



**DAVID VONDRA**  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

## Electricity provides powerful value

There are aspects of most people’s life that become sort of a daily routine. You may get ready for work, get in a car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, you may drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. At home, you may stream an episode or two of your favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, think about your daily routine and how much value it provides compared to the money spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink can cost \$10 or more, and a Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses total around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. But what is the real value — short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4, and the average monthly electric bill based on 1,150 kilowatt usage is around \$120. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. Now, that’s real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amid rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, we do everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It’s not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our control but

most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. We consider all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we’re a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, your local electric cooperative always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

**WAYS YOU CAN USE ELECTRICITY** that cost less than a to-go coffee

- RUN FRIDGE 24 HOURS
- FULLY CHARGE CELL PHONE
- WATCH 2 HOURS OF TV
- USE OVEN 4 HOURS
- POWER LAPTOP 8 HOURS
- DRY A LOAD OF LAUNDRY

### YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PAYS PROPERTY TAXES TOO!

Just as everyone who owns property pays property taxes in the month of October, C & L Electric is no exception. The cooperative pays taxes on its various properties, such as office buildings, overhead power lines and substations. These tax payments are used to support schools, roads, law enforcement and local governments. This year, C & L paid a total of \$1,152,376.60 to the nine Arkansas counties in which we have members.

#### Here’s what your cooperative paid to each county:

Arkansas	\$2,758.54	Drew	\$194,445.91
Bradley	\$148,136.24	Grant	\$83,661.30
Cleveland	\$142,557.90	Jefferson	\$70,127.68
Dallas	\$4,616.71	Lincoln	\$348,389.82
Desha	\$157,682.50		

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Celebrating Excellence

## Jorge Acuchi, GIS Technician

We are excited to shine a spotlight on Jorge Acuchi, an exceptional C & L team member who consistently exhibits unwavering passion and commitment to his work.

Jorge has taken on challenging projects and successfully tackled them almost single-handedly. He has worked hard implementing a system to unite all departments with their daily workflows between billing, geographic information systems (GIS), engineering, outage management system (OMS) and service tickets.

Jorge has worked and continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes and on the front line to ensure that things flow seamlessly and efficiently.

“Jorge has the remarkable ability to identify and take action on tasks that require attention. His drive serves as a source of inspiration for us all. When presented with an idea or need, he consistently transforms it into reality. His patience and determination to assist others are truly noteworthy. The successful implementation of the new staking system is credited to Jorge. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!” said Lee Stewart, Staking engineer supervisor.

Employees are C & L Electric’s greatest asset and the key to our success as a safe, sustainable and reliable electric cooperative. We want to recognize the people behind your power.



GIS Technician Jorge Acuchi has worked at C & L Electric Cooperative for 11 years.



### 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 II
- Charles S. Searcy
- Philip C. “Phil” Wilson
- William “Bubba” Humphrey
- Robert Wilson Floyd
- Keith Griffin
- Tony Cathey

### SCAN TO PAY BILL



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COOPERATIVE  
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**C & L Electric will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, for Thanksgiving.**



**VETERANS DAY IS NOV. 11.**

*Thank you for your service!*



# Home Maintenance Checklist

*Keep energy costs and equipment repair in check*

BY MITCH ROSS

I love a good checklist. I have several that I've used and implemented over the years to make keeping track of important things easier for myself. I have my camping checklist to make sure I get everything loaded for a fun time with my family. I have a checklist for doing energy audits to make sure I don't forget to check out any system. I make daily to-do lists that I try hard to complete, though that never seems to happen!

Here is my checklist list for home maintenance items that can directly impact your utility bills as well as keep your equipment running smoothly. Be sure to consult a professional for any items you need assistance with.

## Monthly

- **Check your HVAC filters.** If they are even a bit dirty, change or clean them to maintain good airflow for your HVAC unit.

## Seasonally

- **Rinse off outdoor condenser coils for your air conditioning (AC) unit.** Have a professional check on your system, or review it yourself for any potential issues such as dirt or leaves building up at the base of the unit.
- **Adjust water heater temperature.** In my home, we set the temperature down a bit in the summer, and up just a bit in the winter where we can bathe comfortably.
- **Adjust and maintain pools and hot tubs.** Setting timers can lower energy usage in the offseason.
- **Review appliance and equipment settings.** Use a smart, programmable thermostat to set HVAC schedules for different seasons. Use cold water to wash clothes, turn

off the heated drying on your dishwasher, and check and adjust settings on refrigerators and freezers, etc.

## Yearly

- **Deep-clean your AC unit.** Be sure to clean both indoor and out!
- **Drain your water heater.** Draining flushes out minerals and built-up sediment.
- **Do a thorough home inspection.** Look around the house, in the attic and crawlspace to detect any issues like rodent damage, water leaks, insulation gaps, leaking ducts, etc.
- **Clean kitchen range hood filters.**

## Infrequently

- **Replace the anode rod in your water heater.** Depending on water quality and use, replace every three to five years.
- **Clean built-up lint from dryer vents.** This will improve airflow, leading to faster drying times for clothes.
- **Clean refrigerator coils.** Use a brush to remove dust, cobwebs and other buildup.
- **Clean bathroom exhaust vent covers and fans.**
- **Clean the ductwork.** This is especially important if ductwork is in the floor where items can fall in.

Although getting items checked off the list isn't always fun, the sense of accomplishment and peace of mind that follows makes it worthwhile! I hope this list helps you keep your home and equipment in good order and helps you maintain low energy bills.

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



## IMPOSTORS CONTINUE TO SCAM UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Scammers may aggressively tell you that your utility bill is past due, and service will be disconnected if a payment is not made, usually in less than an hour. Getting you in a fearful state gives the scammers a better chance to have you make mistakes.