



Rate Change on May 1, 2015 Bills

Citizens Electric's Board and management made the decision to raise rates during their December meeting primarily due to an increase of more than \$2.3 million in power supply costs during 2013 and 2014. Unfortunately, this increase must be passed on to our members. The new rates, listed below, will take effect for residential, commercial

and industrial members on bills printed after May 1, 2015. For the average residential member using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month, this will amount to around \$7.70. To break it down further, the residential Service Availability charge is 13 cents more per day, and the cost per kWh is going up around one-third of a cent.

CEC itemizes charges to

allow members to differentiate the cost of their personal usage from base charges. These charges are similar to the expenses of owning a car. The price of car insurance stays the same every month. However, the cost of operating the car can fluctuate depending on the amount of use or fuel consumed. Likewise, the Service Availability charge is calculated based on

of this unfortunate increase, electricity remains a good value. Consider that it costs less than 11 cents for 1,000 watts used within an hour, or the equivalent of 10 ceiling fans operating on high speed simultaneously for one hour. It is also worth noting that CEC's system has never been more reliable due to ongoing investments and maintenance.

fixed costs to provide reliable electric service. Variable energy costs depend on your electric consumption.

CEC's Board and management strive to keep rates affordable while providing safe and reliable service. In spite

Of course, the least expensive kilowatt hour is the one you never use. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we are committed to helping members reduce electric waste. With that in mind, we offer home energy audits and various rebates through the Power Moves program. Go to powermoves.com or call 877-876-3511 for more details.

Rates as of May 1 Bills	Monthly Service Availability Charge	Energy Charge	Demand Charge
Rate 1-Residential & Religious	\$29.00	\$0.1084 per kWh	N/A
Rate 3-Single Phase General Service	\$30.00	\$0.1066 per kWh	N/A
Rate 5-Three Phase Large Power	\$127.00	\$0.0537 per kWh	\$15.24 per KW
Rate 7-Three Phase General Service	\$42.00	\$0.1066 per kWh	N/A

Scholarships

This is one of the busiest times of year for high school seniors. Financial aid, college applications, last minute ACT testing and scholarships dominate many of their thoughts. As part of our dedication and commitment to community, CEC offers a \$1,000 scholarship to each of the six high schools we serve. The only qualification is that the student must live with a parent or guardian who is a Citizens Electric member. We also offer one at-large scholarship to a student living in the CEC service area who attends a school we do not serve or is home schooled.

This year CEC is offering a new scholarship. This \$1,000

scholarship will be awarded to a student, living in our service area, planning to attend a college or trade school for a career in the electrical industry.

Many of those working at electric cooperatives will be retiring in the next ten years. As a result, CEC has decided to work proactively to offer a scholarship for those future cooperative employees.

If you are interested in a scholarship from CEC, please see your high school counselor. If you are interested in the at-large or electrical scholarship, you can find an application at cecmo.com, stop by our Perryville office, or call Shawn at 573-768-3931.

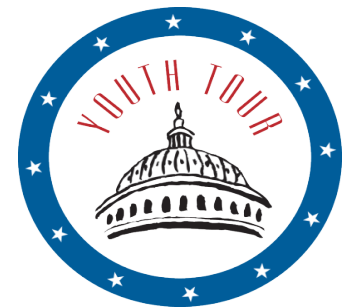
Win a Trip to D.C.

CEC is excited to participate in the 2015 Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference & Leadership Experience Tour (CYCLE). This is an opportunity for four students from our service area to travel while learning about leadership and our state and national government.

Two winners will travel to our nation's capital for the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This trip, inspired by Lyndon Johnson, teaches students about our government and leadership, while exposing them to some of our greatest national monuments and exhibits.

Each state represented is also allowed to nominate one student for the Youth Leadership Council. This student will return to D.C. the following month for an intensive leadership workshop focusing on electric cooperatives.

Citizens Electric will also be sending two students to Jefferson City, MO for the CYCLE Tour. This exciting three-day event is full of motivation, leadership experiences, and education about Missouri's electric cooperatives. Students will tour the Missouri State Capitol and



debate a bill on the House Floor.

These trips are for sophomores and juniors in high school and are based off of a written essay and interview. The essay must be between 500-700 words. This year's topic: Washington Youth Tour students have an opportunity to visit with their congressman. As a member of Citizens Electric, what concerns or questions would you discuss with your congressman? Explain why these are important issues.

You can pick up an entry form from your school, Citizens Electric's main office in Perryville, or print one from cecmo.com. Students must live with a parent or guardian in the Citizens Electric Service Area. For information, call Shawn at 877-876-3511.

Technology Increases Reliability

You might not notice when you plug in your toaster or your iron, but the nation's electric grid is undergoing a revolution – a digital revolution. Recent advances in technology are transforming how we make and move electricity, and over time, these changes will greatly improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power.

Rural electric co-ops have been helping lay the groundwork for this transformation with a \$68 million "smart grid" research project funded in part by the Department of Energy. A group of 23 co-ops in 12 states deployed an array of new technologies and installed more than 270,000 pieces of equipment.

Four years later, we have a better understanding of how we can move forward to modernize our electric system. Despite the relatively small size of most electric co-ops, we are adopting these new technologies at a faster rate than the larger utilities – in part, because we stand to gain more.

Serving rural areas brings special challenges. Co-op service territories cover 75 percent of the nation's landmass, and co-ops serve some of the country's most

rugged and remote regions. New automation software, however, can minimize these difficulties by enabling the utility to manage parts of the system remotely.

Here are some of the benefits these upgrades will offer our member-consumers:

Reliability. We use digital meters to proactively look for outages. When the system detects a disturbance, we automatically attempt to contact the meter in question to find the possible outage. If an outage is detected, we scramble the appropriate response team, thus beginning the restoration process. Often we have crews in transit prior to any call from members. However, we still encourage you to call any time you are out of power.

Efficiency. Digital meters can provide consumers with new data about their energy use. Consumers have discovered broken appliances, safety hazards and other problems using data supplied by their meter. More frequently, however, the data gives consumers a better idea of how they are using electricity.

CEC members have two easy ways to monitor daily usage.

This can be done by visiting our member portal at cecmo.com or by using our app for iPhone and Android. Members can review usage history and look for new ways to save. Understanding how electricity is used can help everyone to become more efficient.

Digital meters have improved consistency and accuracy in billing by eliminating human error and replacing old and worn out analog meters. These new technologies can also help reduce the amount of electricity lost in transmission.

Digital meters also make programs like PowerShift and Prepaid Metering possible. PowerShift saves you money by allowing CEC to interrupt power to your central air conditioning unit and water heater during peak times. This voluntary program reduces your energy consumption when energy is the most expensive. This saves money for every member of Citizens Electric, and you receive a credit on your bill each month!

Prepaid Metering also helps you save money by allowing you to budget day to day, week to week, or pay period to pay period. Each day you can receive a text, email,



Jason Cates with a digital meter.

or voice mail with your approximate usage from the previous day along with the remaining balance. Prepaid Metering is also a great way to avoid paying a deposit or to get a deposit back that we may be holding.

In the longer term, smart grid technology will change how we use electricity. Armed with more information, members will have more control. If you have any questions about any of the programs mentioned, please visit cecmo.com, or call 877-876-3511.

Reliability

Meter Testing

By choice, Citizens Electric adheres to many of the Public Service Commission's policies on a voluntary basis. One such policy is the quality control testing of commercial and residential meters. CEC implements scheduled testing of all commercial and industrial meters and sample tests 150 residential meters on an annual basis.

This random sample comes from the entire CEC service area. CEC personnel will be performing meter testing throughout the year. If your residence is chosen, you may experience a brief outage while your meter is being exchanged.

CEC is dedicated to bringing you the most reliable power at an affordable price. Random meter testing is one way that we do our best to ensure you have the best possible service. For more information, contact us at 877-876-3511.

Vegetation Management

Tree crews will begin the trimming process in early 2015. The areas scheduled to be trimmed in 2015 have not been trimmed since 2008. Along with distribution lines, CEC is planning to trim 31 miles of transmission lines between six substations.

St. Genevieve County:

92.29 miles of distribution line located in the Staabtown and River Aux Vases areas.

126.38 miles of distribution lines located in the Coffman and Avon areas.

101.58 miles of distribution line located in the Saint Mary, Minnith and Ozora areas.

69 kv transmission lines:

16.79 miles between Altenburg and Perryville.

9.02 miles between Perryville and McBride.

5.5 miles near Silver Lake.

Ways to Save

One month into 2015 and many of us have already broken those New Year's Resolutions, but if you resolved to save money, CEC can help. One great way to earn \$35

and save money each month is to replace that old energy hog refrigerator with a new Energy Star fridge.

You will notice substantial saving as soon as you pull the plug on that old refrigerator. Don't take our word for it either, visit energystar.gov. You can check out just how much you could save with their savings calculator. Just fill in the make and model of your

old fridge to see the estimated amount you are paying and what you would pay with a new Energy Star appliance. After switching to a new energy efficient refrigerator, you could



save over \$100 this year.

You can also received \$35 dollars for your old fridge thanks to Power Moves. Schedule to have your operational refrigerator picked up and hauled away today. That old fridge will be recycled and reused.

So, start saving money on your electric bill by kicking that clunker to the curb, and we will put \$35 in your wallet! Find out more at powermoves.com, or call 877-876-3511.