

Strategic Planning

CEC plans for the future every single day.

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Leave your A/C on while you're on vacation.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

MAY 2023

CEC *inside your* co-op

Spotlight

Co-op Tax Provides Financial Support For Schools

More than \$2.1 million collected in 2022 will benefit 27 school districts in CEC service area

You may not realize it, but a small part of your monthly electricity bill goes to support schools in your area. Known as the electric co-op gross receipts tax, the tax appears as a line item on your Choctaw Electric bill.

The gross receipts tax funnels millions of dollars to rural schools across Oklahoma. In 2022, the 27 school districts in and around CEC service area received more than \$2.1 million from taxes paid by CEC members and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. The tax dollars are allocated based on the number of miles of co-op power line in each district.

Electric co-ops in Oklahoma pay a two percent gross receipts tax on revenue at the wholesale and retail level. The tax is paid in lieu of typical ad valorem taxes paid by other utilities. Ninety five percent of gross receipts tax collections go directly to local schools. The remaining

five percent is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs associated with collecting and distributing the money.

On a percentage basis, electric cooperatives and their members contribute more tax dollars to local school districts than other utilities.

Co-ops support the gross receipts tax structure because the money collected remains at home. The school boards in each district decide the best way to use the money based on their school needs. ☛

TAX DISBURSEMENT FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

School	WFEC	CEC	Total
Lane School	\$69,345.99	\$41,953.64	\$111,299.63
Bennington School	\$37,390.32	\$2,674.75	\$40,065.07
Boswell School	\$49,781.31	\$29,195.27	\$78,976.58
Ft Towson School	\$157,604.54	\$68,920.77	\$226,525.31
Soper School	\$36,912.08	\$46,394.44	\$83,306.52
Hugo School	\$82,389.11	\$105,426.51	\$187,815.62
Whitesboro School	-----	\$3,168.31	\$3,168.31
Forest Grove School	\$34,173.00	\$22,631.97	\$56,804.97
Lukfata School	\$16,782.17	\$22,509.64	\$39,291.81
Glover School	-----	\$18,768.22	\$18,768.22
Denison School	\$31,651.35	\$16,531.29	\$48,182.64
Holly Creek School	\$17,521.27	\$19,988.60	\$37,509.87
Idabel School	\$21,086.41	\$48,391.28	\$69,477.69
Haworth School	\$3,391.22	\$90,324.53	\$93,715.75
Valliant School	\$96,214.85	\$69,860.34	\$166,075.19
Eagletown School	\$913.02	\$29,586.22	\$30,499.24
Smithville School	-----	\$64,011.34	\$64,011.34
Wright City School	-----	\$32,240.20	\$32,240.20
Battiest School	\$15,521.31	\$77,170.15	\$92,691.46
Broken Bow School	\$101,692.98	\$104,301.26	\$205,994.24
Nashoba School	\$347.82	\$24,814.35	\$25,162.17
Rattan School	\$39,738.09	\$95,933.66	\$135,671.75
Clayton School		\$19,228.28	\$19,228.28
Antlers School	\$76,737.09	\$121,275.44	\$198,012.53
Moyers School	-----	\$39,552.26	\$39,552.26
Tuskahoma School	\$521.73	-----	\$521.73
Hodgen	\$6,086.81	-----	\$6,086.81
Grand Total	\$895,802.47	\$1,214,852.72	\$2,110,655.19

Would you like to know more about the Electric Cooperative Gross Receipt Tax?

The collection and distribution of the electric cooperative gross receipt tax is covered in Oklahoma Statute (O.S.) Title 68, Sections 1803-1806.

MANAGER'S REPORT



Strategic Planning

CEC plans for the future every day.

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

At Choctaw Electric, strategic planning is a never-ending process. To ensure our members receive the most reliable and affordable electricity, we are continually analyzing our service and structuring our system based on our members' current and future needs. We can't allow ourselves to settle into complacency because our system is constantly growing and changing.

For example, this year Choctaw Electric will add 1,000 new residential accounts. With the growth we are experiencing in McCurtain County and other parts of our service area, the year ahead is looking very busy indeed.

To highlight just a few of our many projects, we are upgrading lines in the Broken Bow area, as well as areas north of Smithville and along Hwy 144 running into Smithville.

We are working with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on several construction projects along Hwy 3, and another south of Idabel on Hwy 259. We also have several bridge projects throughout our service area.

