

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

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Co-op Concerns

News from your community

The season of giving

I am honored to work alongside the employees of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. The people on our team have a real passion for people and the communities we serve, and it shows.

It shows in the way they perform their jobs each day. They keep the lights on for 98,000 homes, farms and businesses in five counties. Every day.

Rain or shine.

It also shows when they are challenged to do more.

In October, CEMC participated in the Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service. This annual event challenges the state's electric co-ops to complete service projects in their communities.

For this year's event, we participated in a donation drive to benefit children who attend schools throughout our five-county service area. Employees gave various nonperishable food items as well as basic clothing and personal hygiene items based on needs identified by school districts in each county.

It is amazing to see what can be accomplished when we work together. Statewide, electric co-ops completed 25 community service projects during this year's Day of Service event. Some 400 co-op employees volunteered more than 1,000 hours serving their communities.

You can also see the passion our employees have for others in the way they responded to this fall's hurricane

season. Twelve CEMC lineworkers gave of their time to travel to North Carolina following Hurricane Florence. Just a couple of weeks later, another group of 18 volunteered to go to Georgia to assist with power restoration following Hurricane Michael. Our crews worked long hours,

sacrificing time with their families to help restore power for strangers in need.

Serving our communities is the only reason our co-op exists. We have a mission to improve everyday life for our consumers, and that goes far beyond simply keeping the lights on.

This holiday season, I challenge you to seek out ways to serve others, whether it be through your church, a community service organization or just by helping a neighbor in need.

Scripture tells us that it is better to give than to receive, and our community will be a better place if we all get involved.



By Chris A. Davis
General Manager,
Cumberland
Electric
Membership
Corporation

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Join CEMC in decorating the Trees of Giving

Each year during the holiday season, the lobbies of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation are decorated with trees bearing coats, hats, gloves and other winter clothing instead of the typical ribbons, bows and garland you might expect. These trees, known as Trees of Giving, will help bring warmth to those in need in our local communities this winter.

We invite everyone — employees and members alike — to help decorate our trees by donating cold-weather clothing such as coats, hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks and pajamas. Donations of nonperishable food items are also welcome and appreciated.

Donations will be accepted from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 14, and will be delivered to local charitable organizations for distribution before Christmas.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 1. CEMC personnel will be available in the event of an emergency by calling 1-800-987-2362.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from CEMC.*



Small heaters and big bills

For many of us, comfort at home during winter means heat. While a good central heating system is designed to meet whole-house needs, sometimes consumers turn to space heaters for additional warmth. Some people use one to boost temperatures for a single room where the available heat is inadequate, but widespread use of heaters over extended periods can boost winter heating bills.

“In some cases, small space heaters can be less expensive to use if you only want to heat one room or supplement inadequate heating in one room,” according to analysts at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). “However, a space heater is not necessarily an economical source of long-term warmth. It is not an alternative to a whole-home heating system.”

Right type for the job

According to DOE, two types of space heaters are generally available for the residential market.

Most can deliver between 10,000 Btu and 40,000 Btu of heat per hour and commonly run on electricity, propane, natural gas or kerosene. Wood and pellet stoves are also increasingly available for many applications.

Convective heating circulates air within an enclosed space, while radiant heating transfers warming energy directly to objects or people within close proximity to its source.

If central heating is unavailable or inadequate, a convective heating unit can distribute heat relatively evenly throughout an enclosed space. For garages, workshops, workout rooms, laundry areas or other spaces used for a few hours a day or each week, a convective heater could be a good fit.

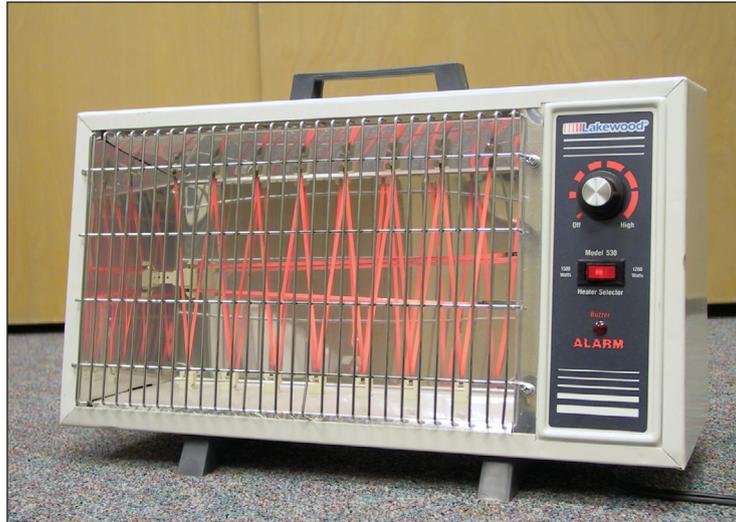
Many convective electric heaters contain some type of sealed heat transfer liquid that allows heat generated by the devices to store energy as heat, so the heaters cycle less while providing consistent performance.

