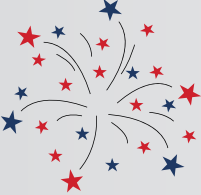


# WATTS GOING ON...

at Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## CONTENT

We're Here to Serve You  
PAGE 1

Automatic Payments with SmartHub  
PAGE 2

Get Smart About Home Lighting  
PAGE 3

Community Connection  
PAGE 4



July, 2023

## We're Here to Serve You

By: Anne Prince



*Pictured (date unknown) are early CEC employees (L-R) Richard Dean, work order clerk; Earl Bishop, truck driver; Gerald Webster, lineman; and R. Monroe Crosby, lineman.*

"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.

Coastal Electric Cooperative was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our coop for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, CEC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is 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.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out [www.coastal.coop](http://www.coastal.coop) for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling a free

energy audit with one of our energy experts to identify ways you can save energy at home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective--to sell their products and services--we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best

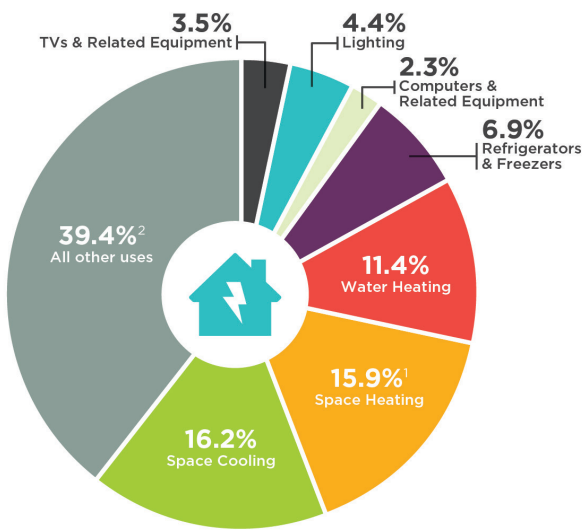
options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

So, the next time you hear Coastal Electric use the phrase "we're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into 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.

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

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



Wendell McDonald District 7

**Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

2269 Jefferies Highway  
Walterboro, SC 29488

[www.coastal.coop](http://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

Board of Trustees

- LaVern Polk, District 1 - *Chairman*
- James Bunton, Jr., District 2 - *V. Chairman*
- Ian Padgett, District 9 - *Secretary*
- Terry Hoff, District 6 - *Treasurer*
- Johnny Frank, District 3
- Jamey Copeland, District 4
- Bill Smoak, District 5
- Wendell McDonald, District 7
- Jim Bryan, District 8



# AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS



Life is busy and it can feel overwhelming when managing your monthly bills. With Auto Pay you will experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill with just a couple quick steps.

**Experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill.**

### HOW CAN AUTO PAY HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR BILL?

Our SmartHub Auto Pay option is a simple, easy to use solution to manage your monthly bill.

With our current advancements in online payment security, you should never have to feel overwhelmed or hesitant setting up your monthly bills on Auto Pay.

You deserve to experience the convenience of setting and forgetting your monthly bill. Enjoy the benefits of Auto Pay:

- Avoid late fees and service interruptions.
- Have peace of mind knowing your bills are up to date.
- Get back more time by securely automating your bill payments
- Easily control all of your payment settings

**Billing & Payments:** Save time with the automation of Auto Pay. Enjoy the convenience of being able to set it and forget it while avoiding the possibility of missed payments, late fees, and service interruptions.



### WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO ACTIVATE SMARTHUB AUTO PAY?

You will need to have created a SmartHub account with your email address and your account number, your account number can be located on your monthly bill or in your SmartHub account.

### HOW WILL YOU ACTIVATE AUTO PAY?

#### Step 1: Login to your SmartHub Account

If you haven't registered yet, download the app or visit our web portal to get started. You can find the registration button on our SmartHub support page at [domain.com/smarthub](http://domain.com/smarthub).

#### Step 2: Set-Up Auto Pay Billing

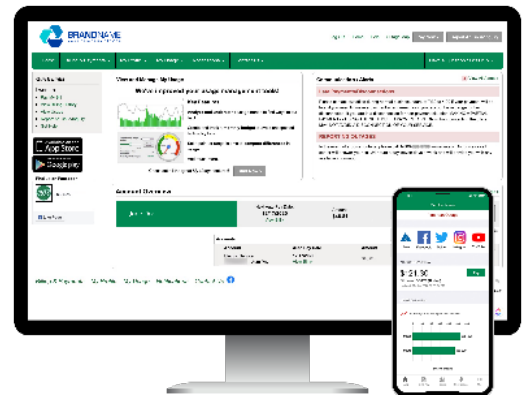
**Step 3: Enjoy the convenience** of having your bill paid on time every month.

