

CEC **inside** *your* **co-op**

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | JULY 2026

Powering the Future

Use efficiency tips to lower summer usage

Improving energy efficiency at home and business doesn't have to involve expensive upgrades or months of renovations. With a few adjustments to your habits and do-it-yourself projects, you can make your home and business more comfortable and save money too. Here are some key areas to focus on:

Lighting: Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED light bulbs, which consume up to 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than regular bulbs.

Appliance usage: Regularly maintain office equipment and large appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers and washing machines to ensure they are operating efficiently. Maximize efficiency by running these appliances only when you have a full load.

Minimize "vampire" energy: Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use, as they can still draw power in standby mode. Smart power strips can help you easily disconnect multiple devices at once.

Heating and cooling: Ensure your HVAC system is properly maintained, and adjust thermostat settings to conserve energy when you are away. Consider using a programmable or smart thermostat to automate temperature adjustments based on your schedule.

Proper insulation: Ensure proper insulation in walls, ceilings and around windows and doors to minimize heat loss. Sealing air leaks with caulk or weatherstripping and ensuring proper insulation can also significantly reduce heating and cooling costs.

Water heating: Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120°F to reduce high energy consumption. Insulating your water heater and the first six feet of hot and cold water pipes can also help.

Natural light and airflow: In warmer months, close blinds and curtains on the sunny side of your home or business to help keep it cooler. In colder months, open window blinds and curtains on south-facing windows to allow the sun to warm your home and office and close them at night.

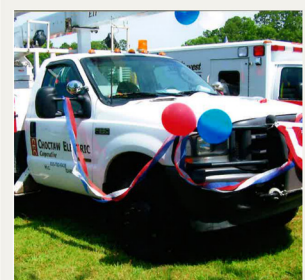
Educate employees: At the office, encourage staff to participate in energy-saving initiatives and ask for energy efficiency suggestions. Encourage employees to turn off lights, computers and other devices when not in use.

Seek expert advice: If you are unsure where to start, consider a professional home and business energy audit. An auditor can assess your home and business energy usage and identify areas for improvement.



Happy 250th birthday, America!

Look inside this issue to learn how Choctaw Electric Cooperative is celebrating our nation's 250th year.



Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.

CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

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Hugo, OK 74743

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Working together to keep costs in check

As our nation celebrates its 250th birthday this month, we are reminded that progress depends on planning for the future. Just as previous generations invested in the infrastructure that powers our communities today, electric cooperatives continue working to ensure a reliable and affordable energy future for the members we serve.

Across the region, electric utilities are facing new challenges as energy demand continues to grow and reliability requirements become more stringent. Recent changes within the Southwest Power Pool, a regional transmission organization for the electric grid, require utilities to maintain additional generation capacity to meet demand during extreme weather events. While these measures are designed to strengthen grid reliability, they also increase costs as utilities work to build and maintain the resources needed to meet them.

Over time, some of these costs will be reflected in the price of electricity.



CEO Kooney Duncan

That's why efficient energy use is one of the most effective tools available to manage long-term costs. While conservation alone won't eliminate the need for new generation resources, every kilowatt-hour saved helps reduce demand on the system and helps keep costs lower for everyone.

At Choctaw Electric Cooperative, we're committed to providing resources that help members manage their energy use. Through the free SmartHub app, members can monitor their electricity usage, helping identify

trends or changes that may affect their bills. We also offer home energy audits and loans to help members reduce energy waste and improve comfort. For practical ways to lower your energy use this summer, check out the energy efficiency tips on Page 1.

As we plan for the future, reliability remains a priority. By working together and using energy wisely, we can help ensure a dependable system while managing costs long term.



CEC Youth Tour delegates named among top five Youth Leadership Council finalists

Congratulations to CEC Youth Tour delegates Emerson McElroy (left) and Clayton Loard (right) on being selected as top five finalists for the Youth Leadership Council! This honor recognizes exceptional leadership, service and community impact. Read more about their Youth Tour journey in next month's newsletter.





