

## Cooperative Solar saves members more than \$400 each in 2022

For any Coastal Electric Cooperative member who wants the advantages of solar power but not the cost or maintenance that comes with installing panels at their home, Cooperative Solar might be a beneficial option. So beneficial, in fact, that members who subscribed to two blocks of Cooperative Solar saved \$424.62 on their energy bills in 2022.

Electricity delivered through Coastal Electric's Cooperative Solar program is sourced through cooperative-owned renewable energy supplier Green Power EMC. Georgia's electric cooperatives have a combined 975 megawatts of solar capacity from nearly 40 sites across the state, including sites in Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties. That's enough energy to help power approximately 158,000 electric co-op households annually.

With the addition of seven more sites under construction, by 2024, Georgia's electric cooperatives' capacity is expected to grow to more than 1,600 megawatts.

Coastal Electric members can subscribe to small blocks, or shares, of solar sites across Georgia. A block is equivalent to 2 kilowatts (or about six residential-sized solar panels). Each block costs \$25 and is charged monthly on your electric bill. Each member can sign up to purchase a maximum of two blocks for \$50 a month. The energy produced is distributed back to the power grid, and your solar credit is subtracted from the metered energy used at your



"I love your Cooperative Solar program. I found out about it through an article in your magazine. Since I didn't entirely understand how the program works, I called the man who manages it, and he patiently explained the details. I got off the phone pretty much convinced, but still wondered where the catch was. How was this going to cost me more money? I decided to trust what he told me and signed up to purchase two blocks, the maximum you'll allow us to purchase. Eureka! We've been saving money ever since. We have all the benefits of solar but none of the hassle. I wish we could buy more blocks. Thank you for this program!"

—Coastal Electric Member

home before your bill is calculated.

Cooperative Solar requires no contracts, and a member can drop their subscription at any time.

Thanks to economies of scale, Cooperative Solar:

- Costs members significantly less than installing a solar system—\$25 a month for Cooperative Solar versus \$20,000 to \$65,000 for the

installation of a home solar array.

- Saves a member money on their electric bills.
- Eliminates the need for modifications or holes in a homeowner's roof.
- Allows renters to take advantage of solar energy.
- Does not require approval from a homeowners association (HOA).
- Avoids the headaches of maintenance or repairs to a home solar installation.
- Is obligation-free.

The solar sites that produce Cooperative Solar are located in the most ideal conditions—in an open field, not limited by shade or roof orientation, and the more recent installations feature panels that move to track the sun's rays, increasing their solar energy production.

As Coastal Electric's portfolio of solar has grown, so has the amount of solar produced—not only because the number of panels has increased, but also because these expansive solar sites are dispersed across Georgia. This location diversity allows the co-op to capture sunlight, even if it's cloudy in one area, because chances are, the sun is shining on panels in another part of the state.

As a result, members who participate in Cooperative Solar are saving money on their electric bills.

For more information about Cooperative Solar for your home, visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/solar](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/solar) or call (800) 421-2343.

# Understanding my electric bill: What am I paying for?

**H**ave you ever looked at your electric bill and asked yourself, “What does all this mean?”

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Coastal Electric Cooperative exists for the sole purpose of serving members. So while there may be no hidden fees for generating profits, deciphering your bill may still be a bit confusing. Hopefully, by this article’s end, you’ll gain a better understanding of what makes up your electric bill and what you’re paying for each month.

Let’s take it from the top.

If you receive a paper bill or e-bill, you’ll see some basic info near the top of your bill, such as your name, account number, telephone number and address. You’ll also notice “rate” and “cycle,” both with a number below them.

Coastal Electric offers a variety of competitive rate schedules, such as rates for residential members, Advance Pay members, members using electric vehicle chargers and industrial services. (Find more info at [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/rate-schedules](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/rate-schedules).)


A cycle is a group of meters that are read or billed at a certain time. Coastal Electric’s members comprise 20 billing cycles, meaning we bill on 20 days each month. Your cycle number simply identifies which cycle you are in.

Next, you’ll see the dates of service being billed, along with your last meter reading and the meter reading on the date of billing. If you subtract the “previous” reading from the “present,” the result will equal your kilowatt-hour (kWh) use for that time period.

Basically, a residential bill is the sum of a facilities charge, energy charge and power cost adjustment.

Let’s talk about each.

