



2015 Annual Meeting

Citizens Electric held its Annual Meeting of Shareholders on April 23, 2015. The meeting was held at CEC headquarters in Perryville. Members had the opportunity to learn about progress made in 2014, strategic goals for 2015 and ask questions of the management and board. CEC also held elections for members of the board of directors and announced that \$1.6 million in capital credits will be returned this year. Current and former members can look forward to credit disbursement starting in August.

Credits will be returned for usage during 1993. Capital credits are revenues that exceed expenses, and are returned either as a check for inactive members or a credit on August bills for current members. The membership also approved a change to the bylaws that allows heirs to receive capital credits earlier at a discounted rate.

William J. Odneal, Stanley R. Petzoldt and Alvin A. Franke were all re-elected to the Citi-

zens Electric Board of Directors. Franke ran unopposed, while Odneal and Petzoldt faced two and five candidates respectively.

Board President Alvin Franke spoke about communication with both residential and commercial members. Citizens Electric's remodeled webpage and newly launched Facebook page offer members another way to learn about programs and rebates offered by CEC.

Franke also spoke about investment in the Citizens Electric infrastructure and compliance with multiple regulatory entities. CEC has invested \$31 million in electrical infrastructure over the last three years to maintain compliance and reliability. System security is another area in which CEC has continued to expand. CEC wants to keep the electrical grid and your personal information safe from cyber and physical attacks. Thus we have invested in many different security measures.

Citizens Electric delivered

power 99.98% of the time in 2014. Continued dedication to the electrical system has placed this past year in our top five for reliability. Like other not-for-profit utilities, CEC works diligently to ensure the safety of our system. Thanks to Automated Metering Infrastructure, CEC can identify problems with the grid much quicker. Many times we identify equipment that is failing prior to an outage occurring. This allows us to test, repair or replace the item in question. Thus, our area has the reliability that is attractive to commercial and industrial members and the service that all members expect.

CEO Van Robinson spoke of the challenges facing all electric distribution, transmission and generation utilities. CEC will celebrate 68 years of service in 2015. As we have grown, we have installed new equipment and increased the number of members we serve. We continue to replace items that are reaching the end of their

functionality. The increased cost associated with these repairs correlates with the increased cost of purchasing replacement equipment. Waiting for a catastrophic failure to make repairs is simply not an option.

The electrical system that CEC maintains cost over \$154 million to build. CEC has 63,000 wooden poles; over 40% of these poles are 30 years or older. CEC proactively inspects poles in order to identify those that are showing signs of failure and should be replaced. Likewise, 34% of our transformers have been functioning for over 30 years and 540 miles of line is over 50 years old. We work diligently to monitor infrastructure and replace it when it is necessary. Many members only think about electricity twice, when paying a bill or during an outage. Citizens Electric would like to encourage you to read our publications, "Like" and follow our Facebook page, and visit our website for information on ways you can conserve and curb your energy use.

Sowing the Seeds of Savings

It is hard to believe that 2015 is half over! As we enter the sixth month of the year, it is time to think about efficiency. June is a time we can have the windows open and utilize fans to move cool air. It is also a great time of year to get outside and do some work.

While many of us planted our gardens in late April and early May, June is the month to plant the seeds of savings. Caulk can be applied to the outside of windows to seal air leaks and additional insulation can be added to your attic before temperatures get too hot. If you live in a manufactured home, take advantage of the nice weather to add insulation and make any

repairs to underpinning that may have been damaged over winter.

If you don't know where to start, it might be beneficial to have an energy audit. Call Citizens Electric to get an energy audit for only \$150. A trained professional will examine your home for air leaks, insulation and duct work. CEC will then rebate you up to \$150 when you make any suggested energy efficiency changes. This is a great way to isolate problems and make the necessary changes to grow your savings.

The first half of 2015 has been one of our busiest years for Power Moves rebates. The LED rebate has been extremely

successful!

Speaking of rebates, if you are thinking of replacing your heating and cooling system, remember the value of a heat pump. Not only are air-source and ground-source heat pumps more efficient than standard heating and cooling, but you could qualify for a rebate as well! Please contact CEC prior to purchasing your system to see if you qualify.

New construction is also going on in our area this month. If you are planning on building a new home, look at a ground-source heat pump. By harnessing the power of the earth, you can cut your heating and cooling bill drastically. You could

even qualify for a 30% federal tax credit in addition to a Power Moves rebate.

