

the Co-op Connection

JANUARY 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



Welcome To This New Year!



CFEC General Manager
Denny George

At CFEC, we rest hopeful in the future and are moving forward into this year with great promise.

You may recall from previous Co-op Connection articles, that approximately 65% of your average electric bill is a pass-through that pays Seminole Electric Cooperative – our generation provider – for the power you have used. The remainder of your bill, about 45%, is what we use to meet

the service requirements of our members. We always set the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment factor, so that we have over-recovered what we need for Seminole. We don't want to not have enough to cover that cost. Any over-recovery is returned to members in the following year.

This past year, there was much less over-recovery as power prices continued to rise through 2021. At the December Board of Trustee's meeting, the decision was made to increase the WPCA factor to -\$5.50, from -\$7.50 where it had been for 2021. This means that a 1,000-kwh electric bill, including only gross receipts tax, will go from \$119 to \$121. This will ensure that we collect what is needed to cover the cost of power from Seminole in the coming year.

Reasons For Natural Gas Price Hike

For those following natural gas prices, in 2017 and 2018 prices remained around \$3.25 per therm. In 2019, it began to fall below

\$2.50 and with the impact of Covid shutdowns, prices fell below \$2.00. These factors allowed CFEC to continue to raise the credit for the WPCA and reduce a 1,000-kwh bill down to \$119. In 2021, prices rose rapidly to more than \$5.50. If not for the use of the WPCA and the previous year's over-recovery, we would have to raise prices considerably. To say it another way, using the WPCA to generate potential over-recovery is a tool that helps offset volatility in natural gas prices. However, these tools have limits.

Why are natural gas prices rising? First, 15-18% of all U.S. natural gas supply is liquified and sent to other countries. In those areas, particularly Asian and European markets, gas prices are considerably higher than here in the United States, and that demand is placing upward price pressure on our rates here. As well, there were some supply and demand aspects associated with the Covid lockdowns. Another factor, in my opinion, is that the natural gas market players who explore and mine are sitting on the sidelines because it is hard to gauge how the current administration may tax natural gas use and generation in the coming years. Until those players are better able to see the future or until the administration changes its current views, they will be hesitant to invest in more exploration and production.

Delivering The Best Service At Lowest Possible Cost

At CFEC, we are working hard to keep prices stable. We believe we should be able to hold power prices through 2022 at or near \$121, barring any additional volatility. In early 2022, we are evaluating other rate components as we manage rising prices for equipment – particularly poles, wire and transformers. We will continue to keep you informed as we move through 2022 and will work to deliver the very best service at the lowest cost possible. Blessings!

How Does CFEC Compare With Other Co-ops?

We are happy to report that CFEC is in the middle to even slightly on the lower-cost side of other cooperatives in Florida, even compared to larger cooperatives that are more densely populated and should have much lower costs. We are even doing well compared to some investor-owned utilities. Florida Power & Light, traditionally in the low \$90s, for a 1,000-kwh bill, will be almost \$114 by the end of 2022. Duke Energy will be almost \$141.50 by the end of 2022.



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 Madison Redd, CFEC Communications Specialist

Announcement:

Central Florida Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members will be held on May 7, 2022.

In October, CFEC's Board of Trustees voted to move the Annual Meeting of Members from October to May.

Reasons for this change include the following:

- The date change will move the Annual Meeting away from Hurricane Season and the possibility of storms affecting the meeting. October is often a very active month during Hurricane Season.
- The first Saturday of October is popular for other festivals and happenings in the area. It is hoped the new timeframe will not interfere with as many other events.
- Early May tends to have more comfortable weather than early October, which is often still quite warm.

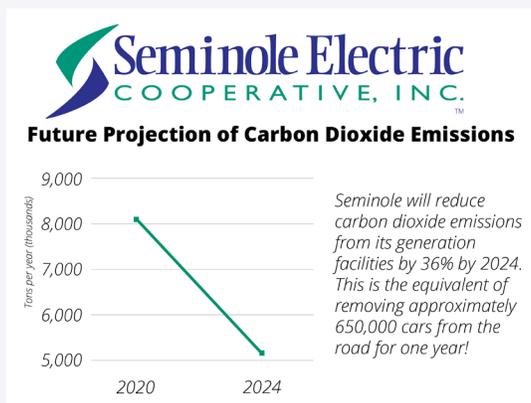
We hope the Membership of CFEC will make plans to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on May 7. News and information regarding the meeting will be coming in the next few months. For questions, contact CFEC Member Services at (352) 493-2511.



Seminole Electric Increases Diversity, Decreases Emissions

Central Florida Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, Seminole Electric Cooperative, maintains a diversified portfolio of resources for electricity generation.

