

the Co-op Connection

October 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



Electricity Is Still A Good Value



Denny George
General Manager

As a family, if you were sitting on 100 years supply of something important to your family, wouldn't you use some of it in times of great need?

That's the way I look at our current natural gas situation. The current political environment has determined that our 100-year reserve of proven natural gas should stay in the ground. With typical

rising demand, we now have prices above \$8 per therm (or mmbtu), where just a year ago it was closer to \$3.

Our Cooperatives Vote program will be active between now and November and then two years from now to help ensure that we take the steps needed to enact the policies to preserve our energy future and protect our national security – for us, our children and grandchildren. Remember, when you vote, it is for policies, not just personalities.

Reduce Emissions And Keep Power Affordable

CFEC is all for the environment. By 2024, Seminole Electric Cooperative, our generation cooperative, will be at almost a 50% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions when compared to 2005. They have done a tremendous job with what generators were asked to do – reduce emissions and keep costs down. We believe that we should be able to continue this deliberate and paced

plan to reduce emissions, looking for additional ways to improve the environment without placing such a financial burden on fixed and low-income Americans (and many of our members).

Energy Policies For Today And Tomorrow

A reduction in emissions by nearly one-half, while keeping power affordable, is a significant feat and it shows there is a better way of accomplishing this goal than by risking our financial and national security. It stands to reason as well that if burning natural gas is not in the best interests of the environment, how is it that we are allowing it to be transported overseas to be used? That's right. Of the natural gas produced in the United States, 15-18% is shipped to Asian or European markets in the form of liquified natural gas (LNG).

The United States is not under some type of bubble. The air that we breathe is the same air other countries breathe. While it may be that those nations need low-cost energy as well, it is coming at our expense here. We can keep power affordable while reducing emissions, but that's not what is happening in the current political environment. Here's hoping things change before it's too late.

Even so and despite these challenges, the cost of electricity remains a great value considering how greatly we depend on it for daily life. CFEC is committed to reducing costs as much as possible. Purchases are made by competitive bidding and a right-of-way program works to keep lines clear to reduce outages as much as possible. Your cooperative will diligently look for ways to provide reliable electricity at the most affordable price possible.



**Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

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Our mission is to be the finest example of an electric cooperative where excellent service, competitive rates and concern for the consumer, community and environment guide our every action.

Cover Photo By: Alison DeLoach, Communications Specialist

Wholesale Power Cost Increase

The cost of fuels needed to generate electricity plays a significant part in the cost of your electric bill. Approximately 60% of your bill is a “pass through” to Seminole Electric Cooperative for the cost of power generation. Natural gas prices are currently quadruple what they were in 2020.

To account for volatility in the fuel market, cooperatives use a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment as a cushion to lessen the blow. When the cost of power purchased from Seminole Electric Cooperative is greater than the amount we earn from CFEC’s base rates, the WPCA is a charge. When the cost is less, it’s a credit.

Because fuel prices continue to rise, Central Florida Electric Cooperative increased the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment to \$23 for Members beginning in September. Members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will pay \$149.50, a \$17.50 increase from the previous average of \$132 for the same power usage. Individual power bills vary based on the amount of electricity used in the household.

Base Rate And Fee Increase Expected

The WPCA is used to “adjust” the amount charged to Members when the price of fuels used to generate electricity rise and fall throughout the year. CFEC’s generation cooperative, Seminole Electric relies on natural gas and other fuel sources to produce the electricity they provide to us and many other distribution co-ops across the state of Florida. Soaring natural gas prices have made electricity more expensive to produce, and therefore, more expensive for CFEC to purchase from Seminole.

While the adjustment to the WPCA addresses increases in fuel costs and the cost of generating power, fuel is not the only commodity necessary for power production and distribution that is facing price pressures. A recent rate study indicates that an increase in base electric rates and other utility related charges, or fees, will be necessary to keep the cooperative in good financial standing because of all these costs. The information from the rate study is still being viewed by CFEC personnel, but Members can likely expect an increase late this year or in early 2023.

FUEL COST: NATURAL GAS VS. GASOLINE



It's important to know the difference between natural gas and the gasoline or diesel you purchase at the pump when considering fuel costs and how they can affect your electric cooperative.

- The gas and diesel fuel you buy at the pump for your vehicles and other gas-powered machinery is manufactured from crude oil and is not typically a significant factor in the cost of power.
- Natural gas is the fuel used to generate the majority of electricity produced in Florida and is an important part of the fuel mix for our generation cooperative Seminole Electric.

While the price of gasoline has been dropping day by day since reaching record highs in June of this year..



Prices on natural gas remain at some of the highest levels seen in the U.S. in a decade and a half.



