



2 Get Your Credit



3 Teens Take On DC



4 Pineapple Cream Pie

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

TOP STORY

Phase Two Brings Fiber Broadband Within Reach of 22 Communities

Join more than 2,000 members who have registered!

East Central Electric is putting the fastest and most reliable internet service within reach of more rural residents every day. The co-op is now entering the planning and preparation stage of the second phase of its expansive build-out of fiber broadband.

If you are located in the Phase II area (see map), and are interested in fiber-based internet and/or telephone service at your home or business, please register at <http://register.ecoec.com/>.

For years rural residents have been limited to less-than-robust internet services that often set limits on data use, and penalize users for overruns by charging exorbitant fees. Problems with unreliable live streaming make it difficult for rural consumers to enjoy online entertainment or take online classes.

For home schoolers, second career college students, and working adults, fiber-based internet opens the door to a world of professional and educational opportunities—without buffering.

For details on ECE's fiber broadband services, please visit www.ecoec.com or call 918-365-1293.

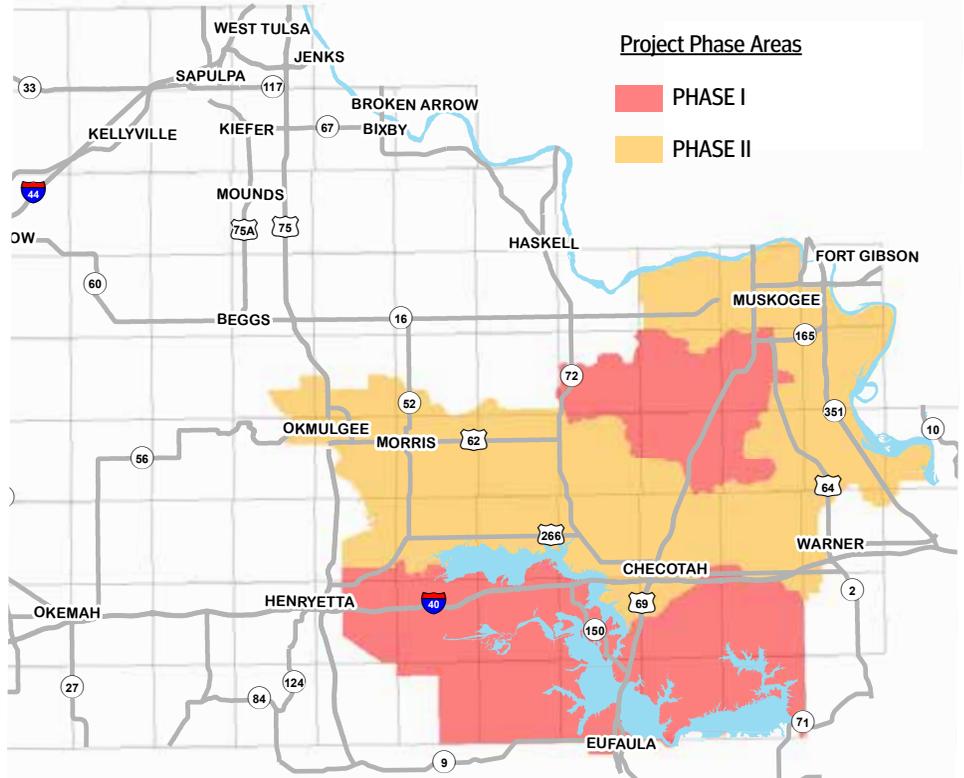


Annual Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

Printing deadlines for your co-op newsletter prevent us from including news from the ECE Annual Meeting in this issue. Please look for highlights of the meeting in the September issue of *Country Living*, or visit our Facebook page.

MAPPING THE PROGRESS: ECE'S FIBER OPTIC EXPANSION

ECE is moving into the second phase of its fiber optic build-out. The co-op encourages Phase II members who are interested in fiber broadband internet or telephone service to register at <http://register.ecoec.com/>.



 MEMBER MATTERS

It's Time To Get Your Credit

Capital credits are your share of co-op profits, so it makes sense to understand how they are assigned and distributed.

Unlike investor-owned utility companies that strive to generate profits for shareholders, electric cooperatives like ECE operate on an at-cost basis. Any profits made by ECE—referred to as margins—are returned to the consumer-members. Capital credits represent these dividends.

In the years that ECE makes a profit, capital credits are calculated and distributed to each member in proportion to their electrical usage for that year. ECE retains and uses capital credits for operating capital until ECE's board of trustees, approves the refund. The following Q&A will help you understand the process better.

🗨️ When and how are capital credits returned?

It's a two-step process:

1. An allocation determines each member's share of the cooperative's margin for a given year. Margins are assigned to the member in proportion to their

kilowatt-hour consumption for that year. The co-op keeps a permanent record of each member's capital credit account, which is where the allocated amount remains until it is paid—or “retired.”

2. After reviewing the financial health of the cooperative, the board of trustees may declare a retirement, at which time all or part of each member's allocated amount is paid. ECE uses a first-in, first-out method (FIFO) that pays early years before later years, and a last-in, first-out (LIFO) payment method. Using both methods allows all members to realize the benefits of cooperative membership.

🗨️ Who will receive money this year?

For 2019, the board of trustees approved a capital credit retirement of over \$1 million. ECE members who purchased electricity from the co-op during 1986, 1987, and 2018 are eligible to receive a check pending address verification. Over half of the money will go to members who still have active services.