Heat pump water heaters are also a great way to save. These are much more efficient than electric resistance water heaters, and also take out some of the humidity from the surrounding area. Heat pump water heaters are becoming very popular, and select models come with a \$400 rebate when replacing an electric resistance water heater.

Plant the seeds of savings this month by cutting your energy consumption and becoming more efficient. For information on how to save, call Barb or Shawn at 877-876-3511 or find us on the web at cecmo.com.

Let the Sunshine In?

Many of us like to have natural sunlight illuminate our homes, but closing those shades can reduce your cooling bill this summer.

On average, 25-40 percent of heating and cooling costs are due to windows. However, there are ways to lessen the cost without replacing windows. Drapes are one of the best ways to keep the summer sun and heat out. Direct sunlight can cause the temperature in your house to rise, so it is important that windows, especially those facing west, have window treatments. However, not all drapes are created equal.

To lessen heat gain, it is suggested that you install a medium color drape that has a white plastic backing. This can reduce heat gain by up to 33%. It is also important that these drapes are installed and fit correctly. To maximize efficiency, drapes should reach the bottom of the windowsill or the floor. It is also important that the top of the drape reach the ceiling

or have a cornice. Attaching drapes to the walls and connecting the gap in the center aids in insulating power. This blocks warm air from traveling around the drape. It is also important that the drapes have pleats. These assist in insulating through convection. Likewise, these drapes also keep you warmer in the winter by preventing heat loss.

Shades are also a popular option to prevent heat loss/heat gain. Correct installation can also make these the simplest and most effective treatments. Some shades come with reflective material on one side and a darker material on the other. This allows you to reflect the summer heat. Simply flip them around in the winter and absorb the sun's rays and assist in heating. As with drapes, it is important that shades are as close to the window as possible and that air flow between the shade and window is reduced. Cellular or pleated shades are also a highly



These thermal lined drapes provide added comfort and efficiency. efficient choice.

Blinds are a great treatment for summer, but do little in the winter. A fully closed, highly reflective blind can reduce heat gain by 45%. They can also be adjusted to direct sunlight onto the ceiling of a room. If the ceiling is light in color, this can assist in lighting.

Likewise, tinted window films also work well in the summer, but do little to assist in winter heat loss.

When picking out a window treatment, remember that some are more efficient than others. You can find this and additional information at energy.gov.

Understanding Demand Response

Demand response programs are becoming more and more popular in the electric industry. Simply put, demand response cuts electricity from certain devices in order to avoid operating power plants that are more expensive.

The larger the number of individuals that participate in this type of program, the larger the savings and value. This works by offsetting the amount of power that has to be generated or purchased at times when it is most expensive.

Think of power like television. Just as you have prime time when the most people are watching, we have peak time when the most people are using power. Unfortunately, this peak time often comes when people get home from work.

Starting around 4 p.m., our members begin to come home. Once there, they turn up the a/c, turn on the television, start cooking dinner and begin with daily chores. As this occurs across

our service area and the other 23 cooperatives served by Wabash Valley, huge amounts of power are suddenly needed. Imagine this occurring all across the nation simultaneously.

Since there is a demand for power, and cost of running short duration power production is higher, this power is more expensive to produce, transmit, and distribute. Demand response allows time off for electric water heaters and/or central air conditioners that have been running all day. The power they were using is then used for other appliances. This eliminates the need to generate as much additional power.

Programs like this, and steps toward more energy efficiency, save you money. However, they also save CEC money. When the 24 cooperatives that make up Wabash Valley Power operate more efficiently, it prevents WVPA from having to build or buy new gen-

eration. By reducing the amount of electricity needed, we all save.

Citizens Electric offers PowerShift. This demand response program operates by controlling electric water heaters and/or central air conditioning units. This curbs the amount of electricity being consumed during peak time. Participation is voluntary and members can sign up for either the electric water heater program, air conditioner program or both. This allows you to pick what program is best for you.

Many people believe the only way to go green is with solar or wind, but the greenest watt is the one that is never generated. By utilizing demand response with the PowerShift program, you are earning up to \$40 a year and reducing the amount of electricity being produced! Find out how to sign up for

PowerShift and start saving today. Call Shawn at 877-876-3511 or visit cecmo.com to find out more about PowerShift and other ways to lower your electric bill.



Avoid running electric appliances during the hottest part of the day.