Seminole's portfolio has multiple components, ensuring that it doesn't rely too heavily on any one fuel source or generation facility. This includes coal, natural gas, and renewables such as solar. Seminole also purchases additional power from the energy grid to meet the needs of its Members.



Seminole's primary resources include the Seminole Generating Station in northeast Florida, the Richard J. Midulla Generating Station (MGS) in south central Florida, and the Cooperative Solar facility adjacent to MGS.

Seminole is currently constructing a new natural gas-fired facility adjacent to SGS in northeast Florida, which will reduce Seminole's

reliance on coal as a fuel resource. The new plant will have a generating capacity of 1,050 megawatts and is scheduled to be commercially operational by the fall of 2022.

Local Solar Resources

Seminole has also entered into four agreements for the purchase of 298 megawatts of additional solar. The four new photovoltaic (PV) solar sites are expected to generate 74.5 megawatts per facility, enough to power approximately 60,000 homes. The proposed solar facilities are located in Gilchrist, Columbia, Putnam and Gadsden counties. With the inclusion of the Seminole Combined Cycle Facility and new solar resources in Seminole's resource portfolio, carbon dioxide emissions are expected to drop 36% by 2024. This is the equivalent of removing approximately 650,000 cars from the road for one year!

In 2022, Duke Energy will start building a solar facility across Highway 129 from CFEC's main office. This facility is not part of CFEC and Seminole Electric Cooperative's power generation portfolio.

Seminole is dedicated to maintaining a balanced and diverse power generation portfolio, investing in a mix of technologies and fuel types based on keeping electricity costs affordable, being a good steward of the environment, and ensuring Seminole and CFEC's Members have the power they need.

Carbon Q & A

Q: What does carbon neutral mean?

A: Carbon is a widely distributed and essential element. It so easily bonds with other elements that it is the building block for all organic compounds. Although most of those compounds are inherently good, some of these make up a group called greenhouse gases.

Carbon dioxide makes up roughly two-thirds of all greenhouse gas emissions. Scientists say carbon dioxide has been increasing since the Industrial Revolution and now is increasing average temperatures worldwide, which in turn will contribute to climate change.

Nearly everything humans do daily – from driving to work to watching television in their home – produces carbon dioxide. Generating electricity by burning coal, natural gas and other fossil fuels is also a primary source of carbon dioxide.

The term "carbon neutral" means that the amount of carbon dioxide produced is being offset by some other means. Achieving carbon neutrality means that that your carbon dioxide output has a net neutral impact on the environment, which can help stem the effects of climate change.

Many companies and even countries are pledging to be carbon neutral in the future. This means they will reduce carbon emissions as much as possible and then cover what is made with carbon offsets, such as tree planting or other large-scale projects.

Move Over For Utility Vehicles Too!

The Move Over Law requires drivers to move over a lane or slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit when driving by law enforcement, emergency vehicles, tow trucks and utility vehicles. January is Move Over reminder month.

The Move Over Law helps protect law enforcement, first responders, firemen, garbage workers, tow truck drivers and utility workers, including CFEC linemen, from being hit by cars and trucks passing them at high speed.

For failing to move over, you can be issued a ticket that will result in a fine and put 3 points on your license. More importantly, you are putting workers in danger. Always pay attention when driving, and move over for vehicles on the roadside.



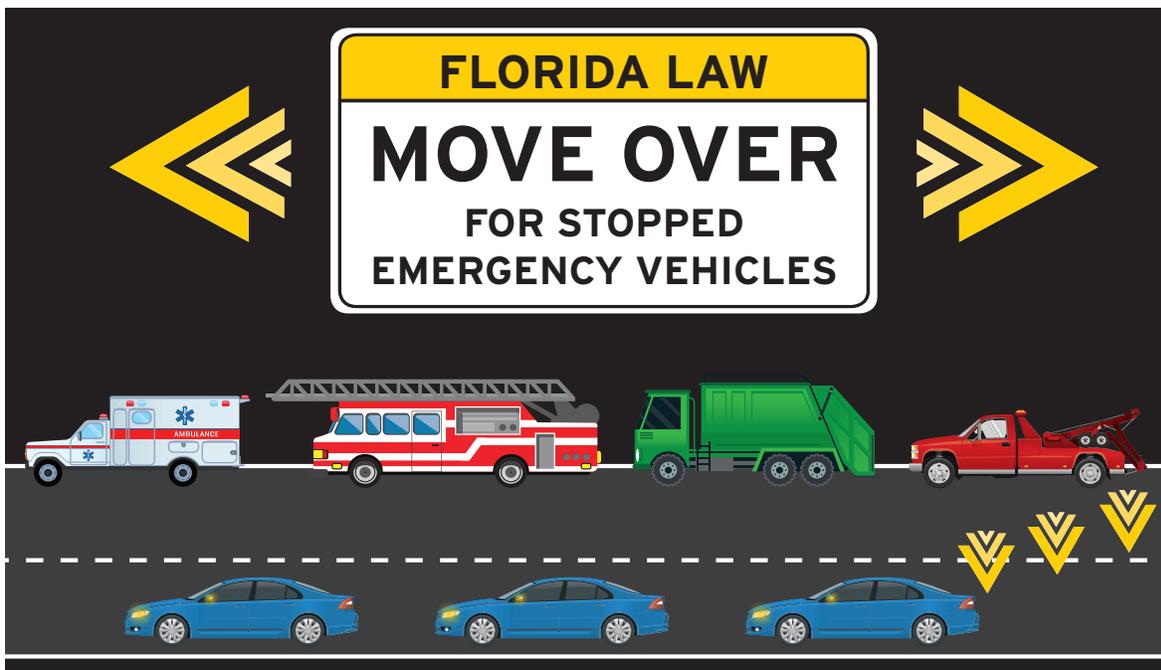
Follow The Move Over Law:

On Two Lane Roads

- Slow down to a speed 20 mph below the posted speed limit.
- If the speed limit is 20 mph or less, drivers must travel at 5 mph

On Multi-Lane Roads

- Vacate the lane closest to the stationary emergency vehicle, tow truck, sanitation, or utility vehicle.
- Slow down to a speed of 20 mph below the posted speed limit if you cannot move over safely.
- Drivers in other lanes should allow those vehicles moving over space to come into their lane.



Oysters Rockefeller

INGREDIENTS

- 2 dozen oysters, shucked and on the half shell
- 2 cups spinach, cooked and squeezed dry
- 1 bell pepper (any color), diced small
- 3-4 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ½ cup panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon of hot pepper sauce
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 lemons, quartered for garnish
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to high broil. In a bowl combine and mix together the spinach, bell pepper, bacon, cheeses, parsley, hot sauce and lemon juice. Taste and adjust with salt and pepper, if needed. Evenly place one tablespoon or so of the spinach mixture on top of each oyster. Place on a sheet pan and put under the broiler for two or three minutes. The cooking process will happen rather quickly, so observe the whole time. Oysters will start to curl around the edges and filling will be golden and bubbly. Remove and serve warm with quartered lemons.

Cheesy Bubble Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large loaf of French bread
- 1 ½ cups sweet peppers (multicolored) diced small
- 1/2 cup green onion or scallions, chopped small
- 4 to 6 (more if desired) cloves of fresh garlic, peeled and minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (oregano, rosemary, parsley), chopped fine
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted or softened at room temp
- 1 teaspoon (more if desired) all-purpose seasoning
- 3 to 4 cups shredded cheese (a blend or your favorite)
- 3/4 cup blue cheese, crumbled small



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. With a serrated knife, cut the loaf of bread in half lengthwise. Evenly spread the softened or melted butter over the cut side of each loaf. Lightly season the butter-topped bread with half of the all-purpose seasoning and all the minced garlic. Top the buttered bread with entire shredded cheese blend. Sprinkle the small diced sweet peppers evenly over the top of the cheese topped bread. Do the same with the crumbled blue cheese and scallions. Evenly distribute the rest of the all-purpose seasoning over the pepper and cheese topped bread. Place cheese-topped bread loaves on a cookie sheet and place in the preheated oven. Cook the cheesy bread for 8 to 10 minutes until the cheese is bubbly and melted. Remove the bread from the oven and let cool slightly. Cut cheesy bread and serve warm.

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.
- **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.



Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

~ YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

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.

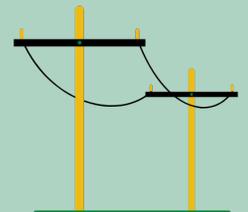
Do we have your current phone number and address?



CFEC's Automated Outage Response System uses customer telephone numbers to locate accounts and corresponding locations. Additionally, a new Automated Delinquency Call will provide an additional notice as a courtesy for accounts that are delinquent one day before your disconnect date. These services will not be possible if CFEC does not have your current phone number on file.

It is important to update phone numbers and mailing address associated with your service location. Inaccurate phone number/service location combinations may result in delayed handling of the outage or a missed opportunity to avoid a power disconnection. If you have questions or need to update your contact information and phone number, call 800-227-1302.

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."





PRSRT 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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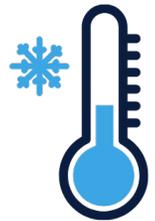
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**Keep Out The Cold
And Conserve Energy:**



- **Weatherize windows.** Most windows develop air gaps over time causing as much as a **40% energy loss.** New caulk or weather stripping will make a big difference.
- **Clean or replace air filters every three months** or as needed to keep your HVAC system working efficiency.
- **Clean air registers and make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting or curtains.**
- **Open curtains and shades on your south-facing windows during the day** to allow the sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