Radiant electric heaters typically include infrared heating elements. Nearby surfaces, including people, absorb the heat. Air in immediate proximity to the unit’s enclosure or cabinetry also aids in the transfer of conductive warmth.

Safe, not sorry

Space heaters get seasonal use, but they are

responsible for 25,000 residential fires a year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which pegs the annual mortality rate at 300 a year. Burn injuries associated with surface contacts with room heaters send about 6,000 people to emergency rooms every year, and most of those incidents



don’t result in fires.

Because the devices are designed to give off heat, they must always be set in locations clear of all flammable materials and out of reach of small children, pets or anyone with impaired mobility.

In recent years, many space heaters have been designed with tip-over safety features that automatically shut off the power source in the event that the unit tilts beyond its upright position.

Because space heaters are designed specifically to produce heat, they should be plugged directly into a wall whenever possible. If an extension cord is used, make sure it’s heavy-duty and made of 14-gauge wire or larger.

Given a choice between a unit featuring high, medium and low settings or one with an adjustable thermostat, choose the latter. A unit that heats your space to the desired temperature will cycle less, saving you energy, and will never overheat the room.

And buy the right size heater for the right size space — too small and the warming results could be disappointing; too large or powerful and you’ll be

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Small heaters and big bills

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uncomfortable. Anytime you open doors or windows to vent away warm air, you are wasting energy you've already consumed to produce heat.

Getting more for less

"Space heaters are not the ideal solution for heating homes," said Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "For every unit of electricity that is consumed by these devices, they produce one unit of heat."

While adding several space heaters to supplement your central heating system is also likely to drive up your energy costs, selective use can help you save money.

According to analysts at the Environmental Protection Agency, the key is using space heaters in smaller rooms that are occupied infrequently in conjunction with lower thermostat settings on your central system.

Lowering thermostat settings from 70 degrees to 65 degrees and using a thermostat-controlled space heater to heat 10 percent of a home's conditioned floor space will save a heat pump user \$67 a year. But the

EPA cautions that space heaters are most efficient when used in small spaces for limited periods and can actually waste energy if consumers try to heat too much area with the devices.

There are currently no space heaters among the EPA's list of Energy Star-rated products. Agency officials said they have evaluated several models but have no plans to include such products in the labeling program in the near future.

Still, high-end space heaters are heavily marketed during the autumn and winter months.

"Most of these units are very similar in design, but the cabinetry or packaging are major selling points," said Sloboda. "Consumers should consider the wide range of heaters available and their own taste in features and design before buying one."

An energy expert at your electric co-op can help determine if a space heater is right for your home.

"They may suggest other alternatives like sealing air leaks, adding insulation or tuning up your heating system so it operates more efficiently," said Sloboda. "Those are just a few of the options that won't increase your overall energy use."

Switch to LED holiday lights this year

If you're still decking the halls with your years-old incandescent Christmas lights, it's time to make the switch to LED lights.

LEDs, or light-emitting diodes, are more efficient, more durable and longer-lasting than your old strands. They won't burn out; they're cool to the touch.

That makes them safer to hang on a tree or from your roof. And they won't send your holiday electric bills through the roof.

LEDs are a holiday gift to yourself that keeps on giving year-round: The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last about 25 times longer than incandescents.

Sure, they're a bit more expensive than traditional light strands. Look for a home improvement store



with a trade-in program that gives you a discount on LEDs if you turn in your old, inefficient incandescent strands.



CEMC employees serve community

In honor of the second annual Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service on Oct. 18, employees of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation held a donation drive — collecting food, personal hygiene products and basic clothing items to benefit children who attend schools throughout the co-op’s five-county service area.