Near Hochatown, the Choctaw Nation is making progress on Choctaw Landing, which will be served by Choctaw Electric. We continue to work with Western Farmers Electric to build a new substation and the underground services that will serve the massive 2.5 to 3 megawatt load.

While none of the jobs I've mentioned thus far are small, the largest by far is the line conversion that extends from Hochatown to Bethel and from Broken Bow to Hochatown.

Here, we are upgrading the existing line to 477 conductor wire. This work will strengthen our system and greatly enhance reliability for years to come.

While these projects are designed with the future in mind, CEC never loses sight of the immediate needs of its system—namely the routine maintenance of our right of way and our existing infrastructure. Despite our busy construction schedule, this year we plan to clear and spray more than 700 miles of right of way. We will also replace roughly 1,000 poles that our annual pole inspection flagged.

Your CEC employees continue to work efficiently and effectively—and very hard—to tackle the increased work load at no additional cost to you. I'm proud to report that we have managed to handle the increase

in responsibilities associated with serving a growing membership, as well as the costs associated with building new services, with no increase in our budget or our rates.

From our billing clerks to our field crews, your CEC team continues to hold true to our cooperative mission: To provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. It's not easy, but we are getting it done.

As always, your support makes our hard work worthwhile and we appreciate it. Thank you, it is an honor to serve you.

“Your CEC employees continue to work efficiently and effectively—and very hard—to tackle the increased work load at no additional cost to you.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

HUGO OFFICE

PO Box 758
1033 N. 4250 Road
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743
Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 326-6486
FAX (580) 326-2492

IDABEL OFFICE

2114 SE Washington
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745
Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 286-7155

ANTLERS OFFICE

HC 67 Box 62
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523
(One mile east of Antlers)
Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 298-3201

and
On the Web:

www.choctawelectric.net



24 Hour Outage Hotline
800-780-6486

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks, *President*

Jarred Campbell, *Vice President*

Perry Thompson, Jr., *Secretary Treasurer*

Bill Woolsey	Debbie Cody
Jana Burris	Ken Autry
Stacy Nichols	Jackson Ferguson

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*

Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*



Three teens selected for Energy Camp

Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2023 Energy Camp writing contest. This year, Tayen McDaniel and Emerson McElroy of Idabel, and Eliza Bryant of Soper will represent the co-op at the annual cooperative camp for 8th graders.

Energy Camp is scheduled for May 31- June 2 at Canyon Camp near Hinton, Okla. Campers will spend their time learning about electric cooperatives while making many new friends from across the state.

For more details on Energy Camp, please visit www.choctawelectric.net or call 800-780-6486.

Local Nonprofit Makes State News

Choctaw Electric offers a special pat on the back to Helping Hands, Inc., whose good works were featured in the April issue of the statewide electric co-op magazine, *Oklahoma Living*.

Thank you, Helping Hands, for all you do for our local communities. We are proud to serve you!

Win a **\$100 Bill Credit!**

Enroll in CEC's paperless billing.

When you enroll in paperless billing, your name will be entered in our monthly drawing for new paperless accounts. Enroll today using Smarthub's payment options, or sign up by phone at **800-780-6486**.



Congratulations to **Glenda and Wayland Copeland** of Idabel our \$100 bill credit winner for the month of April. We appreciate your participation.

Countdown To CEC Annual Meeting

Annual meeting time is a big deal for your electric cooperative because that is when Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) members participate in the governance of their co-op. Whether casting a vote for a co-op trustee or approving an amendment to the bylaws, CEC's meeting is very important and there are dates leading up to it that provide equally important opportunities for members to get involved.



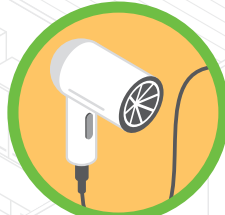
We hope you will pay close attention to these dates. If you have questions about any item appearing in our countdown calendar, please give us a call at **800-780-6486** or drop us an email at info@choctawelectric.net. Thank you for your participation!

- **JUNE 26**
Bylaw amendments due at CEC by 5 pm.
- **JULY 25**
Trustee candidate filing date for CEC Districts B, C, and G.
- **AUGUST 9**
Revisions due to proposed amendments.
- **AUGUST 24-29**
Mail-in ballots delivered to members.
- **SEPTEMBER 23**
CEC Annual Meeting
Choctaw Co. Fairgrounds
Hugo

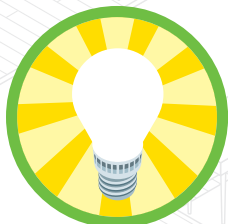
A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

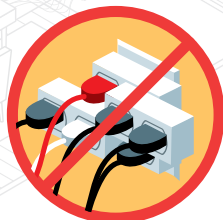
DON'T
place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



DO
keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



DO
ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



DON'T
overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.



