

the Co-op Connection

APRIL 2021

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



A Power 'Blink' Explained



**General Manager
Denny George**

Our homes today are filled with so many appliances and electronic devices that a momentary blink in power is often enough for some of us to catch our breath and worry about whether these things will come back on or not.

Recently, I read an article in the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative's magazine about this

"blink" of power that I thought I would share with CFEC Members. The article explained very well the processes that happen when power goes out and is restored, and clearly makes the case that a momentary blink in power does not always turn out bad. Since our systems work the same way, I'll share what was written:

"When our power system detects a disturbance threatening service, protective processes immediately occur to minimize the impact and prevent greater damage. If something contacts an energized line, it creates a fault or short circuit. If the fault is temporary, power is restored in the blink of an eye. For example, when a tree limb blows into a line then falls to the ground.

"Although it is a very quick process, it may cause lights to flicker and digital clocks to reset. The protective device will sometimes operate more than once to clear the line of the disturbance and avoid a prolonged outage. When a tree limb hits the line several times before falling, for example. If the line is not cleared, it will be de-energized to protect equipment from damage and ensure safety.

"As our system de-energizes the fault area, reclosers simultaneously isolate the size of the outage to minimize the people impacted. The cause of a fault can range from a vehicle accident to a squirrel, bird or tree branch."

That Answers That

Have you ever wondered why sometimes your neighbor has power but you don't? These sophisticated systems are the reason. When an outage can't be prevented, protective processes can minimize the impact and minimize the number of people or meters affected by this outage. The goal is to keep power flowing to as many people as possible, and these computerized systems work out the routing of power within minute fractions of seconds, causing a "blink" but no more.

In those places where power cannot be reestablished automatically, once a Member submits an outage report, a lineman is dispatched to fix the problem and restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

That Is A Good Thing!

Unfortunately, power surges, which can happen from an occurrence outside the home, such as lightning, or within the home, such as appliance or HVAC system cycling on and off, can sometimes result in a blink of the power or cause more significant damage. Electronics such as televisions and computers should always be plugged into power strip surge protectors. CFEC offers meter-mounted surge protectors to help protect your home and larger appliances, such as the refrigerator or washing machine. You can read more about these devices on the following page.

I hope this column has helped explain what happens when the power blinks off and right back on. Maybe next time it happens, you will think "that's CFEC's protective system in action" and that is a good thing!



**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 Dustin Jones, CFEC Serviceman

CFEC's Power Surge Protection Program: Another way you can protect your home

To defend your home against power surges and harmful electrical spikes, CFEC offers a surge protection device. The collar-like device is installed on your meter and helps keep power surges from entering your home. Learn more about the surge protection device and program in the information below.

More Information About the Surge Protection Program



- The surge protection device must be kept on the meter for at least a year once installed. If removed, the Member is still required to pay what is owed on the device. The device costs \$5.50 per month.
- Protects large appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, hot water heaters and dishwashers. When used in conjunction with down-line point-of-use surge protectors, it can also protect more sensitive home electronics and air conditioning units.
- The surge protection device protects appliances when lightning strikes the powerline, carrying the electricity from the powerline to the meter can and then through the surge.
- If the red light is lit up on the surge protection device, it is working correctly.
- For more information about CFEC's surge protection program, call **1-800-227-1302** and speak to a Member Service Representative. Call today!



Completed installation of a surge protection device.

Solar Energy And CFEC

Florida is the Sunshine State, so it is no surprise that solar energy facilities continue to be built to capture that energy, turning it into electricity for Florida residents.

Seminole Electric Cooperative is the generation and transmission cooperative that supplies CFEC, plus eight other cooperatives around the state, with power that is distributed to their Members.

As part of its energy portfolio, Seminole brought online a 2.2 megawatt solar facility in Hardee County in 2017. This project features more than 8,000 single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and served as a pilot project for Seminole's Cooperative Solar program.