You’ll see the facilities charge listed on the first line of the next section of




**Coastal Electric Cooperative**  
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 (912) 884-3311 • (800) 421-2343 • [customerservice@coastalemc.com](mailto:customerservice@coastalemc.com)  
 P.O. Box 109 • 1265 South Coastal Highway • Midway, GA 31320-0109

ACCOUNT NUMBER		ACCOUNT NAME		RATE	CYCLE	TELEPHONE NUMBER	SERVICE ADDRESS	
				1	16			
SERVICE PERIOD		NO. DAYS	BILL TYPE	METER READING			KWH USAGE	\$ AMOUNT
FROM	TO			PREVIOUS	PRESENT	MULTIPLIER		
10/01/20	11/01/20	31	0	76988	78786	1	1798	
<b>FACILITIES CHARGE</b>								33.00
<b>ENERGY CHARGE</b>								194.00
<b>POWER COST ADJUSTMENT</b> (0.000090 X TOTAL KWH)								0.16
<b>SURGE GUARD PROTECTION</b>								5.95
<b>STATE SALES TAX</b>								9.32
<b>LOCAL SALES TAX</b>								9.32
<b>TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE DUE</b> 11/24/20								251.75
<b>OPERATION ROUNDUP CONTRIBUTION</b>								0.25
<b>PREVIOUS AMOUNT DUE</b>								272.00
<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT</b> 10/20/20								-272.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>								252.00
COMPARISONS		DAYS SERVICE	KWH USED	AVG. KWH/DAY	COST PER DAY	TOTAL DUE NOW		\$ 252.00
CURRENT BILLING PERIOD		31	1798	58	7.33	DUE DATE 11/24/20		BILL IS DELINQUENT AFTER DUE DATE
PREVIOUS BILLING PERIOD		30	1966	66	8.18	AFTER DUE DATE PAY		
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR		31	2260	73	9.14			

**Your Electricity Usage Over The Last 13 Months**



**DRAFT SCHEDULE 11/20**

**ENERGY SAVINGS TIP:** During hot and cold weather, ensure windows are closed tightly and locked.

[View your account information and pay your bill online at www.coastalemc.com](http://www.coastalemc.com)

**IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION**  
 This is the only statement that you will receive. You will not receive a "late notice". Accounts not paid by the Due Date are subject to disconnection for non-payment without further notice. If disconnected, the past due balance, a reconnect fee, and a deposit equal to 2 1/2 times your average bill will be required before reconnection of service. Please allow ample time for delivery before the Due Date when mailing your payment. Failure to receive bill does not void penalties for late payment and cut-off.  
 For our McIntosh County Members, current bill payments may be made at the Eulonia Pharmacy.

- ASK ABOUT THESE MEMBER SERVICES**
- Bill Payment by Bank Draft
  - Senior Citizen Advantage
  - Operation Round Up™
  - Levelized Billing
  - EC Home Improvement Loans
  - Surge Guard™ Lightning Protection
  - Outdoor Security Lighting
  - Touchstone Energy Home
  - Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express accepted for payment by phone or online at [www.coastalemc.com](http://www.coastalemc.com).

your bill. Even before you use one kilowatt-hour of electricity, it costs money to bring power to your house, and that cost is shared equally among all Coastal Electric members. Together, everyone’s facilities charge covers right-of-way maintenance, equipment like poles and lines, interest, depreciation, insurance, labor and even the cost of processing your bill. Those costs don’t change based on how much electricity you use. That’s why that \$33 charge is the same every month.

One line down is the energy charge, which is based on how much electricity you used (measured in kWh). Next is the power cost adjustment, which can either be a charge or credit. Because the actual cost of generating electricity varies (usually fractions of a cent), and is caused by changes in fuel costs, how

much of each fuel is used during that period and wholesale market prices for electricity, the power cost adjustment helps track the actual cost of producing electricity without overcollecting or undercollecting revenue from members.

Fortunately, the member-elected board of directors has adopted methods for collecting revenue that smooth month-to-month fluctuations and provide rate stability for members.

Beside the three main components of facilities charge, energy charge and power cost adjustment, you’ll see charges for state, local and, if applicable, franchise tax.

You may see other line items on your bill, depending on the services in which you participate, such as a Cooperative Solar kWh credit or charge,

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# Understanding my electric bill, *Continued from page 20B*

a charge for outdoor lighting or a charge for Surge Guard protection. (To learn more about the services, visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop) or call 800-421-2343.)

Members will also notice less than a dollar debit for “Operation Round Up contribution.” Operation Round Up (ORU) is a voluntary program through which Coastal Electric members allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar, with the change invested back into the community through the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation. ORU adds up to about \$6 a year, on average.

The foundation’s mission is to help meet the food, health, safety, education



and shelter needs of residents in counties served by Coastal Electric. ORU dollars fund scholarships for local students, Bright Ideas grants for teachers and the Washington Youth Tour leadership experience, among other causes.

