

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012



## From the Manager

July is the month we celebrate our independence. We are lucky to live in the freest and best country in the world. As we celebrate the birth of our nation and the independence that was purchased in blood by our brave forefathers, Clay Electric Co-operative would like to take a moment to consider one of the seven cooperative principles that are the bedrock of the cooperative business model.

“Autonomy and independence” is one of the seven cooperative principles. It lays out the idea that each cooperative is its own entity and the needs and wants of its membership guide the decisions it makes. Our 77th annual meeting will be held August 26 this year and it is your opportunity to exercise your rights as members to elect your representative board members, vote on important issues, and bring any concerns you have to the cooperative. More information will be coming out soon about your 77th annual meeting, so keep a lookout for more as we get closer to the date.

When we consider autonomy and independence as a cooperative, it

means the decision that govern how Clay Electric operates comes from the members and community it serves. Each cooperative is unique and represents its members. No two cooperatives have the same policies, and their needs vary greatly. That is why you cannot compare rates and policies as apples to apples from one cooperative to another. **7313-001**

Clay Electric, like all cooperatives, is not-for-profit. Any money collected from the membership in excess of what we need to run is allocated as margins and paid back to the membership in the form of capital credits. The cost of maintaining and expanding the infrastructure needed fluctuates on many variables. Members per mile of line, terrain, location of heavy load compared to our substations, and many other factors play a part in calculating the cost to provide safe and reliable service to our members and keep them in power.

Your elected board members consider the needs of the membership above all other considerations as they lead your cooperative forward

in uncertain times. The cost of power and the very sources of power used in Illinois are changing and ensuring that those changes do not unduly burden the membership is at the forefront of each of your board member's minds. Understand that when your elected representatives meet, it's you that they work for, not Springfield or Washington. Clay Electric Co-operative is an autonomous and independent cooperative, and we work for our members.

As always, keep a lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call, you win \$5 off your next bill!



Luke  
Johnson  
CEO



## What is the power grid and how does it work?

**W**hen people go without power during widespread outages, it seems like discussions turn toward the power grid. But what exactly is the power grid, and how does it work? In the U.S., the power system consists of more than 9,200 electric generating units with more than 1 million megawatts of generating capacity connected to more than 600,000 miles of transmission lines, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- First, power is generated at a power plant by converting some form of energy into power. Examples of energy sources include wind, water, steam, oil, coal, nuclear, solar and natural gas.
- Once the power is generated, it is converted to high voltages so it can be pushed a long distance through the grid via transmission lines (345,000 volts) or subtransmission lines (69,000 volts).
- Eventually, it is stepped down so it can be sent on to lower-voltage power lines called distribution lines (7,200 volts), which take the electricity to houses and businesses.
- Once it makes its way there, it gets stepped down again before it enters the structure through drop-down lines (220 volts).
- Sensors are located at key points throughout the grid to monitor outages.

Some electric utilities generate all the electricity they provide using their own power plants. Some utilities purchase electricity from other utilities, independent power producers or a wholesale market.

How consumers, or end users, purchase energy varies from region to region:

- The utility providing power may be a not-for-profit municipal electric utility; an electric cooperative owned by its members; a private, for-profit electric utility

owned by stockholders (often called an investor-owned utility); or in some states, a power marketer.

- A power marketer is often a trading company engaged in the purchase and sale of electricity. Generally, these marketers do not own generation or transmission facilities. Rather, they buy electricity from utilities, independent power producers and other suppliers to sell wholesale to other utilities or marketers.

Newer technology is improving how the grid works, inspiring the phrase “smart grid” to describe this evolutionary process. For example, some improvements include:

- Individual microgrids. With some sources of energy now at consumers’ disposal, some individuals and businesses have their own power source (solar panels, for example).
- Energy storage technology. This enables companies to store excess energy when not needed and use it later when there is more demand. **12529-001**
- Smart meter technology. This creates two-way communication between consumers and the electric utility or cooperative by automatically notifying them about outages and other potential issues. Smart meters also allow consumers to see how much electricity they use, when they use it and its cost. Combined with real-time pricing, this allows end users to save money by using less power when electricity rates are highest.

For more information about electricity safety and energy efficiency, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

### MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it’s on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

# WHAT IS RENEWABLE ENERGY?

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

We hear a lot about renewable energy, but what is it, exactly?

It is an energy source that is perpetual ... inexhaustible... "to infinity and beyond!" Renewable energy has storage limitations, however, and some types are not available 24/7.

## A FEW FACTS

- According to the University of Michigan (U-M) Center for Sustainable Systems, about 80% of the nation's energy comes from fossil fuels, 8.4% from nuclear and 11.4% from renewable sources.
- In 2019, renewable energy sources accounted for about 17% of energy generation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- The EIA projects that the share of renewables used for U.S. electricity generation will increase from 21% in 2020 to 42% in 2050.
- Wind and solar are the fastest-growing renewable sources, but they provide just 3.8% of total energy used in the U.S., according to the U-M center.

Safe  
Electricity.org®

## THE MAJOR TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ARE:



**BIOMASS,  
INCLUDING  
BIOFUELS**  
(comes from plants  
and animals)



**WATER OR  
HYDROPOWER**



**GEOHERMAL**  
(comes from the heat  
of the earth)

**WIND**



**SOLAR**

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

May 24, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolph, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof. **9523-001**

The invocation was given by Luke Johnson and was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

**APPROVED**, the Suggested Agenda.

**APPROVED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 13 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 14 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;
- **APPROVED**, the Work Orders;
- **APPROVED**, the Disbursements;
- **APPROVED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Member Update;
- **REVIEWED**, the CFC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, the Purchase Power Agreement for a member.

**REVIEWED**, the CRC Financial Planning Meeting Agenda to be held June 22-23.

**REVIEWED**, the CFC Quarter Loan Payment.

**WERE REMINDED**, the CFC Annual Meeting will be June 14, 2021.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting and Legislative Talking Points.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Financials and the AIEC Annual Meeting Agenda.

**HEARD**, the Board Training class BLC 905 Assessing Governance will be held on July 28, 2021.

AT 7:43 **APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session.

AT 8:13, **APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in April 2021;
- April 2021 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- April 2021 Form 7;
- April 2021 Balance Sheet.

**REVIEWED** the Safety Committee Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held May 17, 2021.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Luke Johnson on the following topics.

- Operations Report;
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Information.
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Information.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on June 28, 2021, July 26, 2021 and Aug. 30, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. CFC Financial Planning Meeting on June 22 and 23. Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 26, 2021.

**DISCUSSED**, the Annual Meeting to be held at Oil Belt Christian Camp on Aug. 26, 2021, with a hybrid model and guidance from the Health Department to be COVID safe.

**HEARD**, that Frank Czyzewski, Bob Pierson and Evan Smith are up for reelection and need to finalize the petitions.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Co-operative, Inc.

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