

# 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

Getting into summer now, with the temperature rising, has us thinking about electric bills. Clay Electric Co-operative gets a monthly electric bill just like all our members. Our bills from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) have four parts. Two types of demand charge (Noncoincidental Peak and Coincidental Peak), an energy charge and a power cost adder. How does what the cooperative pays compare to what you pay?

Let's look at demand charges first. A demand charge is a fee for how many kilowatts (kW) we need at any one time. This demand in kW appears on your bill, though base residential rates are not charged a demand charge by CECI. The cooperative is charged two types of demand fees. Noncoincidental Peak (NCP) is the reading of the highest kW needed by the system at any one point in time regardless of the overall grid's peak demand. Coincidental Peak (CP) looks at the peak usage for all the members of SIPC and charges CECI for the highest demand within peak hours, even if the cooperative's actual highest peak is outside those hours. NCP accounted for 31.5% of your cooperative's last month's power bill, while CP demand billing accounted for 20.8% of your cooperative's bill. That's more than half (52.3%) of our cost for power. **18001-460**

The next part of our bill comes from all the kilowatts we purchase that are used by our members, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). This is the usage that you see on your residential bills. The cost for our kWh usage was 41.1% of the bill.

The last part of our bill, which accounts for 6.6% of the total, is a power cost adder (PCA). This is a representation of the fluctuation of the power market. It is a multiplier, that can be positive or negative, that will increase or decrease the electric bill depending on outside factors like fuel costs, market prices, transmission and distribution costs, etc. The benefit of a PCA is that it can account for changes in energy costs far more quickly than a change in rates could. Currently, CECI does not pass on the PCA charge to membership. CECI is always looking for ways to keep the cost of power down for our members.

CECI is a not-for-profit electric cooperative. It's our goal to keep costs as low as possible while still paying the bills and keeping the lights on for our members. Each year we assign extra revenue to margins to be paid back at a later time through capital credits. Finding the best rate structure to cover costs and not overburden our membership is our primary goal in rate design.

Remember to keep an eye out for your member number in the middle of this magazine. We've hidden three member numbers in the pages. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll get a \$5 discount on your next bill! Happy hunting!



Matt Conklin  
CEO



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Grilling: A delicious and energy-friendly option for cooking

**G**rilling and America go together like hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. There's nothing like a sizzling grill on a summer day. But guess what? Grilling not only satisfies our cravings for great food, but it also helps preserve the environment. So, let's fire up the grill and save energy!

## The cost of staying cool

As refreshing as it is to feel the cool breeze of an air conditioner (AC) on a hot summer day, its energy consumption can be hefty. Depending on the model, it can consume as much energy as a marathon runner (and run almost nonstop), using anywhere from 0.48 to 5.14 kWh per hour. That is enough to make anyone break a sweat.

Did you know that millions of people add to their AC's energy consumption without realizing it? How? By opening the oven door while cooking. According to the book "Bakewise" by Shirley O. Corriher, an oven can lose up to 150 degrees within 30 seconds. Where does all that heat go? You guessed it — right into your home. Plus, even with the door closed, your oven still radiates heat into your home since it has nowhere else to go.

## The solution: grilling

If you are looking to maintain a cool vibe and lower your AC's energy consumption, head outside to the grill.

Rather than generating heat indoors, the heat is dispersed outside, reducing strain on the AC, which ultimately lowers utility bills. In addition, you will be chowing down in no time like a true grill master, as grills reach a toasty 375 degrees in just 5 minutes. Compare that to the oven's sluggish 20-minute

warm-up, and you'll be laughing all the way to the butcher shop.