Seminole and CFEC will continue to monitor the natural gas market closely and do everything we can to battle fuel costs in order to provide the most affordable electricity possible to our members.



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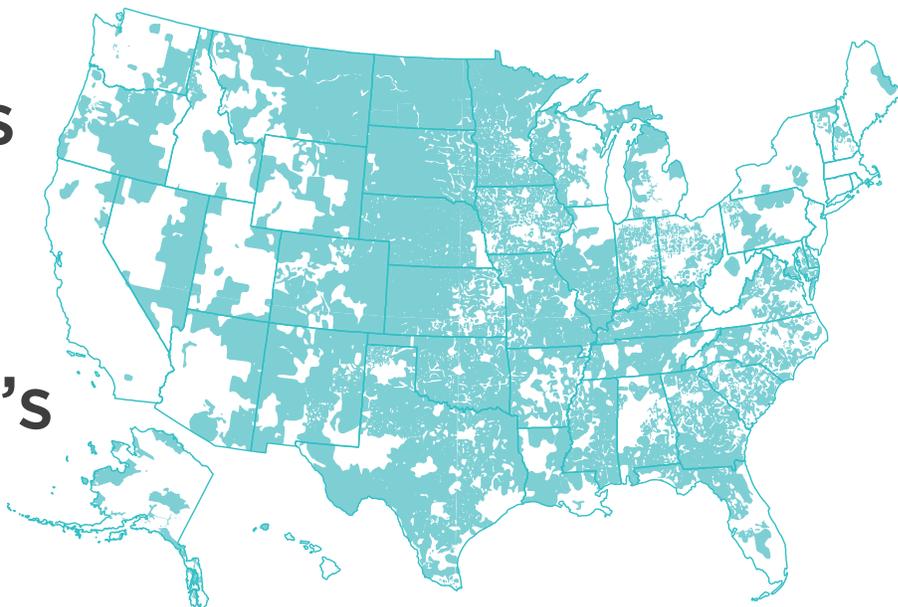
U.S. natural gas prices spiked to 14-year highs in August of this year and are projected to remain at high levels through the end of 2022.



America's Electric Cooperatives

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives power
56%
of the nation's
landmass.



Our co-ops serve
42 million people,
including **92% of persistent
poverty counties**.

Power over
21 million
businesses, homes,
schools and farms
in **48 states**.

Returned more than
\$1.5 billion
in capital credits to their
consumer-members in 2020.



831
distribution cooperatives
are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community with the delivery of electricity and other services.



63
generation & transmission cooperatives
provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

Article 4: Section 4. Nominations

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at 12 which Board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from different sections so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board may serve on such a committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for each Board position to be filled by election. Additional members may be placed in nomination for available Board positions by the filing of petition with the General Manager of the Cooperative at least fifty (50) days before the meeting. Said petition must be signed by at least fifteen (15) members residing within the district represented by the available Board position. There shall be no nominations from the floor during the meeting.



Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. The person responsible for coordination of this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Kimberly Baxley, Vice President of Human Resources. Ms. Baxley can be reached at 352-493-6981.



Tomato and Romaine Salad with Charred Tomato Dressing

INGREDIENTS

- 2 heads romaine lettuce, trimmed and cut in half lengthwise
- 4 tomatoes, cored, 2 sliced and 2 diced
- ½ of a loaf of French or Cuban bread
- 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (parsley, thyme, basil), chopped fine
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon fresh garlic, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose seasoning
- ½ cup Charred Tomato Dressing (plus more to serve on the side)
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, add olive oil, garlic, seasoning blend and half the chopped herbs. Stir ingredients to combine. Hand-tear the partial bread loaf into bite-sized pieces and add them to the bowl. Stir ingredients to coat. Place the coated crouton pieces on a baking sheet and into the preheated oven. Cook croutons for 5 to 8 minutes or until crispy. Remove the croutons from the oven and set aside to cool. In a small bowl, add the diced tomatoes and the other half of the herbs. Season the diced tomatoes with sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste. Assemble salad in a large serving bowl by first adding the romaine. Next, add the sliced tomatoes, and lightly season everything with sea salt and fresh ground pepper. Add some of the charred tomato dressing to the salad, leaving extra dressing to serve on the side. Garnish the salad with the homemade croutons and diced tomato mixture. Serve cold.

