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# countryliving

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PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Power Cost Going Up January 18

### Members will see increase in the power cost adjustment

After years of delivering stable power costs, East Central Electric's power supplier has announced plans to increase rates 5.5 percent effective January 18. KAMO Power is a Vinita-based generation and transmission cooperative that delivers power to 17 distribution co-ops in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Co-op members will see the increase reflected in the monthly power cost adjustment on their electric bills.

"Part of what you pay through the power cost adjustment has to do with the cost of transmitting power," explains Tim Smith, East Central Electric(ECE) general manager. "Generation costs also play a role."

KAMO cited systemwide growth, infrastructure improvements, and climbing generation costs as reason for its rate change.

Over the past 15 years, KAMO has invested over a half billion dollars in new transmission infrastructure and improvements. KAMO also experienced a 2 percent increase in power costs that will be passed on in the new rate for 2018.

Wholesale power costs appear on your bill as the power cost adjustment. Please see page 3 for additional information.

Rate Schedule	Meter Reading Dates		Meter Number	Meter Readings	
	Previous	Present		Previous	Present
11	04/27/17	05/30/17	6949084	72259	73494
ENERGY CHARGE					
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT		1,235 KWH AT		0.032069	
OPERATION ROUNDUP					
GROSS REVENUE SURCHARGE					

Smith pointed out that rising costs and growth in demand are forcing utilities across the country to raise rates. Investor-owned utilities have enacted recent rate increases, along with several electric co-ops.

Members could see the power cost adjustment increase by an average of four dollars every month.

To help with rising costs, Smith encourages members to make use of their co-op's energy saving programs. ECE's free home energy audits, rebates, and other programs will help members reduce their usage—and their bills—by making their homes more energy efficient.

For more information on East Central Electric's energy saving services, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) or call **918-756-0833**.

East Central Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 1178 • 2001 S. Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178  
**(918) 756-0833**  
[www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com)

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE  
**(918) 756-0833**

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#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24 hours a day. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay using our drive-through window or lobby, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

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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.....920  
Applications granted.....633  
Applications denied.....272  
Applications tabled.....19  
Scholarships awarded.....\$190,000

**Total Disbursements.....\$1,493,171.78**

Average member contribution.....44¢

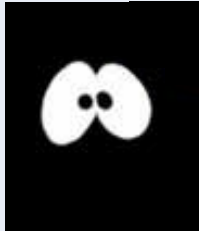




### Power Outage?

## Please Don't Report It On Facebook

If you experience a power outage or service problem, please don't report it on Facebook.



East Central Electric wants to ensure the quickest possible response to all outage reports, however, it is difficult for co-op staff to monitor Facebook 24 hours a day.

To ensure the most timely response, please report your outage by calling your co-op at **918-756-0833**.

Remember, during a major power outage, East Central Electric is experiencing an extremely high call volume. If you receive a busy signal, please be patient. Your call will be answered in the order it is received.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Connect with East Central Electric on Facebook for updates on power outages and information on member benefits and services, energy saving tips and more. If you like what you see, we'd appreciate your "thumbs up."



▲ East Central Electric's Youth Tour winners pose for a photo in front of the White House. The teens traveled to Washington DC in June as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Pictured are Dailey Patrick, Mounds; Emma Long, Preston; Kimberly Fulton, Oktaha; Sarah Ingram, Eufaula; Jesse Mills, Coweta; Nickolas Pak, Henryetta; and Katherine Russell, East Central Electric member services assistant and chaperone.

◀ Billie Been of East Central Electric with ECE's Energy Camp winners Phoenix Randleman, Kiefer; Jacob Mills, Coweta; and Bronson Burcham, Coweta.

## Got a favorite family recipe to share?



We'd like to publish it in the **80th Anniversary Cookbook** of East Central Electric Cooperative

Please mail your recipe to:

East Central Electric/Attn: Recipes  
PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447

*Note: Recipe must include contributor's name and town, list of ingredients, measured amounts of each ingredient, and directions.*



# Get Charged! Lights Up Classrooms

ECE offers free kits and resource materials as part of its energy curriculum for schools

**H**ow do you make electricity and energy conservation exciting for kids? East Central Electric has the answer with its free energy curriculum for schools.

With free kits that include fun activities, games and learning materials, ECE programs appeal to kids from first grade through fifth grade.



