

WATTS GOING ON...

at Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.



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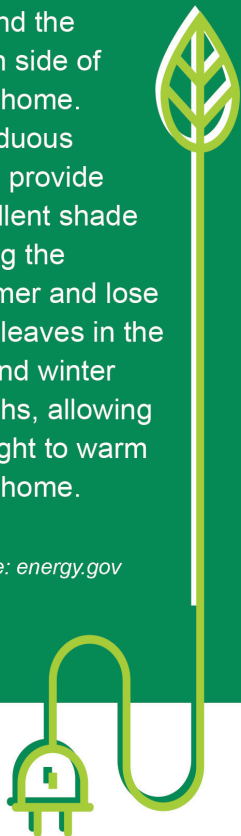
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April, 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Committed to a Co-op Culture for All

By: Mark Walling, CEO

Over the years, you've heard me expound on why and how Coastal Electric (CEC) is different-- because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including CEC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly.

Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

Equal access for all

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. CEC was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. While today's world is radically different than it was when Coastal Electric Cooperative was founded, our electric cooperative values have stood of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political

perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op. We encourage all members to vote in the cooperative's director elections every October at our Annual Meeting.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

Inclusion

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

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today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you--the members we proudly serve--is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

CO-OP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



With an Energy Advance loan, members can finance their energy-saving home improvement projects with a low-interest and fixed-rate loan that gets applied to their electric bill.

This program may be used in an existing home for:

- High efficiency heat pumps
- Dual Fuel Systems
- Insulation
- Attic Ventilation Systems
- Programmable Thermostats
- Caulking & Weather Stripping
- Thermal Windows & Insulated Doors
- Standby Emergency Generators
- Electric Water Heater

Call Us At 843-538-5700 or visit our website, www.coastal.coop, for Full Program Details





Mark Walling, President & CEO

Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

2269 Jefferies Highway
Walterboro, SC 29488

www.coastal.coop

Office Hours
8:00–4:30 p.m.
Monday–Friday

General Information
(843) 538-5700

Outage Lines
(843) 538-5700
(843) 538-5800

Automated Phone System
(843) 538-5800

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CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

2015 NRECA Board Resolution

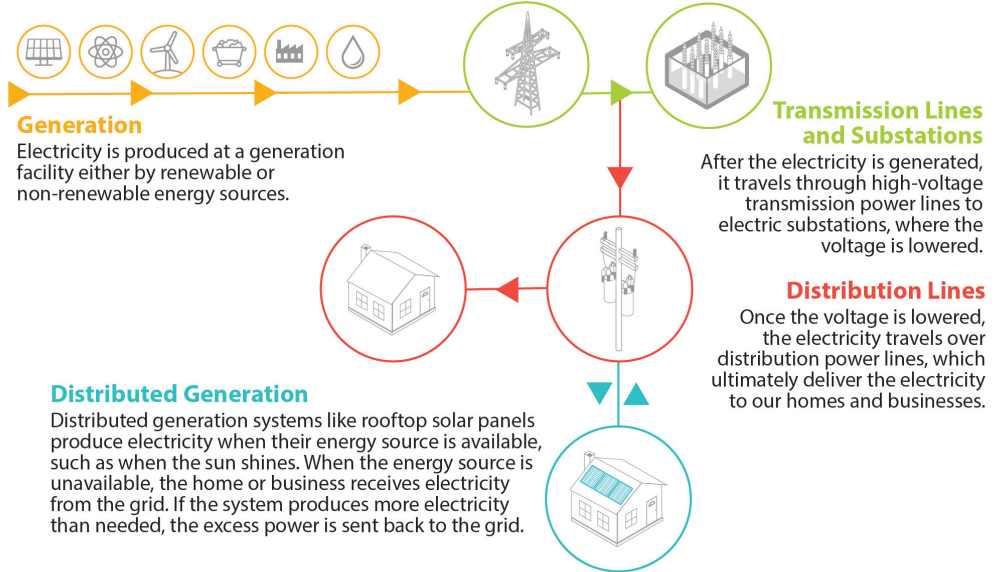
"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."



April 17-21 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. If you approach a roadside crew while driving, please move into an open lane (away from the work zone). If a lane is not open, please slow down. #NWZAW #WorkZoneSafety



HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

BY: Abby Berry

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money--and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels--and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to

illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. Call Coastal Electric at 843-538-5700 to make an appointment or submit a request on our website www.coastal.coop. One of our trained Member Services Advisors will come to your home on the scheduled date and time and evaluate the energy efficiency of your entire home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.

Planning a project that requires digging? Don't forget to call 811 at least two business days before you start! 811 is a free, easy-to-use service. Take advantage to keep you and your neighbors safe. #SafeDiggingMonth



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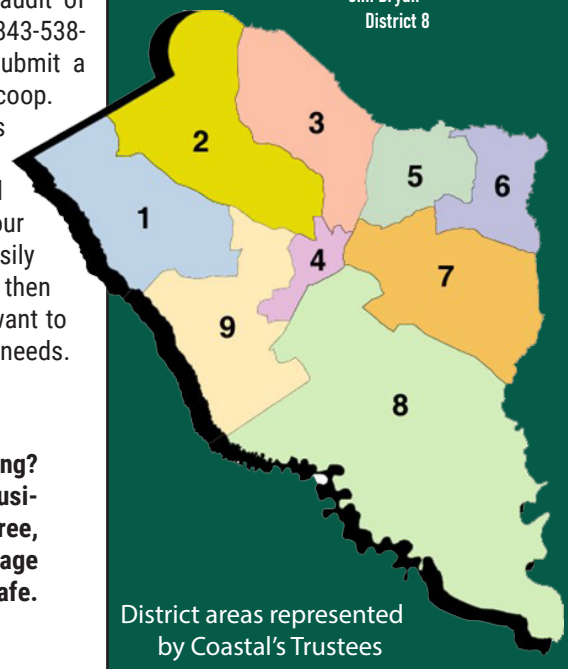
Johnny Frank
District 3



Wendell McDonald
District 7



Jim Bryan
District 8



District areas represented
by Coastal's Trustees

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Community CONNECTION

SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SCRAMBLE

Did you know there are several ways you can save energy during spring months?

Read the efficiency tips below and unscramble the bolded letters to reveal how you and your family can save energy during springtime.

Don't forget to check your work in the answer key below!



1. Sealing air leaks around doors and **diwwson** saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

2. LED **hlgist** typically use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.

3. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone **scragher**.

4. Planting shade **esrte** around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

5. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room to save **yengre**.

Answer Key: 1) windows 2) lights 3) chargers 4) trees 5) energy

MEMBER'S RECIPES

Submitted by: Judy Campbell

BANANA CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Large Bananas
- 2 Eggs
- 2 cups Sugar
- 1/2 cup Oil
- 2 cups Self-rising Flour
- 1 cup Chopped Nuts
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°

Mash bananas with fork. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.

Pour into a greased and floured tube pan.

Bake for 1 hour.

Recipes are selected at random. If you would like to see your own recipe printed in this section, please send it with your name, address and phone number to Coastal Electric.

If we use your recipe, you will receive a \$50.00 credit on your bill.



COASTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative