannah Spain and CMEC President/CEO Amy Borntrager

Take a Hike ...

or stroll this summer at some of these wonderful outdoor locations in our service territory:

- Aikman Wildlife, Arcola
- Bo Wood, Sullivan
- Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Mattoon
- Fox Ridge State Park, Charleston
- Lake Charleston, Charleston
- Sullivan Beach, Sullivan
- The Whiteside Garden, Charleston
- Warbler Ridge, Charleston
- Wilburn Creek, Sullivan
- Wood Lake, Sullivan



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop