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# countryliving

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PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## New Electric Rate Effective February 15

Thanks to CCA, members with average usage may not notice.

After February 15, you will pay a bit more per kilowatt-hour (*kwh*) for the electricity you purchase from East Central Electric. The good news is you may not notice.

“Members with average usage shouldn’t see much change in their bill under the new rate,” said Tim Smith, East Central Electric general manager. The reason lies in an innovative rate factor known as the consumer cost adjustment (CCA).

collect when sales aren’t sufficient to cover operating expenses.

“In the long run, the CCA balances the highs and lows caused by unpredictable weather patterns, and contributes to more stable rates,” said Smith. “With the CCA, we can collect when we need it.”

“We’ve experienced cost increases in nearly every aspect of our operations, yet our rates haven’t changed in over ten years,” Smith explained. “Without the CCA, a rate increase would’ve been necessary much sooner.”

“Without the CCA, a rate increase would’ve been necessary much sooner.”

TIM SMITH, GENERAL MANAGER

The CCA factor is based on the previous month’s electric sales and is pro-rated to members based on their usage. East Central’s new per (*kwh*) rate absorbs a portion of the CCA, causing the CCA calculation to decrease. As weather and energy sales fluctuate throughout the year, members will notice the CCA adjusting up or down on their bill, just as they always have.

“The new rate design is still an increase,” Smith pointed out. “But it is much less dramatic than it would’ve been had we not had the CCA in place. Most importantly, it’s a lot easier on our members.”

East Central Electric incorporated the CCA into its rates in 2005 to lessen the impact of future rate changes on members. The CCA works by allowing the co-op to reward members when energy sales are strong, and

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### operation roundup **update**

Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families and individuals. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

Figures to date:

Applications reviewed.....661

Applications granted.....472

Applications denied.....177

Applications tabled.....12

Scholarships awarded.....\$128,000

**Total Disbursements.....\$1,234,160.54**

Average member contribution.....44¢





## Save on LED Bulbs with Co-op Connections

If you'd like to install LED bulbs, but the price has you reaching for the less expensive and less efficient alternative, take heart. Electric cooperative members can save a bundle on LED bulbs by shopping at [LEDusa.com](http://LEDusa.com).

The website offers LED bulbs for every lighting need at a discount to Co-op Connection cardholders. Choose from a variety of styles and shapes, and simply provide the member number off the back of your card when you check out. If you've lost or misplaced your card, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) and download a new one.

## Recipe Correction

The recipe for Taco Pasta Salad published in the January issue of *Country Living* contained an error. Pasta should be cooked before adding it to the other ingredients. Sorry, we goofed!



## Youth Tour Inspires Teens to Act

### Deadlines for Youth Tour and Energy Camp coming up in March

**T**ell your teen to put on their thinking cap: It's time for East Central Electric's Youth Tour contest and the entries will require a bit of thought.

To enter, eligible high school juniors are asked to write a letter to the elected official of their choice that discusses an issue that concerns them. The letter and a completed Youth Tour application must be submitted to the co-op by March 1, 2015.

Youth Tour will be held June 12-18, 2015 in Washington DC. Youth Tour participants tour many famous monuments, memorials, museums and federal buildings on the all-expenses paid trip. The experience educates teens about the history of the U.S., and encourages them to get more involved in the political process.

More details on Youth Tour, including applications, contest rules and guidelines, are available online [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

East Central Electric's YouthPower Energy Camp Contest for eighth graders is also underway. The co-op will send four teens to Energy Camp on May 26-29. The camp takes place in the scenic Red Rock Canyon near Hinton. Campers enjoy three full days of fun games and activities that teach them leadership skills and help them learn more about the cooperative form of business. Campers form their own coke and candy co-op, elect officers, hire a manager, vote on bylaws and distribute patronage capital refunds to their fellow members.

Energy Camp applications are available online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). Deadline to apply is March 1, 2015.

## How Your New Electric Rate Compares to The Old Rate

1. The new rate increases the per kilowatt-hour (kwh) charge by roughly 2.86 percent.
2. The new rate absorbs a portion of expenses covered by the consumer cost adjustment (CCA), which causes the new CCA calculation to go down. Going forward, the CCA will fluctuate with usage and weather conditions to help the cooperative maintain consistent service regardless of kwh sales.
3. The total for 1000 kwh used shows no change under the new rate. Thanks to the CCA, which is designed to lessen the impact of rate increases, members with average usage will see only slight differences in their monthly bills.

OLD	NEW
83.15	90.56
23.85	23.85
7.52	0.00
0.19	0.31
2.29	2.28
117.00	117.00

RATE SCHEDULE	METER READING DATES		DAYS SERVED	METER READING		ENERGY USED KWH	ENERGY USED KWH	
	PREVIOUS	PRESENT		PREVIOUS	PRESENT		OLD	NEW
11	11/6/2014	12/8/2014	30	0	1000	1000	83.15	90.56
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT 1000 KWH AT .023849							23.85	23.85
CONSUMER COST ADJUSTMENT 1000 KWH AT .007516							7.52	0.00
OPERATION ROUNDUP							0.19	0.31
GROSS REVENUE SURCHARGE							2.29	2.28
TOTAL DUE							117.00	117.00



# Bylaw Changes Proposed to Members

The East Central Electric board of trustees is proposing several changes to the co-op bylaws in order to clarify their meaning and make them more current with business practices and state laws. The bylaws have not been modified since 1999. Members will vote on the proposed changes at the East Central Electric Annual Meeting on July 23, 2015.

Country Living will publish proposed changes as space allows. Changes appear in blue (see below). To view the proposed changes in their entirety, visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) or call 918-756-0833.

## ARTICLE I

### SECTION 2. JOINT MEMBERSHIP.

A husband and wife **Two or more persons** may apply for a joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirement set forth in Section I of this Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term "member" as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include ~~a husband and wife~~ **two or more persons** holding a joint membership, and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect of the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

- (a) The presence at a meeting of **either any** or **both all** shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall constitute a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- (b) The vote of **either any** separately or **both all** jointly shall constitute one joint vote;
- (c) A waiver of notice signed by ~~either or both any~~ shall constitute a joint waiver;
- (d) Notice to **either any** shall constitute notice to **both all**;
- (e) Expulsion of **either any** shall terminate the joint membership;
- (f) Withdrawal of **either any** shall terminate the joint membership;
- (g) ~~Either but not both~~ **Not more than one** may be elected or appointed as an officer or trustee, provided that **both all** meet the qualifications for such office.

### SECTION 3. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP.

(a) A membership may be converted to a joint **or single** membership upon the

written request of the holder thereof and the agreement ~~by such holder and his or her spouse~~ **the Persons who wish to become the Members** to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(b) Upon the death of ~~either any~~ **any spouse Persons** who is **is** a party to the joint membership, such membership shall be held solely by the survivor(s). The estate of the **a** deceased **member** shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

### SECTION 6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Any member may withdraw from membership upon compliance with such uniform terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees may prescribe. The Board of Trustees of the Cooperative may by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all the Trustees, expel any member who fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees, but only if such member shall have been given written notice by the Cooperative that such failure makes him liable to expulsion, and such failure shall have continued for at least ten (10) days after such notice was given. Any expelled member may be reinstated by **a majority** vote of the Board of Trustees or by the vote of the members at the annual or special meeting. The membership of a member who for a period of six (6) months after service is available to him, has not purchased electric energy from the Cooperative, or of a member who has ceased to purchase energy from the Cooperative, shall be cancelled by resolution of the Board of Trustees.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Tip of the Month

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: Department of Energy

For more energy saving tips and advice, please visit [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com), or contact East Central Electric Cooperative at 918-756-0833 for details on energy efficiency rebates or to schedule a free home energy audit.



### Have you checked out SmartHub?

Intuitive and user friendly, SmartHub makes it easy to manage payments, view your electric bill, contact your co-op 24/7, receive customized alerts, and much more! Check your usage by the month, day or hour, and open the door to a new understanding of how and when your home uses energy. Compare usage to previous periods of time— and include pertinent weather factors such as temperature and humidity!

SmartHub is available on Android and IOS smartphones and tablets, and on the web.



Get **smart** with SmartHub!

Visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) for details.



## Stop Shock!

BEFORE IT STOPS YOU

It can happen anytime, and when it does —ouch!

Fortunately, electrical shock can be prevented by taking simple precautions, below. Also, remember that your co-op offers surge protection for your home that will protect you and your electronic devices. For more information on our surge protection services, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). Be safe!



### Grounding: The Third Wire

When you use a plug with three prongs, the third prong connects inside the outlet with a “ground wire,” which usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in case of a short circuit, electricity should flow through the grounding system instead of through you. Never remove the third prong.

### Use GFCIs for Extra Protection

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) are found in some outlets and service panels. They monitor the flow of current to and from appliances. If there’s an imbalance in the flow, current may be traveling through you, and the GFCI will quickly cut power to prevent serious injury. Use GFCIs in bathrooms, garages, near kitchen sinks, and outdoors.

### Appliance Safety

Remember the most important rule for appliances - electricity and water don’t mix. Keep appliances, especially hair dryers, away from bathtubs, puddles, sinks, and wet hands. Wet skin increases the risk of shock, so unplug an appliance before cleaning - even if off, it can shock. Never put metal objects in live parts of appliances or in outlets. If an appliance overheats, unplug it and have it checked. Don’t overload outlets. Use only appliances that are approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.



**APPLY FOR FUNDING.** Operation Roundup is making it easier for organizations and individuals to apply for funding. From your co-op website, [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com), click on the Operation Roundup logo at the bottom of the page to download funding applications for individuals/families and nonprofit organizations, and scholarship applications, too. Once you’ve completed the application, simply upload it from your computer to the co-op website, or mail it to the co-op. To be considered for the next round of Operation Roundup funding, applications must be received by 4 pm on April 1.



Favorite recipes from members of East Central Electric Cooperative.



## Dark Chocolate Up-Side Down Cake

Contributed by Shirley Taylor, Muskogee

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 box dark chocolate cake mix
- ½ C. or 1 stick butter or margarine
- ¼ C. water
- 1 C. light brown sugar
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 ½ C. flaked coconut

### DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in a 13x9x2-inch pan. Add water, then brown sugar. Mix in nuts and coconut. Spread evenly in pan. Mix cake mix as directed on box. Pour batter over mixture in pan. Bake at 350°F. for 35-40 minutes, until cake springs back when touched lightly. Let stand 5 minutes. You can leave it in the pan or turn upside down on a cookie sheet or platter. Serve with whipped cream. Serves 12-14.

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