

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Joe Luis Bonilla-Tellez
- ▶ John Thomas
- ▶ Yadira Ugarte
- ▶ Dia Unruh
- ▶ Kory Unruh
- ▶ Kent Woolfolk

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Trustee Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee terms will expire in 2025, and their positions are open for election.

▶ DISTRICT 1, POSITION B

RON OLIVER

(Not planning to seek reelection)

▶ DISTRICT 2, POSITION B

MICHAEL JOHNSON

▶ DISTRICT 3, POSITION B

CHAD MCMILLIN

Members wishing to serve on the CMS Board of Trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures



RON OLIVER
District 1, Position B



MICHAEL JOHNSON
District 2, Position B



CHAD MCMILLIN
District 3, Position B

of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent.

Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade or call and one will be mailed to you. Completed petitions are due to the CMS office by April 1, 2025.

If you need additional information, please call CMS 800-794-2353.

New Bill Design Coming Soon

Beginning with our March billing, CMS members will see a new look to our bills!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use Energy Star-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. Use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarships are six \$1,000 scholarships awarded annually to eligible applicants.

PURPOSE

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements to continue their education.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric Scholarship shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Scholarship merit is based on three categories:

- ▶ Scholastic achievement
- ▶ School extracurricular activities
- ▶ Community activities

HOW TO APPLY

Students wishing to make applications should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS board trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or print a form from the CMS website

www.cmselectric.com. Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., **BY FEB. 10, 2025.**

**MAIL APPLICATIONS TO: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

P.O. BOX 790

MEADE, KS 67864

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS general manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee, if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final.

Runners-up will be selected in the event the recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CONDITIONS

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that person continues to meet all criteria.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write

a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Understanding Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

February brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from CMS Electric, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even see how electricity use may have spiked on days when you used more electricity, such as a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

FUEL PRICES

CMS purchases electricity from our power generation partner, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to homes and businesses — and the cost of fuels that are used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with KEPCo to plan and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

EXTREME WEATHER

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, CMS members pay a monthly fee that ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in CMS's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural

gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities.

YOU HAVE CONTROL

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening, to save energy. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

CMS is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost.

EFFECTIVE WAYS TO LOWER HOME ENERGY USE

Outside factors, such as fuel, equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.

THERMOSTAT MANAGEMENT

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Department of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



SEAL YOUR HOME

According to Energy Star, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping.



UTILIZE OFF-PEAK ENERGY TIMES

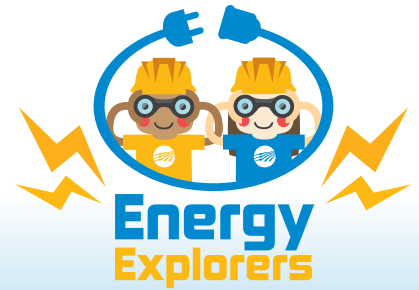
Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning or late evenings. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month! Let's take a look at a few African American inventors whose contributions helped revolutionize the way we use electricity and essential devices that power life.

Read the descriptions of each inventor and their contributions, then choose the best answer to complete the description.



ANNIE EASLEY

Easley started her career in 1955 as one of the first African Americans at NASA (when it was called the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), essentially acting as a human computer, performing manual computations for researchers. Annie was a gifted programmer and developed computer code that was used to analyze _____ energy projects, as well as batteries for early hybrid vehicles.

- ▶ A. nuclear
- ▶ B. wind and solar
- ▶ C. geothermal

Easley broke down barriers for women and people of color in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields and won the admiration and respect of her coworkers.



LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER

Latimer worked with Thomas Edison on the development and commercialization of the incandescent lightbulb. He invented a method to manufacture _____ filament to make lightbulbs mass-producible. His method was patented in 1882.

- ▶ A. carbon
- ▶ B. hydrogen
- ▶ C. silicon

Without Latimer's contributions, our lives would never have been so bright!



MARIAN CROAK

Croak began her career at Bell Laboratories (now AT&T) and patented more than 200 inventions. One of her greatest contributions was VoIP, or Voice over Internet Protocol. VoIP technologies are essential for today's fast-paced digital world. VoIP allows voice functionality over an _____, including helpful features for video calls and mobile messaging.

- ▶ A. airwave
- ▶ B. audible barrier
- ▶ C. internet connection

Croak's passion for advancing technology has improved our digital capabilities and overall quality of life.



SOURCE: NEW AMERICA

Answer Key | Annie Easley: B, Lewis Howard Latimer: A, Marian Croak: C

SOURCES: DEPT. OF ENERGY, LEWIS LATIMER HOUSE, NASA