

CEC *inside your* co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | JUNE 2026

Powering the Future

Electricity costs remain stable while other commodities experience price hikes

In an economy where prices continue to rise steadily year after year, electricity stands out as a rare example of cost stability. While the prices of many everyday items have surged over the past two decades, the cost of electricity has remained relatively flat, providing consumers with somewhat predictable energy bills amidst broader economic uncertainty.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is a not-for-profit, wholesale power supplier for 21 distribution cooperatives and Altus Air Force Base. These members, located across Oklahoma and into parts of New Mexico—including Choctaw Electric Cooperative—have had this same cost stability in past years.

Consider the following examples: Since the early 2000s, the average price of a loaf of bread has increased by nearly 60%. A gallon of milk has gone up by over 50%, and the cost of a dozen eggs has more than doubled. Gasoline, always a volatile commodity, has seen fluctuations ranging from around \$2 to over \$5 per gallon in the same timeframe. Even basic household goods like paper towels,

laundry detergent and personal care products have experienced noticeable price hikes due to inflation, supply chain disruptions and changes in raw material costs.

Electricity, however, has shown remarkable restraint. According to U.S. Energy Information Administration data, residential electric rates have increased by only about 1.5 to 2% annually on average over the past 20 years—far lower than the inflation rate of many consumer goods.

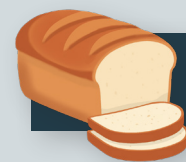
This price stability is due in part to long-term infrastructure investments, regulatory oversight and a diversified fleet that helps stabilize costs. Unlike groceries or gasoline, electricity pricing is often set through structured utility rate cases, which undergo careful review and public input, ensuring fairness and transparency.

In a world where consumers are increasingly squeezed by unpredictable expenses, the steady cost of electricity offers a measure of financial certainty. It's an essential service that remains reliably priced—even when everything else seems to be going up.

For additional information, please visit the WFEC website, www.wfec.com.

As prices rise, electric costs remain stable

Since the early 2000s, prices of many everyday items have surged, while the cost of electricity has remained relatively stable.



60%
increase in bread



50%
increase in milk



100%
increase in eggs



\$3 per gallon
fluctuation in gas



1.5-2% annual
increase in electricity

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

Hugo Office

PO Box 758
1033 N. 4250 Rd.
Hugo, OK 74743

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

Local: (580) 326-6486

Fax: (580) 326-2492

Idabel Office

2114 SE Washington
Idabel, OK 74745

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app in your device's app store

Our people, the power behind our co-op

We're beginning to see a wave of well-earned retirements across our operations team at Choctaw Electric Cooperative, representing more than 135 years of combined supervisory experience. These individuals have built a strong foundation for our cooperative, and we're glad to see them step into retirement and enjoy the next chapter. At the same time, their departures create a responsibility for us to thoughtfully prepare for what comes next. That's why investing in our people continues to be a central part of our work at CEC.



CEO Kooney Duncan

Over the years, we have built strong partnerships with the linemen training programs at Kiamichi Technology Center and Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee. Through these programs, we're able to offer internships that give individuals hands-on experience while allowing them to demonstrate their skills and work ethic. Many of these interns go on to join our team full-time, beginning as apprentices and growing

into journeymen linemen and future cooperative leaders.

Succession planning is not new for us. It's something we've been actively investing in during recent years. Developing talent allows us to maintain continuity and preserve the knowledge that keeps CEC's system strong. It also offers employees opportunities to grow and advance within the cooperative.

With a team of 61 employees and very little turnover, each hiring decision matters. We're intentional about bringing the right people onto our team—those who share our commitment to service, safety and reliability. As we plan for the future, we're also looking at how roles will evolve with new technologies and industry changes.

Through every transition, one thing remains constant: our people are the power behind everything we do.

Supporting the cooperative family

In April, Choctaw Electric Cooperative employees held an auction to benefit the Cooperative Family Fund, an organization that supports children who experience the loss of a parent who is a co-op employee. Employees donated handmade items for the auction including a coat rack made from horseshoes, a half side of pork, two handmade knives, a knife set, a gun, a portable gas burner and a silk floral arrangement. Thanks to the generosity of CEC employees, retirees and matching funds from CoBank, CEC raised \$18,650.

Total Raised: **\$18,650**

Community Highlights

Berry duo performs national anthem for statewide audience

Choctaw Electric Cooperative Right-of-Way Operator Paul Berry and his wife, Angelia, had the honor of performing the National Anthem at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting on April 13. The performance showcased their talent and proudly represented CEC on a statewide stage.

Pictured is OAEC CEO Nikki Fuller (left) with Paul and Angelia Berry. Congratulations on this special recognition and the outstanding performance!



Below: Haworth students pose with Willie Wiredhand during Wired Up for Safety. Right: Wired Up for Safety coloring contest winners.



Wired Up for Safety: CEC takes safety message to local students

For the third year, Choctaw Electric Cooperative brought its Wired Up for Safety program to local communities during a safety event on April 1.

This year, CEC took the safety campaign to Haworth School, teaching some of our youngest members about the importance of electrical safety.

From bunny hopping away from downed lines, to everyday household safety, CEC employees—and the cooperative mascot, Willie Wiredhand—helped students learn how to be responsible around electricity.

"Thank you for teaching my school about the safety rules of electricity,"

one student wrote in a thank you note to Choctaw Electric Cooperative. "Now I know not to touch an open wire."

Past years' demonstrations have focused on first-responders and emergencies involving electricity. This year's program focused on preventing electricity-related accidents.

Lucky Acct. #38862574 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.

Happy Fourth of July! Choctaw Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in celebration of Independence Day. In case of an outage, please call our 24-hour outage line.



Choctaw Electric Cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting

September 26, 8 a.m. | Hugo Agriplex, Hugo, OK

June 26

Proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC by 5 p.m.

August 12

Revisions due to proposed amendments

July 28

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

August 27 - September 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.



Thank you, members!

In February, Choctaw Electric Cooperative members joined a statewide advocacy effort through the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, sending postcards to Oklahoma legislators to advocate for safe, reliable and affordable power in rural communities.

CEC members made their voices heard, submitting 148 postcards—one of the highest totals among electric cooperatives in the state.

The effort was recognized on social media by Rep. Justin 'JJ' Humphrey, who wrote, "Our co-ops are important to making sure we have that power ready at the touch of our fingertips. That's why I'm thankful for each person who took the time to send one of these cards."



Please join us for CEC's
Spring Blood Drive

Thursday, June 18 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
CEC's Hugo office

Visit obi.org to make an appointment.

2026 Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 26, 2026 | Hugo Agriplex

Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Products to be displayed/sold: _____

Number of booth spaces: _____

Booth spaces are available first come, first serve. Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords. **Deadline to reserve booth: September 18, 2026**

Send booth reservation form to: Jia Johnson
Choctaw Electric Cooperative | PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

Local students celebrate lineworker appreciation

Congratulations to the winners of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative's 2026 Lineworker Appreciation Classroom Video Contest!

High School Winner
Haworth Public Schools Drama Dept.

Honorable Mention (Grades 3-5)
Valliant Elementary