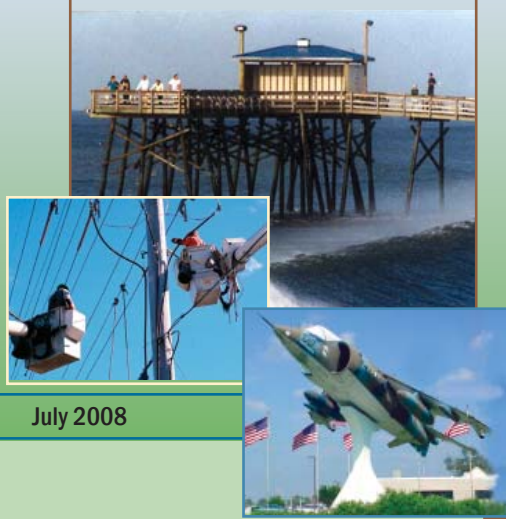


# MEMBER

# News

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point  
and many places in between



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

July 2008

## CAPITAL CREDITS

### Your economic participation in your cooperative

When our members sign up for electric service, we agree to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. In turn, each member contributes to the equity of the co-op, which is essential for Carteret-Craven to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary to providing members that reliable, economical electric service.

On the flip side, each member gets a share of any earnings that are available after the year's expenses are paid out of revenues. These earnings are called Capital Credits. Every electric cooperative in the country is a not-for-profit organization owned by its members, and every cooperative uses an accounting system that includes Capital Credits.

#### CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative has allocated Capital Credits for 2007. That money has been allocated to each member's Capital Credit account based on the amount of electricity used during the year.

*on the web*

Ask tough questions;  
demand straight answers  
about our energy future.

[www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)



To get a close estimate of how much has been assigned to your account for 2007, multiply your total payments for 2007 by .0482%.

#### CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

A credit is applied to your bill when the cooperative's Board of Directors – your elected representatives – vote to retire Capital Credits. That is usually done annually when the financial condition of the cooperative permits.

Last fall, for instance, the cooperative returned a total of \$715,908 to members and former members. That amount represents a percent of the money the cooperative took in above and beyond operating expenses from 1984 through 2006.

Checks are mailed to those who are no longer served by the cooperative. If you move from our service area, the Capital Credits accumulated in your account will remain in your name. It is important that you keep the cooperative informed of your current address so that we can send you a refund when a Capital Credit retirement is made.

If you have questions about Capital Credits, call Linda Harrell at (252) 727-2233.

#### Community College Scholarship Deadline: July 15

There's still time for members attending or planning to attend Carteret Community College or Craven Community College to apply for one of four Carteret Craven Electric Foundation scholarships. The scholarships pay each student \$250 per semester for a total of \$1,000 for two years of school.

Applications and more information are available online at [www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop), or by calling (252) 247-3107.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on July 15 at our office at 1300 Highway 24, Newport.

carteret-craven electric cooperative

## Rising fuel costs reflected in price of electricity

There's scarcely anyone who is not struggling with inflationary prices caused by rising fuel costs. Your cooperative is no different. Given current runaway costs, there is little doubt that we will have to raise the wholesale power and fuel cost adjustment on members' bills soon.

Carteret-Craven's most recent adjustment was implemented in 2007 to recover the cost of fuels used to generate the electricity we all use to cook, to heat and cool our homes, and to power the electronic devices we have come to depend on.

"When initially applied, the adjustment was intended to be temporary because we expected the costs of fuels to return to more normal ranges," said CEO and General Manager Craig Conrad. "No one imagined the costs of fuels to exponentially increase at the rates we are seeing today."



**Craig Conrad**  
CEO & General Manager

A few readily apparent facts explain why the fuel cost adjustment is necessary.

**Fact 1: The price of electricity is directly proportional to the cost of fuels used to generate electricity, primarily uranium, coal, oil and natural gas.**

In just the last year, the cost of a barrel of oil has doubled. Who would have imagined that \$20 would not fill a five gallon gas can?

Natural gas has followed oil, and its price has also doubled. Natural gas fuels newer electric generating plants. Burning more natural gas at these high prices continues to force the cost of electricity higher.

Coal has traditionally fueled the area's power plants and makes up a significant portion of the energy consumed in the state. Coal was a fuel of choice because it was plentiful and cheap, with stable prices that hovered around \$20 per ton. In January 2008, however, the price for Appalachian coal was approximately \$60 per ton. Today, the price exceeds \$115 per ton.

On a positive note, almost 40 percent of our energy comes from nuclear power plants. Although the price of uranium has also increased some, electricity from nuclear plants has been the most stable cost in our portfolio.

