



DAVID VONDRAN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Factors that impact electricity prices

Inflation has impacted the price of everything including gasoline, eggs, and the costs for fuels required to produce electricity. There are a few key factors that impact electricity prices and energy bills.

The three primary components of your monthly electric bill include: an energy consumption charge, a service availability fee and a cost of energy adjustment charge. To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's examine each area.

The first component of your monthly bill is the energy consumption charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment operate more, which increases your home energy use. Energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use.

The next component is a fixed monthly service availability fee, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in our service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local power delivery system, including power lines, substations and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some basic equipment.

Because energy costs change regularly, the cost of energy adjustment may be a credit or charge on your bill each month, depending on current energy prices and the amount of energy used. It covers wholesale fuel cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates. It's a direct pass through, with no markup.

While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of fuels, please know C & L Electric Cooperative is doing everything possible to provide you with the most Affordable, Reliable and Responsible power possible.



AFCC

We take our mission to provide our members with Affordable, Reliable and Responsible energy seriously.



C & L Electric delegates attend 2023 Youth Tour

Emma Berry and Shelby Rainbolt, both of Star City, represented C & L Electric

Cooperative at Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid educational trip to Washington, D.C., on June 16-22. Emma is the daughter of Melanie and Mike Berry. Shelby is the daughter of Lora and Brad Rainbolt.

Applications for the 2024 Youth Tour will be available in February. For more information on Youth Tour, please contact Karen Rauls at 870-628-4221 or by email at krauls@clelectric.com.

C & L Electric delegates Emma Berry and Shelby Rainbolt on the Speaker of the House's balcony at the U.S. Capitol overlooking the National Mall in Washington, D.C. They were two of 48 students representing Arkansas on Youth Tour.



Ashcraft re-elected to Board of Directors

C & L Electric Cooperative members re-elected John Ed Ashcraft to the cooperative's Board of Directors by mail-in ballot at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 15. John Ed represents Cleveland County and part of Dallas County. He was elected to serve a five-year term.

John Ed, a lifelong resident of Cleveland County, has been a director of C & L for 10 years. During this period, he has served in leadership roles including president, vice president and secretary of the Board of Directors. He has also represented C & L on the boards of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC). During his time on the C & L Board, John Ed earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates.

John Ed is a 1968 graduate of Woodlawn High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He is retired from UPS after 36 years of service, having received the Circle of Honor award from UPS for 25 years of safe driving. He is also a licensed funeral director, currently working part-time for Griffin Funeral Home in Star City.

In addition to serving on the C & L Board, Ashcraft is a member of the board for Connect Bank in Star City and has served for over 25 years on the board of the Saline-Ouachita Valley Livestock Association in Warren, having served as a past president. He is also a member of the Bradley County Cattlemen's Association.

John Ed and his wife Carolyn have three daughters: Monica (David) Welch, Shelly (John) Wolfe and Dana (Jason) Gavin. They have six grandchildren: Madison and McKenzie Welch, Leah and Cole Wolfe and Daniel and Sadie Gavin. John Ed and his wife attend Monticello Church of Christ.



John Ed Ashcraft



STAR CITY OFFICE

900 Church St.
870-628-4221
Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

SHERIDAN OFFICE

1586 S. Rock St.
870-942-2732
Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-11 a.m.,
12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Frank Wilson
- John Ed Ashcraft
- Lawrence "Bubba" Hudson, Jr.
- Charles S. Searcy
- Philip C. "Phil" Wilson
- William "Bubba" Humphrey
- Robert Wilson Floyd
- Keith Griffin
- Tony Cathey

PAY BILL

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C & L ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
CORPORATION

**C & L Electric
will be closed
for Labor Day
on Monday,
Sept. 4.**



The Energy Pyramid

BY MITCH ROSS

When I was in school, we were taught the food pyramid as a way to conceptualize portions and the variety of foods needed for a healthy diet. While the food pyramid has been replaced with the MyPlate concept, the simple efficacy of using a pyramid to relay priorities has stuck with me. I still remember that having a foundation of healthy grains, fruits and vegetables was considered important, while sweets were to be consumed sparingly.

As an energy auditor, I also use the pyramid concept to teach the proper sequence of priorities for those wishing to lower their energy usage and save on their electric bills. Much like those of us who wish the food pyramid foundation were sweets, I find many homeowners think the initial solution to high energy costs is adding solar. Like sweets, solar should be used sparingly and only after everything else that can be done is completed.

The Energy Pyramid has a foundation of Energy Conservation, a middle section of Energy Efficiency and a peak of Intermittent Energy.

Energy Conservation is the foundation of a strategy to lower energy costs. It is the prevention of wasteful energy use. Setting the thermostat to reduce HVAC runtime, turning off lights and fans in unoccupied rooms, sealing leaky ducts and turning off computers and gaming systems when not in use are all great examples. Focusing on Energy Conservation can have a significant impact on energy usage!

Energy Efficiency is using less energy to perform the same tasks or produce the same results. Examples include replacing old HVAC systems with efficient heat pump systems, swapping incandescent bulbs with LEDs or changing out traditional electric water heaters with efficient heat pump water heaters. Many home efficiency

measures can be implemented and will pay for themselves within just a few years, making them a worthwhile investment.

Lastly, **Intermittent Energy**, such as solar, is energy that is not continuously available due to uncontrollable external factors. While residential solar may seem like a good solution, it is among the least cost-effective measures. It has a poor payback when compared with most energy conservation and efficiency measures. I have been to homes with solar, and the homeowners are still unhappy with their energy costs, because now they are paying an electric bill on top of their solar financing bill. I have also been in homes with solar that have ductwork in terrible condition, older inefficient HVAC systems, water heater leaks and other big issues that would have been much more cost-effective to resolve.

When addressing energy costs, it's my hope that you will conserve first and see what efficiency can do for your home — before trying to make a meal of the sweets.

Visit energy.gov for more information on energy savings, or contact C & L Electric Cooperative at 870-628-4221 to schedule an energy audit.

Mitch Ross is the energy efficiency manager for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