CHOCTAW ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2023 Board Meetings

The Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) board of trustees meets at 9 am on the last Tuesday of every month at co-op headquarters in Hugo. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes are available at www.choctawelectric.net or at any CEC location. To read the minutes on your smartphone or tablet, please scan the bar code to the right.



- May 30
- June 27
- July 25
- August 29
- September 26
- October 31

Watt-Wise



Leave A/C On During Vacations

If you're thinking about saving a few bucks by shutting your central air conditioning off while you escape for summer vacation, consider what should stay cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator.

In a kitchen that's too warm, your refrigerator has to work at least twice as hard to keep its interior cold. It will work double duty whether there's food inside of it or not, as long as it's plugged in.

That can counteract any energy savings you might see when you shut down the a/c for a week. And it could stress your refrigerator out enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: Nudge the thermostat up four to five degrees higher than usual before you leave for vacation. That way, your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is uncomfortable.

Plus, keeping the a/c on could prevent other problems that can occur in a home that gets too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, like mold and mildew growth and even damage to electronics.

Questions about your home energy use? Please contact Brad Kendrick, CEC energy use specialist, at **800-780-6486**, or email questions to bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop.

Get Your Home Ready For Summer With Improvements That **Save!**

Summer heat brings higher electricity bills. If you're using an old HVAC system to cool your home, your usage will run even higher because older appliances use more electricity than newer models.

If the price tag of a new unit is preventing you from taking the step to greater efficiency, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) has a solution. CEC's energy efficiency loan program helps members enjoy greater comfort and efficiency at a price they can afford. CEC loans cover:

- Caulking and weather stripping
- Heat pumps, water heaters and central heating or air-conditioning units with "16 SEER" or higher.
- Insulation for ceiling, wall, floor, duct, or pipe.
- Storm or thermal windows.
- Storm or thermal doors.
- Programmable thermostats.
- Attic ventilation fans

Don't wait for the heat to arrive. Give us a call at **800-780-6486** or visit www.choctawelectric.net.

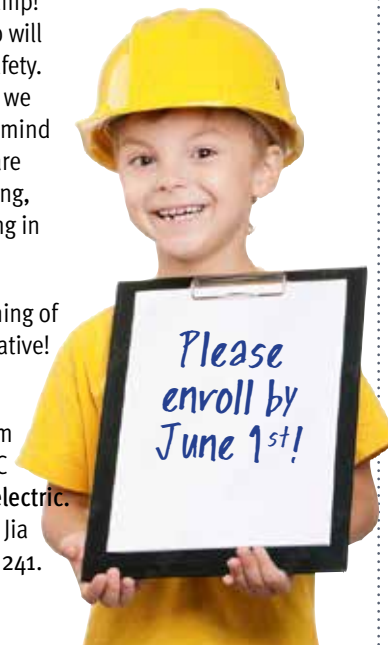
Enroll For Kilowatt Kid's Camp

CEC's free camp for K-3rd grade makes learning fun

It's almost time for summer camp! This year, Kilowatt Kid's Camp will focus on summer electrical safety. Using fun games and activities, we will share important tips that remind children, K-3rd grade, to be aware of electrical hazards while playing, swimming, fishing, and engaging in other summer activities.

Please join us and enjoy a morning of fun at your local electric cooperative! Bring a friend—camp is free.

Enroll using the registration form below, pick up a form at any CEC location, or visit www.choctawelectric.net. Questions? Please contact Jia Johnson at **800-780-6486**, ext. 241. We hope to see you soon!



2023 KILOWATT KID'S CAMP ENROLLMENT FORM

Student Name (Print): _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Tele: _____ Work Tele: _____

Cell: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

T-shirt Size (Circle): Youth XS (4-6) | Youth S (6-8) | Youth M (8-10)
Youth L (10-12) | Adult S | Adult M | Adult L

Emergency Contact: _____

Home Tele: _____ Cell: _____

Camp (Please circle):

Hugo Camp • Tuesday, June 6

Idabel Camp • Wednesday, June 7

K-3rd grade • 8:30 am to 11:30 am

K-3rd grade • 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Mail enrollment form by June 1, 2023 to:

Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

PO Box 758

Hugo, OK 74743