**Fact 2: Consumption has nearly used up all available power plant capacity, and new plants in the United States are needed.**

Because of uncertainty about the nation's energy policy, decisions to build electric generating plants have slowed. Meanwhile, India and China are building close to 10 coal plants a year, as well as nuclear plants. As the U.S. waits, the global demand for materials and fuels forces prices higher. When the decision is finally made to build our much-needed power plants, the costs will be astronomical.

To help curb the effects of rising energy prices, we encourage all our members to conserve energy. We have a wealth of tips on our Website: [www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop).

**Fact 3: Federal legislation aimed at reducing carbon emissions will force an increase in the cost of electricity.**

Congress is seriously considering "carbon tax" legislation that would increase electricity prices more than 40 percent, on top of increases created by the competitive fuels market, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

For meaningful reductions in carbon emissions, government must help put funding behind research and development so new energy alternatives and carbon capture technology become more cost-effective. If applying these technologies were economically feasible, the nation's cooperatives would have them in their power supply mix already.

Carteret-Craven, as well as cooperatives nationwide, is urging Congress to keep reliable, affordable electricity at the forefront of their energy policy deliberations.

"Our members can help send that message to our legislators by going to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) and signing on to the nationwide, grassroots campaign to bring balance to the energy debate," Conrad said.

## 'Check 21' Federal Legislation

### Member payments now processed faster, more economically

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative has begun using "Check 21" to process payments made by checks. Doing so allows CCEC to process checks faster and more efficiently and reduces check-processing fees charged to CCEC by the banking industry.

Check 21 is a federal law (Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act) that became effective in 2004. Its primary purpose is to eliminate the necessity of physically transporting original paper checks all over the country for payment

– a system that is slow, costly, and inefficient. Check 21 allows the electronic transmission of a check's image to the originating bank for payment.

If you still receive canceled checks with your bank statement, you will receive a substitute check in place of the original check. A substitute check is a paper copy of the front and back of the original check. A substitute check must be printed in accordance with very specific standards and is a legal document that may be used as proof of payment if it

is needed.

Because Check 21 is a much faster check processing procedure, money will be deducted from your checking account more rapidly. Before you write a check, make sure your checking account has enough money to cover the check. Otherwise, you could end up paying returned-check and overdraft fees.

If you have questions about the Check 21 process, you may contact CCEC at 252.247.3107 or your bank account representative.

## Summer weather smarts: thunderstorms & hurricanes

*Summer's increased temperatures bring a warm change of scenery and liveliness to the outdoors. However, summer weather also poses a greater threat of thunderstorms and hurricanes. Be prepared this summer for the dangers, and make sure your family knows what to do if one occurs.*



- Have an evacuation plan that includes the safest route to an emergency shelter or other facility.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each storm. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but somewhere else within your community.
- Develop an emergency communication plan for family members, and have a pre-determined, safe site to meet.
- Have a disaster supply kit on hand. This kit should include, flashlight, extra batteries, a portable battery-operated radio, first aid kit and manual, emergency

food and water, non-electric can opener, essential medicines, cash and credit cards and sturdy shoes.

- Make arrangements for your pets because pets aren't always allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as an emergency contact. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
- To minimize the risk of electric shock during a lightning storm, avoid bathing and don't touch metal items (bicycles, farm equipment, etc.). If you need to make a phone call, use a cordless or cell phone.
- Never attempt to touch or pick up a fallen power line. Assume all downed power lines are energized. Keep children and pets away from downed lines as well.

## Squirrels defeat technology

Some view them as cute, others see them as pesky critters that raid bird feeders, but for CCEC's line crews, squirrels were a big problem last month when they repeatedly bypassed "squirrel guard" technology and caused more than a dozen outages across our system.

"We had an unusually high number of squirrel-related outages," said Line Superintendent Shannon Inman. "Unfortunately, many squirrels have adapted to the technology designed to keep them away and help us maintain reliable service to our members."

Squirrel guards are designed not only to prevent outages, but to spare the squirrels' lives as well.



CCEC Materials Handler Tim Ford shows how a "squirrel guard" works.

## RUS Statement of Non-discrimination

Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin,

gender, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the CEO and General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may file a written complaint with this organiza-

tion; or the Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Longer days can help you save on your electricity bill if you take advantage of the extra daylight and keep lamps and other lighting off until they are needed. Here are some other tips to help you save on your lighting costs:



- Open your window coverings or put your reading chair next to a window and leave the table lamp off until the sunlight fades.
- Clean your light fixtures often. Bugs and dirt on a lamp shade or decorative light bulb cover can dull the light.
- Plug in a few night lights. They allow you to turn off lamps that use more energy when all you need is a glimpse of light.



carteret-craven electric cooperative 

### Offices

1300 Highway 24, Newport  
450 McCotter Boulevard, Havelock  
849 Island Road, Harkers Island

### On the Web

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)

### Contact

Phone: 252.247.3107 / 1.800.682.2217  
Fax: 252.247.0235  
E-mail: [info@ccemc.com](mailto:info@ccemc.com)