The CFL Charlie program for grade schools provides lessons and activities designed to meet national learning standards. Lesson plans cover energy, electrical safety,

energy efficiency, and renewable energy, with activities for each subject:

CFL Charlie kits include lesson plans for all four subjects listed above, plus the following:

- 30 take home folders featuring electrical safety tips.
- 30 activity sheets
- 30 checklists for students to take home for an energy evaluation with a parent
- 30 “Super Energy Saver” certificates signed by CFL Charlie for children who complete the home checklist
- 30 Light switch stickers – to remember to turn the lights out!
- 1 classroom poster featuring CFL Charlie providing electrical safety and energy efficiency tips.
- 15 Light Bulb Race Game activity sheets
- Jump drive featuring game “Lights Out,” coloring book pages, light bulb race activity sheets and more!

The co-op also offers Get Charged! kits for middle school students. The kit provides a comprehensive set of instructional materials that support a key-learning standard in every middle/junior high school—electricity.



Get Charged! is correlated to National Science Education Standards and provides a real world understanding of the power and purpose of electricity. The kit also includes information about the important role electric cooperatives played in lighting up rural America, and a comprehensive teacher’s guide along with suggestions to integrate the kit into your existing curriculum.

Each kit contains the following to make learning fun:

- Poster for classroom use
- Two Videos: Understanding: Electricity and Touchstone Energy’s Our Story
- Interactive CD-ROM featuring Electricity
- Lesson Plan: Get Power - The Cooperative Way
- 10 Student Activity Books
- Electricity Teachers Resource Guide

**We would love to provide your school with these free materials!**

For more details, please contact Billie Been at **918-756-0833**.

## What Is The Power Cost Adjustment?

If you're wondering what the heck is the power cost adjustment (PCA) and why it appears on your electric bill, you're not alone. Many co-op members wonder the same thing with good reason: When the PCA increases, so does your electric bill.

The PCA is simply what it costs your electric cooperative to buy wholesale power from the generating plant and pay for transmission services to our substations. When the cost of wholesale power and transmission services increases, this cost is shared among all members in the form of the power cost adjustment.

Everyone including your co-op would love it if wholesale power costs were as predictable as night and day. Unfortunately, these costs fluctuate in the same manner as bread, milk, and nearly every other product. Many factors affect the cost of wholesale power including the price of coal, natural gas, and other generating fuels. Charges to deliver coal or gas, transmission costs to deliver power to substations, and upgrades to power plant equipment also play a role.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission initiated the power cost adjustment to prevent utilities from having to make unnecessary rate increases based on the fluctuating price of natural gas or other fuels mentioned above. By sharing the cost among all members, it prevents co-ops from having to estimate or base rates on what might or might not happen in the future.

## SCAM WARNING:

Not every call from your utility is legitimate

Officials at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives are warning co-op members about recent scam attempts.

A member of Southeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (SEC) in Durant reported a phone call from a man claiming to be a cooperative employee. The caller told the member about a "rebate" she would receive because of her good payment history. When the caller asked her to provide additional information, she refused and hung up the phone.



Other scam calls may appear on caller ID as coming from your electric cooperative. Don't be fooled. Scammers can "spoof" calls and make them appear as if they are coming from a legitimate company. The caller then tells the member they have won a vacation or make some other incredible offer.

Co-op members are reminded that East Central Electric never calls members to request payment or personal information. If you receive a suspicious phone call, hang up immediately and report the call to the Attorney General's Public Protection Unit at **405-521-2029**.

You should also report the call to East Central Electric at **918-756-0833**. It is important to let us know about any suspected scams so we can warn other members.

Thank you for your cooperation!



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Before installing a portable air conditioner, make sure that the electrical circuit and the outlet are able to handle the load. Large window A/C units should have their own separate electrical circuit so the system is not overloaded.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

## Easy Smoked Sausage Skillet

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (14 oz) package smoked sausage, diagonally cut into ¼-inch slices
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 large red bell pepper, sliced thin
- 1 small yellow onion, sliced thin
- 1 (10 oz) package frozen broccoli, thawed
- ½ cup chicken broth or water
- ½ cup tomato sauce
- 2 cups instant rice
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese



### DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil and crushed garlic, stir in smoked sausage slices and cook until smoked sausage is browned.

Add pepper, onion, broccoli, chicken broth and tomato sauce and simmer for about 10 minutes until vegetables are tender and the liquid is absorbed.

In the meantime, cook rice according to package instructions. Stir rice into the skillet, sprinkle with cheese and serve.

**FREE** Standard Installation

**exede**  
INTERNET

**ALL PLANS**

Call Today! **918-756-0833**