Celebrate Independence Day by giving back

The Fourth of July is a day for many of America's favorite traditions—cook-outs with family, community celebrations, parades and fireworks after dark. This year, the holiday also marks a historic milestone: our nation's 250th anniversary.

While much of the celebration will focus on the past, a new initiative called Giving 4th encourages Americans to look ahead. The effort asks people to honor our nation's birthday by giving a gift to their communities through volunteer service, charitable donations or simple acts of kindness.

The idea is a natural fit for Choctaw

Electric Cooperative. Even before Giving 4th became a national campaign, neighbors helping neighbors was the way we operated. We know that local involvement and community support make a difference.

As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, it's worth considering what kind of country we want to leave for the next generation. Setting aside some time to help a neighbor, support a local cause or strengthen your community is one way to invest in America's next 250 years.

Learn more about Giving 4th at America250.org.



CEC volunteers support Special Olympics Oklahoma State Games

CEC employees Bart Tedder and Brad Kendrick and board member Jana Burris volunteered May 13–15 at the 2026 Special Olympics Oklahoma State Games in Stillwater. More than 7,000 athletes participated in the three-day event, supported by volunteers from 22 electric co-ops who assisted with track events.

Office Closure

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in celebration of Independence Day.

Go Paperless

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486.

Buddy Ball is Back

Grab your glove and meet us on the diamond this fall—Buddy Ball returns Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026! This free, non-competitive game is designed for children through adults with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities. Contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241, for more information or to volunteer. Let's play ball!

Summer Peak Hours

A summer peak alert may be called between June 20 and Sept. 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will announce peak alerts on our Facebook page, via the SmartHub app and on the radio. Please help us reduce electricity use during peak hours as it helps keep our cost stable.

Powering and Empowering

Oklahoma's electric cooperatives serve 93% of the state's landmass, powering more than 1.1 million Oklahomans, serving 559,000+ in-state meters and over 138,000 meters in surrounding states. Co-ops maintain 118,800+ miles of distribution line.

Lucky Acct. #38857435

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241, by the 5th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.





Choctaw Electric Cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m. | Hugo Agriplex, Hugo, OK

OTHER NOTABLE DATES

July 28

Trustee candidate filing for
CEC Districts B, C, & G
due at CEC by 5 p.m.

Aug. 12

Revisions due to
proposed amendments

Aug. 27 - Sept. 1

Mail-in ballots delivered
to members

Showcase your historic CEC treasures!

Do you have a piece of memorabilia that reflects Choctaw Electric Cooperative's history? As part of our America's 250th Annual Meeting theme, we're creating a special display area for members to showcase their items. We'll also host a few fun contests with prizes.



Annual Meeting Vendor Booths

Scan here to access the vendor booth registration form. Booth spaces are available first come, first serve. Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords. Deadline to reserve booth: Sept. 18.



Red, White and Blue Berry Trifle

Ingredients

1 angel food cake, cut into cubes
3.4-ounce instant vanilla pudding mix
2 cups cold milk
8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
1 cup powdered sugar
8 ounces whipped topping
2 pints blueberries
2 pints strawberries, hulled & sliced

In a small bowl, combine the pudding mix and milk; whisk for 2 minutes. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese on medium speed until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Reduce speed to low and gradually add the powdered sugar. Fold the pudding and cool whip into the cream cheese mixture. Assemble the trifle, alternating layers of angel food cake, berries and pudding mixture. Add a final layer of the pudding mixture, then arrange the remaining strawberries and blueberries in a decorative pattern. Refrigerate and serve within 24 hours.



Local students shine at Energy Camp

Leadership opportunities, new friendships and plenty of enthusiasm made Energy Camp 2026 a memorable experience for Choctaw Electric Cooperative's student delegates.

Held May 26–28 at Canyon Camp in Hinton, the annual camp for eighth-graders brought together students from across Oklahoma to learn about leadership, teamwork and the cooperative difference.

Avery Witt of Antlers and Brinlee Williams and Easton Potter of Soper proudly represented the co-op. Avery and Brinlee demonstrated courage and confidence by running for Camp Board Member and Camp Manager, while Easton made a strong impact as a campaign manager.

All three students represented CEC exceptionally well through their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.

