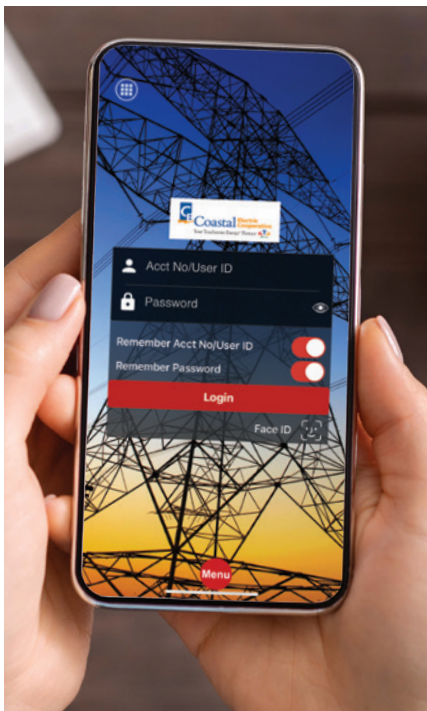


Coastal Electric Cooperative website, app get a refresh

If you've visited Coastal Electric Cooperative's website over the past couple of months or signed into the MyCoastalEC app and thought it looked different, you're right!

In late 2023, the mobile app and *CoastalElectric.Coop* got a refresh, with better functionality for a more user-friendly experience.

The website's most frequently used features are now accessible with a single click. Buttons on the homepage offer direct navigation to view or pay a bill; report an outage or check



for status updates; and start, stop or move service.

The new site also makes it easier to learn how to save energy and money, explore the services Coastal Electric Cooperative offers, find out what to do if a storm approaches and sign up for Coastal Fiber internet.

The MyCoastalEC app gives co-op members fast, secure account access to allow you to make payments, sched-

ule alerts and reminders, receive push notifications, report outages, track your electricity use and more. Nearly everything you can do from our web portal can be done through the app, whether you're at home, work or on the go.

Visit Coastal Electric's website at *CoastalElectric.Coop* and download the MyCoastalEC app through the Apple App or Google Play stores to learn more.

You're a Coastal Electric Cooperative member! What does that mean?

If you're reading this magazine, you most likely pay your electric bill to Coastal Electric Cooperative. Nothing revolutionary about that—you use electricity, you receive a bill and you pay it.

In most cases that would make you a customer, right? Just a consumer of a product or service. But did you know, if you pay your electric bill to a cooperative, you're a member and owner?

What does that mean? Member sounds like you accidentally joined a club, and owner may make you nervous that you have more responsibility than you intended.

Simply put, a cooperative is a not-for-profit business voluntarily owned and controlled by the people who use its services. When you sign up for service with Coastal Electric, you become a member and owner.

Being a cooperative member and owner has its benefits, such as a say in how your cooperative operates (one example is voting for your board of directors) and money back when finances are strong (known as capital credits).

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of members first. We were formed to serve our members—not generate profits for outside shareholders—and it's still why we exist today.

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership—regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.

So, if you pay your electric bill to Coastal Electric, welcome to the club! You are a co-op member.

And because you invest in your cooperative every time you pay your electric bill, congratulations are in order because you're an owner, too!

To learn more about your electric co-op, visit CoastalElectric.Coop and click on the About Us tab.



The Seven Cooperative Principles

- 1. Voluntary and open membership:** Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- 2. Democratic member control:** Members control cooperatives by setting policies and making decisions. Directors are elected by and accountable to the membership.
- 3. Members' economic participation:** Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative, receiving limited compensation, if any.
- 4. Autonomy and independence:** Cooperatives are self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. Education, training and information:** Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees. The general public is routinely informed about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- 6. Cooperation among cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
- 7. Concern for community:** With a focus on member needs, co-ops work for sustainable development of their communities through projects accepted by their members.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*



Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



Office closing

Coastal Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Presidents Day, Feb. 19, for employee training. You can manage your account or report outages through the MyCoastalEC mobile app, *CoastalElectric.Coop* and (800) 421-2343.



Follow Coastal Electric



Follow us on social to keep up with the latest happenings at your electric cooperative!





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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

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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 23

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 (9) 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 (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting each year, one (1) each from the counties of Bryan, McIntosh and Liberty to serve for a term of three (3) 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 (1) 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 (3) 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 twenty-four (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 one hundred twenty (120) days nor more than one hundred sixty-five (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 (6) nor more than nine (9) 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 one hundred (100) days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include at least one (1) 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 thirty (30) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his nominee not less than ninety (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 (1) 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.