“We love the communities we serve,” says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator and organizer of the Day of Service project. “Our employees live and work in our service area, and they were eager to help provide for our youngest members.”

Lobdell reached out to school districts in CEMC’s service area to determine immediate needs specific to each county. Employees in each district responded by donating items as requested.

In Cheatham County, employees purchased items to prepare lunches for students who have not

qualified for free lunches and cannot afford to buy lunches.

Montgomery County employees purchased basic clothing and hygiene items for students in need.

CEMC employees in Robertson County collected nonperishable food items for students and their families who qualify as homeless and/or chronically hungry.

In Stewart County, employees donated various personal hygiene items for needy students.

Sumner County employees collected nonperishable food items for the schools’ backpack programs.

All items collected were delivered to school districts on or before the Day of Service on Oct. 18.

The Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service is coordinated by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. More than 400 electric co-op employees participated in local community service projects across the state during this year’s event.



Co-op employees in Montgomery County collect basic clothing and personal hygiene items.



Robertson County employees donate nonperishable food items.



Sumner County employees collect nonperishable food items for the school system’s backpack program.



In Stewart County, employees collect personal hygiene products.



CEMC assists with Hurricane Michael recovery

On Oct. 10, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sent 10 lineworkers to Grady Electric Membership Corporation in Cairo, Georgia, to assist with Hurricane Michael recovery efforts. A second group of eight left on Oct. 18 to relieve the previous group that spent a week working to restore power in the area.

The Category 4 hurricane made landfall on Oct. 10, bringing strong winds, significant rainfall

and widespread power outages to the northern Gulf Coast.

At the height of the storm, Grady EMC lost power to all 19,000 meters on its system and reported at least 400 broken poles across its service area.

CEMC crews joined more than 100 other lineworkers from 12 electric co-ops across Tennessee to assist with hurricane recovery efforts.



The first group of CEMC lineworkers who assisted with Hurricane Michael recovery efforts are, from left, Bryan Barrow, construction crew general foreman; Trey Hoover, construction crew working foreman; Steven Highers, construction crew lineman; Myles Nelson, Ashland City working foreman; Brandon Weaver, Ashland City serviceman; Jimmy Smith, Dover lineman; Bryan Griffith, construction crew lineman; Wes Byrd, Clarksville lineman; Gordon White, construction crew lineman; and Greg Meek, Clarksville working foreman.



The second group of CEMC lineworkers who helped following Hurricane Michael are, from left, Josh Kennedy, construction crew lineman; Sammy South, Portland working foreman; Justin Frazier, construction crew lineman; Bo Cook, Gallatin working foreman; Rusty Fuqua, Springfield working foreman; Trevor Brown, Gallatin lineman; Curtis Mott, Springfield third-period apprentice lineman; and Matt Hunter, Portland lineman.



Poles being inspected in CEMC service area

Osmose Utilities Service Inc., a contractor working for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, will be working to inspect, test and treat wood utility poles within the cooperative's service area. Workers are expected to be present for the next several months.

The purpose of the program is to inspect and treat the poles on a cyclical basis. CEMC hopes to prolong the life of existing poles by applying decay-preventing treatments and replacing poles that are no longer safe enough to leave in its plant.

Osmose workers can be identified by the hard hats and brightly colored safety vests they wear. They will also carry laminated ID badges, and their vehicles will be marked with magnetic signs. Members who have concerns about the legitimacy of workers on their property are encouraged to contact CEMC at 800-987-2362 for more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet — even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Members benefit from annual meeting survey

Six members who attended the annual meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation in September and completed surveys regarding their experiences were randomly selected to receive electric bill credits as a token of the co-op's appreciation for their input.

Congratulations to Robert Lyle of Southside, Donald Enck of Portland, Larry Rider of Cottontown, Cecil Holder of White House and Ronald Maupin of White House. Each received a \$50 bill credit.

"We value our members' feedback," says Seth Roberts, CEMC member services manager. "The comments and suggestions we receive from our surveys are instrumental in the planning of our meeting each year. We may not be able to honor every request, but we do take them all into consideration."



Members attending CEMC's annual meeting Sept. 15 complete surveys regarding their experiences, each hoping to win one of six electric bill credits.