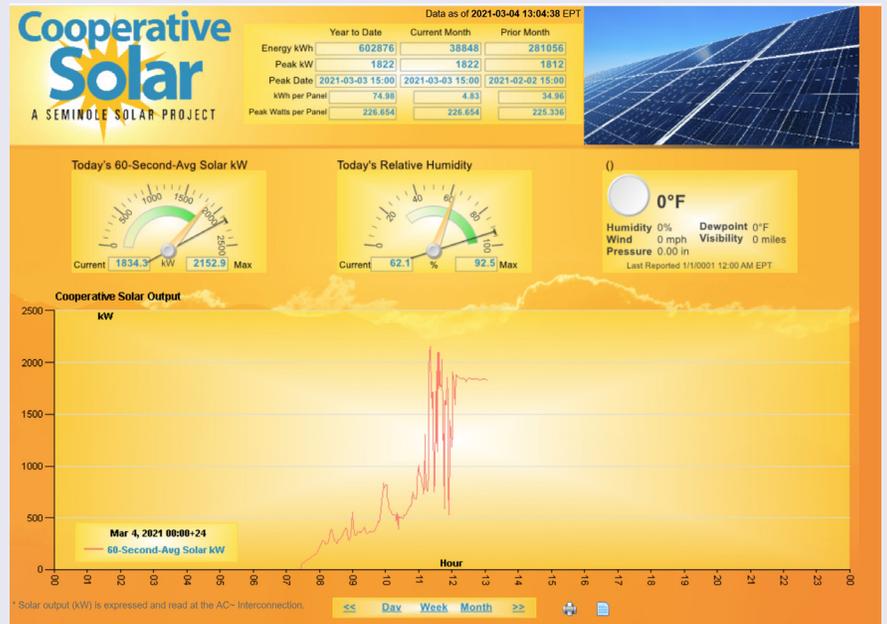
Based on the success of this program, Seminole is moving forward with more solar capacity and a bigger, more efficient program: Community Solar.

More recently, Seminole has contracted with



New solar energy facilities will bring the renewable energy portion to 10% of the total energy for Seminole Electric Cooperative and the nine cooperatives it serves, including CFEC.

Florida Renewable Partners, LLC, — part of the Florida-based NextEra Energy — to build new solar generating facilities to provide solar power



A current view of the output for Cooperative Solar can be found at www.seminole-electric.com, by clicking on "Facilities" and then "Solar Dashboard."

to Seminole's nine Member distribution electric cooperatives through purchased power agreements. The four new photovoltaic (PV) solar sites — which will be constructed, owned, and operated by FRP — are expected to generate 298 megawatts, or 74.5 megawatts per facility, enough to power approximately 60,000 homes. The proposed solar facilities are located across north Florida in Gilchrist, Columbia, Putnam and Gadsden counties.

"Our Members have asked Seminole for an increase in solar generation," says Jason Peters, Director of Commercial Operations at Seminole. "Partnering with FRP to complete these four solar facilities will significantly increase the renewable energy available for our Members and their consumers, through Seminole's energy resource portfolio."

FRP expects these new solar facilities to be commercially operational in 2023. These agreements will significantly increase Seminole's and CFEC's renewable resource portfolio.

“With the construction of this new solar facility, we are moving towards a Community Solar Plan in which every CFEC member will contribute to producing this clean energy,” says CFEC General Manager and CEO Denny George. “This cost-sharing approach will result in lower costs per watt to consumers as everyone will be doing their part to expand our solar energy

sources. This new facility will bring CFEC’s, and the other cooperatives served by Seminole’s, total energy portfolio from 4% renewable energy to roughly 10% renewable energy.”

For more information, visit www.cfec.com or www.seminole-electric.com.

Clarification On Solar Facility Coming To Chiefland Area

Central Florida Electric Cooperative Members may be aware that a new solar energy facility is being planned for the Chiefland area. The new facility will be constructed on approximately 700 acres of land adjacent to the main CFEC office. The facility is being developed by a company called Savion, doing business as Levy Solar I, LLC.