Near the bottom of the bill, you’ll see information that may be valuable in managing your energy use, such as a comparison of how many kWh you used this billing period, the previous billing period and the same billing period last year. You’ll see a chart showing your electricity use over the last 13 months, an average of how many kWh a day you used for the current billing period and the average cost per day.

Finally, you’ll see a total amount due and a due date.

Now you know a little more about what goes into that total amount, but if you still have questions about your bill, please reach out to your Coastal Electric. We exist to serve you!

## It’s scholarship season!

### • **Walter Harrison Scholarship**

**Deadline: Feb. 10**

**Purpose:** One-time \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate studies

**Eligibility:** Residents of south Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties who are graduating seniors, college students or adult students returning to school are eligible to apply. The recipient’s primary residence must be the household of a Coastal Electric Cooperative member or employee.

### • **Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Academic Scholarship**

**Deadline: March 31**

**Purpose:** \$5,000 renewable scholarships for undergraduate studies

**Eligibility:** Graduating high school seniors who are residents of Liberty, Long, McIntosh and south Bryan counties are eligible to apply.

### • **Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Technical College Scholarship**

**Deadline: May 1** for summer semester, **July 15** for fall semester and **Dec. 5** for spring semester

**Purpose:** Renewable scholarship amounts determined by number of credit hours for the next semester enrolled in technical college or lineman school

**Eligibility:** Scholarships are available to students of all ages pursuing a diploma, degree or certificate program from any of Georgia’s technical colleges or recognized lineman schools. Applicants must have a home mailing address within Liberty, Long, McIntosh or south Bryan counties.

Educational opportunities like these are funded by Georgia’s electric cooperatives and by Coastal



Electric Cooperative members who want to invest in local students because they see the value they bring to the community. Funding for foundation scholarships comes from Coastal Electric Cooperative members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar through the Operation Round Up program. Those nickels and dimes are pooled together and invested back into the community through the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation.

For updates, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

# CONNECTIONS

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Find us online:

[www.CoastalElectric.Coop](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop)

## Business office hours

Open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 5 p.m. on Friday, except for holidays.

## Report outages

Call us at (800) 421-2343

## Board of Directors

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*Coastal Electric Cooperative,  
your Touchstone Energy® Partner,  
is a not-for-profit, member-owned  
power cooperative providing  
electricity to the people of Bryan,  
Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.*



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

*The power of human connections*

# Coastal Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members set for Thursday, May 25

In accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws of Coastal Electric Cooperative, the following excerpts are being published for the information of the members. Members will receive an official notice of the meeting in April.

## Article IV Board Members

### SECTION 1. General Power

The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine members, which shall exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

### SECTION 2. Election and Tenure

In order to equitably distribute the representation on the Board of Directors, three members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting each year, one each from the counties of Bryan, McIntosh and Liberty to serve for a term of three years, so that there always shall be a perpetual board of experienced members to conduct the affairs of the cooperative. Members from the area in Long County served by the cooperative shall be eligible to serve in the position of director created for McIntosh County.

### SECTION 3. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the cooperative who:

- (A) Is not a bona fide member and maintains a residence in the area served or to be served by the cooperative. The individual must maintain an active presence in at least one of the communities served by the cooperative and maintain a residence in the territory served or to be served by the cooperative; or
- (B) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy.

(C) Is an employee of the cooperative or who was employed by the cooperative within a period of three years immediately preceding the date on which such employee would take office if elected; provided, however, that any member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to be employed by the cooperative on an interim basis not to exceed a period of 24 consecutive months.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, such board member shall resign, and if such board member fails to resign, the Board of Directors shall remove such board member from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

### SECTION 4. Nominations

#### (A) Nominations by the Nominating Committee

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than 120 days nor more than 165 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than six nor more than nine members who shall be selected from different sections so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least 100 days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include at least one candidate for each board position to be filled by the election.

#### (B) Nominations by Petition

Other nominations for such election of board members may be made by written petition signed by not less than 30 members which shall be submitted to the secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than 90 days prior to such meeting.

#### (C) Notice of Nominees

The secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the cooperative the nominees for the election made by the Nominating Committee and by petition, and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

#### (D) Nominations from the Floor

Additional nominations for the election of board members cannot be made from the floor at such meeting of the members; except that in the event of death or for any other reason there is no candidate nominated by the Nominating Committee to run for a board position, then in such event additional nominations from the floor may be made. However, no member may nominate more than one such candidate.

#### (E) Failure of Compliance

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section as to the election of directors, except bad faith or intentional failure to comply, shall not affect the validity of the election of any director nor shall it invalidate the actions of all or any of the directors.