Steak and Corn Salad



INGREDIENTS

- 1 steak (your favorite cut), grilled and sliced
- 1 ear sweet corn, grilled and cut off cob
- 1 avocado, grilled and sliced
- 2 tomatoes, cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, sliced thin
- 1 (5-ounce) package arugula
- 6 ounces crumbled blue cheese
- 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

In a small bowl combine vinegar, mustard, ¼ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Slowly drizzle in olive oil, while whisking. Store in refrigerator until ready to assemble salad. Preheat grill to high. Season steak, avocado, and corn with salt and pepper. Sear steak for 3-4 minutes on both sides (for medium rare), sear each avocado half for 2-3 minutes, sear corn for 3-4 minutes or until desired char is reached. Allow ingredients to cool then slice steak, cut corn off cob, and thinly slice avocado. In a large bowl toss greens, tomatoes, and onions in just enough vinaigrette to lightly coat. Arrange steak, avocado, and corn over greens. Add crumbled blue cheese and serve family style or individual servings.

Charred Tomato Dressing



INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium-sized tomato, cored and quartered
- 1 teaspoon fresh garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose seasoning blend (such as Everglades)
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ lemon, juiced
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- 3 tablespoons quality vinegar (champagne, white balsamic, etc.)
- 1 tablespoon fresh herbs (parsley, thyme, rosemary, etc.), chopped fine
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

Preheat a small, non-stick sauté pan over medium-high heat. Place the quartered tomato slices in the preheated pan dry with no oil. Cook tomatoes for about 2 minutes on each side or until a small char starts to form. It is important to not completely burn the entire tomato; only char parts of it to get good flavor. When the quartered tomato has enough charring on it, it can be removed from the heat. Add the charred tomato, garlic, seasoning blend, smoked paprika, lemon juice, yogurt, vinegar and herbs to a blender or food processor. Blend ingredients until smooth while slowly adding the olive oil. Taste dressing and adjust seasoning with sea salt and fresh ground pepper. Keep dressing refrigerated until ready to use.

Payment Options:

- **In Office / Drive-Through** – Payments can be made at any CFEC location during working hours. Payments can also be placed in the drop-box at each location after hours.
- **By Mail** – Mail payments to: Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Chiefland, FL 32644. Please allow sufficient time for delivery or payment may be received as late.
- **Phone / Online** – Payments can be processed through our third party provider, SEDC. A \$2.50 service fee will be charged by SEDC per \$500 transaction and is NOT a CFEC charge. Payments made through SEDC are posted to the member's account at the time of payment. Pay By Phone at 352-493-2515 or toll free at 844-434-3962. Pay online at www.cfec.com. Pay online using e-check for **free**.
- **Bank Draft** – Payments can be made automatically by bank draft by filling out a form and mailing or dropping it off at any CFEC office. The form can be found at cfec.com under the "Documents" tab. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.
- **Bank Locations** – Payments can be made at any Drummond Community Bank location or at the Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Fla., during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.



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MEETING NOTICE:

The Board of Trustees for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Cooperative's main office in Chiefland. Members are always welcome to attend.

CFEC Youth Tour



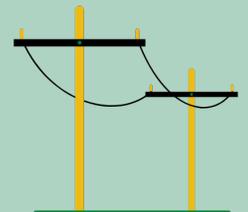
Attention high school juniors! The 2023 Youth

Tour is around the corner

and applications are due by **December 2, 2022**.

The application can be found on the CFEC website on the Youth Tour page. Applications will also be available through the guidance counselor at your high school. Youth Tour is a great opportunity for students to learn more about their government, their electric cooperative and meet their elected officials. For more information on this program, visit cfec.com and follow the CFEC Facebook page.

To Report A Power Outage:



- **Call: 1-800-227-1302 or 352-493-2511**, follow the prompts of the Automated Outage Response system.
- **Use the CFEC Connect App:** On the Home page, click "Report An Outage," select the issue causing your outage and the information will be submitted.
- **Online:** Click on the "report outage" button located at the top of the website. Fill in the "Identify Outage Location," form and click "submit."



**CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC**



**Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

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PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO. 3937

MAIN OFFICE

11491 NW 50th Ave.
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247
352-493-2511
or 800-227-1302
www.cfec.com

Physical Address/Payment Locations

MAIL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 9
Chiefland, FL 32644-0009

CROSS CITY OFFICE

207 NE 210 Ave.
Cross City, FL 32628
352-498-7322

INGLIS OFFICE

167 Highway 40 West
Inglis, FL 34449
352-447-3553

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Drummond Community Bank
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)
*For a complete listing of payment locations,
go to www.cfec.com.*
*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

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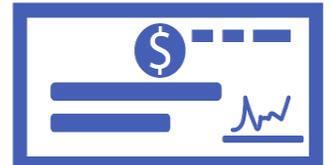
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Avoid the fees and pay your bill for free!

CFEC members can pay their bill online for free by paying with an e-check. To pay via e-check, visit the CFEC website and login to



the member portal. From there, select your account and click "pay online now." You can choose to pay by e-check and simply fill in your account number and routing number. This payment method allows you to conveniently pay your bill online with **NO FEE**. For more information on payment options, visit our website www.cfec.com.



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