#### Mobile App Downloads:

For information on how to download our free, secure SmartHub app from the Apple or Google Play stores, visit our SmartHub support page at <https://coastal.coop/my-account/ways-to-pay/>

#### ATTENTION CURRENT AUTO PAY MEMBERS:

After you register your account in SmartHub, to keep your scheduled payments on track you will be required to re-enter your Auto Pay information.



### NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have any questions, you may contact us by sending an email to [coastal.electric@coastal.coop](mailto:coastal.electric@coastal.coop) or calling 843-538-5700.

Visit <https://coastal.coop> on our "Ways to Pay" page for more information!



Visit [www.coastal.coop](http://www.coastal.coop) for more information

**Sign Up for Automatic Payments and be Entered to Win a \$100 Gift Card\***

*\* All Entries Must Be Received by August 4th*

## Get Smart About Home Lighting

By: Abby Berry

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which



*If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Photo Credit: Philips*

includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green--whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help.

For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

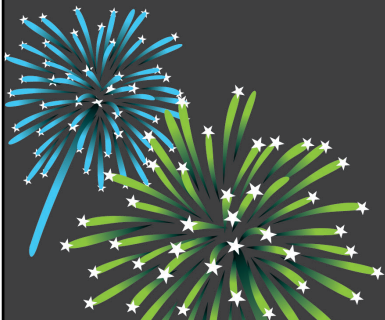
If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!

## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:



- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

## 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





# Community CONNECTION

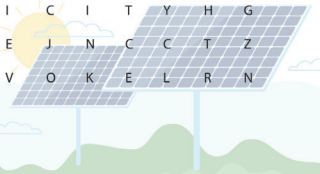
## HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK WORD SEARCH



Did you know energy from the sun can be used to create electricity? Read the following information about how solar panels work, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Solar panels contain **photovoltaic** cells that convert sunlight into **electricity**. Sunlight hits the **solar** panels and generates a direct current. The direct **current** flows to an inverter, which converts it to an alternating current. (This is the kind of electricity we use in our homes.) The alternating current flows from the **inverter** to the home's breaker box, where it's used to **power** appliances and electrical devices in your home. If the solar **panels** generate more **electricity** than the home needs, the unused electricity is sent back to the power lines.

T N B S T T G Z O V S U Y V K  
 P H Y I C T N H Z O V K W Z A  
 P B N G E O Z E L P L K K B R  
 G H T Q Y N P A R F N R C A E  
 R X O D W G R Q W R B Z S U T  
 S P K T X D S T O Y U T U Q R  
 V O U U O S L E N A P C Y S E  
 F F S W R V X E H Z P D W U V  
 H F B E X I O B Q G F P Y N N  
 I V W I W O N L E F P X V L I  
 X O Y C Z J K Z T A J F F I F  
 P R X S F Z K E U A D P Q G V  
 B K E L E C T R I C I T Y H G  
 V S B F U E I U E J N C C T Z  
 J M T V H W S M V O K E L R N



## MEMBER'S RECIPES

Submitted by: Priscilla Rogers

### CHICKEN MILANESE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 3 Boneless Chicken Breast
- 1/4 Cup - Milk
- 1 Tbsp - Dijon Mustard
- 3 Eggs
- 1/2 Cup - Flour
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 Cup - Plain Bread Crumbs
- 1/2 Cup - Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- Olive Oil

#### DIRECTIONS

- Place chicken breast between 2 sheets of wax paper. Beat until thin.
- Create 3 bowls - (1) Flour, Salt, Pepper (2) Milk, Mustard, Egg (3) Bread Crumbs, Parmesan Cheese
- Season Chicken with Salt and Pepper on both sides. Coat in 1st bowl, then 2nd bowl and then 3rd bowl.
- Heat olive oil in skillet, cook 3 minutes per side until done.
- Serve with Caesar Salad and Enjoy!

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.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Unlike other types of electric utilities, electric co-ops provide the majority of their power to homes rather than businesses.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Across the U.S., electric cooperatives serve 42 million people.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Collectively, electric co-op wind and solar capacity is enough to power more than 3.4 million homes.



### DID YOU KNOW?

You are a member of an electric co-op! Members are at the heart of everything we do.