CFEC is **not affiliated** in any way with these companies and only participates in Cooperative Solar through Seminole Electric Cooperative, as mentioned in the adjacent article.

Construction on the 74.9-megawatt solar facility in Chiefland is expected to begin in early 2022 and be completed by December 2022. Duke Energy, who already owns and operates solar facilities in Gilchrist County, is expected to purchase the development rights to the project and will likely build, own and operate the facility.

To Avoid A Solar Scam:

- Talk with your electric cooperative before deciding to purchase solar panels.
- Do your homework on solar companies. Get at least 3 quotes from different companies.
- Avoid solar companies that use high-pressure tactics.
- Know what you can really expect from solar panels, and don’t believe unrealistic promises.
- Only sign a clear, easy-to-understand contract.



Crab Stuffed Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound blue crab
- 4 large portobello mushrooms, cleaned
- ½ cup bell peppers, chopped fine
- 1 stalk celery, chopped fine
- 1 scallion, chopped fine
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped fine
- Oil for cooking
- 1 tablespoon seafood seasoning (your favorite)



PREPARATION

Combine bell peppers, celery, scallions, mayonnaise, bread crumbs, parsley, and all-purpose seasoning in a large bowl and mix. Gently fold in crab meat. Scoop into portobello caps until full. Preheat large pan over medium-high heat and add 1 tablespoon oil. Place mushrooms filling side down and cook for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown. Flip and continue cooking with lid on for 5 minutes or until mushrooms soften slightly and filling is heated through. Serve warm.

Chicken and Vegetable Pot Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 3 chicken breasts or 4 thighs, medium dice
- 2 cups carrots, medium dice
- 2 cups potatoes, medium dice
- 1 stalk celery, small dice
- ½ sweet onion, small dice
- 2 cups frozen peas
- 4-6 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- Frozen/prepared pie crust or puff pastry for topping
- 1 egg, beaten
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Preheat a large pot over medium-high heat. Season the chicken with salt and pepper and sauté for 5 minutes. Add in the fresh thyme, garlic, onions, carrots, celery, peas, and potatoes. Stir to combine and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle mixture with flour and stir to coat everything, cook for 1 to 2 more minutes before slowly whisking in the stock (start with the least amount of liquid and add more until desired thickness). Bring to a boil for 3-5 minutes then remove from heat and add in heavy cream, stir to combine. Before filling dish or dishes, cut out shape of crust making sure it is larger than the diameter of the dish. Pour pot pie mixture into individual ramekins or casserole dish. Brush the outside of the dish with egg wash and top with pie crust or puff pastry, press to seal or crimp the edges. Cut small slits in the middle of the pie crust or puff pastry for venting, and brush tops with remaining egg wash. Place onto baking sheet and bake for 30-60 minutes (depending on size of baking dish), or until tops are golden brown. Remove from oven and serve (will be extremely hot).

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.**

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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.

Sign Up for the Special Needs Registry

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with local emergency management agencies, developed the Special Needs Registry to allow residents with special needs to receive assistance during a disaster. The registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies.

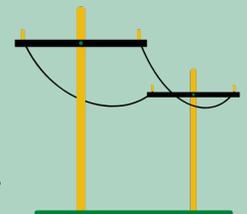


To register for the Special Needs Program, go to the Florida State Emergency Response Team website for Special Needs Registry at <https://snr.floridadisaster.org>.

Create an account by selecting your county from the drop-down menu, then click on "Sign Up." Select a username and password and fill out the questionnaire. If you are unable to complete the registry on the website, contact your county emergency management office.

- Alachua County Emergency Management: 352-264-6500
- Dixie County Emergency Management: 352-498-1464
- Gilchrist County Emergency Management: 386-935-5400
- Lafayette County Emergency Management: 386-294-1950
- Levy County Emergency Management: 352-486-5213
- Marion County Emergency Management: 352-369-8100

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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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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A reminder from CFEC:

Hurricane Season is coming soon. Now is the time to review your home emergency plans and begin stocking up on essential items. For more information and a preparations list, go to www.floridadisaster.org.