## Tips for safe grilling

Make sure your next BBQ extravaganza is a sizzling success without any burns or mishaps. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- Take it outside. Only use grills in the great outdoors.
- Keep your grill at least 10 feet from any buildings or structures.
- Make sure your grill is on a flat, steady surface.
- Stay close. Never leave your grill unattended while preheating, cooking or cooling down.
- Dress for success. Avoid loose or long clothing that can catch fire.
- Keep a water spray bottle beside your grill to tackle any little flames that flare up quickly.
- Keep your cool with a fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

## Keeping your grill clean

Grills should undergo deep cleaning once or twice per year. Follow these steps to keep your gas grill in prime condition:

- Burn away buildup: Turn on the grill, close the lid and set the heat to maximum for at least 30 minutes. This process will eliminate any remaining grease or food debris.
- Scrub it clean: In a bowl, mix warm water with soap and dip a

wire brush into the mixture. Scrub the grates to remove any carbon buildup.

- Let it cool: Allow the grill to cool down completely before storing it. Now your grill is ready for your next barbecue feast.
- Regular maintenance: In between uses, preheat your grill and then scrape it off with a wire-bristled brush before adding food.



## Happy grill, happy life

In addition to keeping it clean, it is also important to regularly check the propane tank and replace it if necessary. Inspect the hoses and connections for any leaks or damage. Make sure the burners are free of debris and are functioning properly. Finally, covering your grill when not in use can help protect it from the elements and prolong its lifespan. **10957-001**

Menu options are truly endless when it comes to grilling. Grab your apron, fire up the grill and get ready to impress your friends and family with your grilling skills while saving energy.



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.

# HEAT UP THE GRILL

## TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Nothing screams summer more than firing up the grill.

The good news is that using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. If you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen.

- Nearly 70% of Americans own a grill.
- The Fourth of July is the most popular holiday for outdoor cooking.
- The hamburger is the favorite item to grill.
- The all-American hot dog gets the most votes from kids.
- More men grill than women.
- Grilling and barbecuing are not the same thing.
- Grilling means cooking over a fire, hot and fast.
- Barbecuing means cooking slowly over indirect heat.



Source: Breo Box

Safe  
Electricity.org®

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

April 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Ill., beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, Evan Smith and Josh Schnepfer. Also present were CEO Matt Conklin, Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl and Auditor Earl Ridlen. Bill Croy and Kevin Logan were absent. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Richard Rudolphi and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **12848-002**

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 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

**HEARD**, a report from Earl Ridlen regarding the clean Audit.

**APPROVED**, the Audit as presented. Thereafter at 7:30, Earl Ridlen left the meeting.

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

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board.

**WERE UPDATED**, on CFC Annual Benefit of Ownership.

**REVIEWED**, Federated Cyber Updates.

**REVIEWED**, the NRECA News Report.

**HEARD**, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

**HEARD**, a report by Matt Conklin regarding the AIEC updates and Lobby Day Update.

**DISCUSSED**, upcoming Board Events and Training including NRECA BLC 984 and CFC Forum/Aces Conference.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in March 2024;
- March 2024 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- March 2024 Form 7;
- March 2024 Balance Sheet;

**HEARD**, the Manager's Report on Safety including the Quarterly Safety Committee Meeting.

**REVIEWED**, Monday Morning Safety meeting held April 15, 2024.

**REVIEWED**, the Cybersecurity Report.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Purple Wave Truck Auction;
- NISC Capital Credit;
- RMUC Cyber Security Grant and Award;
- CFC NRECA Training;
- Maple Flats Solar Update;
- Annual Meeting Discussion;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the sale of the Forestry Truck and Pole Trailer.

**REVIEWED**, the NISC Capital Credit Amount.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the RMUC Cyber Security Grant.

**DISCUSSED**, manager training at CFC.

**APPROVED**, a resolution allowing Matt Conklin to substitute the CFC manager training instead of the NRECA MIP Select Training while still being eligible for his agreed upon bonus at the completion of the course.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the Maple Flats Solar Farm issues.

**DISCUSSED**, the Annual Meeting and were informed Bob Pierson, Frank Czyzewski and Evan Smith are up for reelection.


**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on May 28, 2024, at 7 p.m. (moved to Tuesday due to the holiday), June 24, 2024, at 7 p.m., July 22, 2024, at 7 p.m. and Aug. 26, 2024, at 7 p.m. and the Annual Meeting at Oil Belt on Aug. 22, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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