

# CEC *inside your* co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | JANUARY 2026

## Powering the Future

Generation, transmission and distribution all play essential roles in keeping your lights on

Reliable power doesn't come from a single source—it's the result of several entities working together behind the scenes. For Choctaw Electric Cooperative members, that partnership includes Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), CEC's not-for-profit wholesale power supplier. Together, WFEC and CEC make sure electricity is generated, transmitted and ultimately delivered to your home.

WFEC provides two major components of your electricity—generation and transmission through the substation. Choctaw Electric Cooperative provides the third major component—distributing electricity from the substation to you, the end-use member.

### Generation

WFEC maintains a well-balanced and diversified portfolio of generation resources reflecting a mix of technologies and fuel types. This diversity, including natural gas units and a coal plant, plus wind resources, solar energy and hydropower allocations, helps reduce exposure to changing market conditions.

Electricity generation costs are on the rise, driven by increased demand, higher fuel costs, extreme weather conditions and global events.

### Transmission through the substation

WFEC owns more than 3,800 miles of transmission line that is operated and maintained by WFEC personnel, plus owns and maintains more than 330 substations and switch stations, which serve its member systems.

WFEC continues to improve and expand its transmission system to reduce the congestion that occurs when existing lines cannot carry the required amount of electricity. Transmission capacity shortages are becoming a growing concern across electric grids, making continued investment essential.

### Distribution

Electricity distribution is the final stage of delivering power to consumers, taking it from substations to individual homes and businesses. This is where Choctaw Electric Cooperative comes in, carrying electricity the last mile and ensuring it reaches members safely and reliably every day.

Even though this system ensures a safe and efficient supply of electricity for everyday use, there are increasing costs that lie in the modernization of energy infrastructure. CEC continues to work hard to maintain our system in order to provide reliable service.

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## 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

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bill Woolsey | Vice President  
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Debbie Cody  
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Tanya Roebuck | Executive Assistant/  
HR & Benefits  
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### FOLLOW US ONLINE

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Download the free SmartHub  
app in your device's app store

# WFEC and CEC: Working Together for You

As you read in the Page 1 article, reliable electricity is the result of multiple organizations working together. I want to take a moment to explain how Choctaw Electric Cooperative fits into that bigger picture, and how our relationship with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) works on your behalf every day.

WFEC isn't just our wholesale power supplier; it is a cooperative owned by the distribution co-ops they serve, including CEC. That means our members have representation in the decisions WFEC makes. Each of the 21 co-ops they serve, including CEC, appoints a director and an alternate to sit on its board. Through that shared governance, we help guide the generation and transmission resources that eventually power your home.

WFEC's system operates at extremely high voltages to move electricity long distances efficiently. Once power reaches the substation, that's where

CEC takes over. We step in at the point where the voltage is reduced and begin delivering it across our own system, before it's transformed again for use in your home. Think of WFEC as the highway system and CEC as the local roads that bring power directly to your door.

Since wholesale power makes up roughly 68–70% of our cost to our members, the work WFEC does has a significant impact on your monthly bill. Their long-term plan-

ning and generation and transmission improvements directly support the reliability and affordability CEC provides at the distribution level.

WFEC and CEC each have our own responsibilities, but we operate with the same members-first mindset. That partnership is what keeps the lights on, even as the energy landscape grows more complex. If you have questions about how the system works or how decisions are made, we're always happy to visit with you.



CEO Kooney Duncan

## HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU



### Step 1 Generation

Electricity is generated from various sources.



### Step 2 Step-Up Transformer

Voltage is increased to push the electricity over long distances.



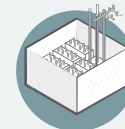
### Step 3 Transmission Power Lines

Lines carry electricity over long distances.



### Step 4 Transmission Substation

Voltage is lowered so electricity can travel across the local system.



### Step 5 Distribution Substation

Voltage is lowered further for safe distribution.



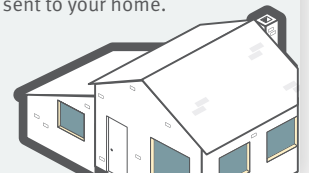
### Step 6 Distribution Power Lines

Electricity travels across these lines in your community.



### Step 7 Final Stop

A transformer reduces voltage a final time, and electricity is sent to your home.





## Operations Update: Highway 37 Right-of-Way Clearing Underway

In December, Choctaw Electric Cooperative contract crews began clearing right-of-way along Highway 37, from Iron Stob Corner heading east for 2 miles. This work is part of a highway expansion project, in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, that requires power line relocation. We will keep you informed as the project progresses.

## Employee Service Awards

In December, six CEC employees were recognized with service awards. Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated service!

# 20 15

YEARS

YEARS

Tony Hallows, Allen Billingsley,  
Jeff Rector & Jeremy Billingsley

Ryan Bryant &  
Jeremy Miller

### Go Paperless!

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

### Don't Get Scammed

Beware of "winter bill relief" energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative will never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling us at the phone number located on your electric bill—do not call any phone numbers provided in suspicious emails or texts. Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won't pressure you for immediate action.

### January Efficiency Tip

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter.

Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney.

Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation. Source: energy.gov

### Lucky Acct #38862667

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241, by the 5th of the month to claim your \$50 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.



## City of Lights Parade Shines Bright in Idabel

On Dec. 5, southeast Oklahoma welcomed the holiday season with Idabel’s City of Lights Parade, the first of many celebrations to come. Choctaw Electric Cooperative supported the event with a donation, highlighting our Concern for Community, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that guides the way we do business.

## This new year, resolve to go paperless!

Sign up for paperless billing via CEC’s free SmartHub app (available in your device’s app store) or call CEC at 800-780-6486.



# Safety First, No Matter the Weather

Storm after storm, Choctaw Electric Cooperative’s focus on safety never wavers

At Choctaw Electric Cooperative, safety is a value that guides every decision we make. Over the past several years, our team has faced some challenging situations, yet their unwavering commitment to safety has resulted in an exceptional record.

Since our last lost time accident in Nov. 2019, employees have worked more than 966,000 hours and driven 10.6 million miles without a single recordable incident.

The record is even more meaningful when you consider what our teams have weathered: Winter Storm Uri in Feb. 2021, the Idabel tornado in Nov. 2022, and Winter Storm Elliott in Dec. 2022. Our crews worked around the clock—often for days at a time—restoring power in harsh, unpredictable conditions. Even under pressure, working long hours in difficult environments, they consistently put safety first.

We put an emphasis on safety because

each one of our employees deserves to go home at the end of the day. A strong safety culture also helps us serve our members more reliably. When crews stay safe, they stay available and that means faster response times and dependable service when our communities need it most.

Through every storm and every mile driven, safety remains the promise we make to the people who power our co-op—our employees and our members.