🗨️ What does ECE do with capital credits not yet retired?

Capital credits are a significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. Equity is used to help meet the operating expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment to serve members, and maintaining the electrical system.

🗨️ What happens to capital credits belonging to deceased members?

A rightful heir can complete an Estate form, which must be notarized, and provide the appropriate documentation to transfer the capital credits into his/her name.

How Capital Credits Work

1. It starts when you pay your bill.

ECE tracks how much electricity you use and pay for throughout the year. Each payment you make is your contribution to the day-to-day operation costs of your electric cooperative.



2. Recording and reporting.

At the end of each year, ECE calculates its annual margin (profit). Because we are a cooperative, we divide this margin proportionally by the amount of electricity each member uses throughout the year. We report to each of you what your share is. This is called a capital credit allocation.



3. Where is the money?

The money—called capital credits—is invested in equipment and electric plant needed to meet the current and growing demand for electricity.



4. Do I ever receive it?

You do! This process is called retirement. Each year, your ECE trustees review company finances. When financial conditions permit, the board decides to retire (pay) capital credits to members based on their allocated share.



Heat Index Affects Electric Bills

Oklahoma Mesonet reports the heat index soared to over 100°F on several days in July. Along with the humidity, the scorching temperatures force your air conditioner to work overtime to keep your home cool.

When you open your upcoming electric bill, remember that ECE bills you for the preceding month's usage unless you are on prepaid billing. That means the spike in usage during July will appear on the electric bill you receive in August. The same is true for the bill you receive in September. It will reflect August usage, and will likely run high due to the heat.

If you find yourself struggling to pay your monthly bill, please reach out to your co-op *before* the debt mounts and your service is in jeopardy. Our billing representatives can help you find a payment option that works for you. The co-op also provides a list of agencies that offer bill payment assistance to qualifying individuals. Please call 918-756-0833.

No Surprises!

Avoid high bill surprise via Smarthub's usage monitoring and alerts. We'll help you set it up. Call **918-756-0833**.



Teen Leaders Take On DC

East Central Electric's 2019 Youth Tour winners Gage Allen, Lynzee Crawley, Luke Miller, Abbie Long, Morgan Cross, and Andrew Morris in front of the White House in Washington DC., one of many stops on a fast-paced and fully loaded tour of the nation's capital. The teens earned their place on the tour with their winning submissions in the co-op's essay competition.

Find more details about their adventure on ECE's Facebook page. For more about Youth Tour and how your teen can participate, please visit www.ecoec.com.



Eighth graders Jared Lowry, Madyson Been, and Tylar Sullivan enjoyed four days at Energy Camp this summer. As representatives of East Central Electric, the teens learned about cooperatives while building leadership skills. For more info on Energy Camp, please visit www.ecoec.com.

Youth Campers Thank Co-ops

Honing leadership skills and forging new friendships make YouthPower Energy Camp a win-win for teens

By the 2019 YouthPower Energy Camp Board of Directors

Approximately 79 eighth-graders from across Oklahoma attended the 2019 YouthPower Energy Camp, sponsored by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives. The camp was held May 28-31.

The camp was inspiring and motivational. Campers learned how cooperatives function and how to be leaders. They also learned how to keep the fire of leadership going and make new friends. Some of the skills developed during Energy Camp included: getting out of our comfort zone, gaining confidence, and going the extra mile!

During the week, camper small groups each elected a representative for the Energy Camp board of directors. The

Energy Camp board of directors then had the opportunity to interview candidates and hire the general manager of Energy Camp. This year, the Energy Camp manager was Adrian Leal, representing CKenergy Electric Cooperative. She did a terrific job of leading the camp.

On behalf of all the 2019 Energy Campers, we would like to thank the electric cooperatives of Oklahoma for allowing students the opportunity to attend Energy Camp. We are grateful for the memories we made and the relationships we developed. Thank you!

YouthPower Energy Camp is a program of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. For details about the camp, visit www.oaec.coop, or call your co-op at 918-756-0833.

operation round-up

MONTHLY UPDATE



Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit us online at www.ecoec.com.

Applications reviewed.....	1066
Applications granted.....	725
Applications denied.....	327
Applications tabled.....	26
Scholarships awarded.....	\$245,000
<hr/>	
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,757,562.73
Average member contribution.....	48¢

RECIPES



Pineapple Cream Pie

INGREDIENTS

1 cup sugar	1 (15 oz) can crushed pineapple, drained
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour	2 egg yolks
½ teaspoon salt	3 tablespoons butter
1 cup milk	1 (9 inch) baked pie crust

DIRECTIONS

Whisk sugar, flour, and salt together in a saucepan over medium heat.

Add milk and cook, whisking constantly, until mixture thickens and begins to bubble, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Stir pineapple, egg yolks, and butter into milk mixture. Return to heat and cook over medium heat until mixture begins to bubble, 3 to 5 minutes. Continue cooking, stirring constantly, until hot and thick, about 2 minutes more. Pour mixture into prepared pie crust. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 3 hours.

Source: allrecipes.com



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

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

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL



East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 1178
2001 S. Wood Drive
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178

(918) 756-0833
www.ecoec.com



OFFICE HOURS:

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE

(918) 756-0833

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary Treasurer

Jim Hall, District 6
Asst. Sec. Treasurer

Ed Kloeckler, District 5
Michael Vernnon, District 4

Max Shoemake, District 3

Tim Smith
General Manager

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at 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.