



# CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

*A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937*

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## Annual meeting set for March 21

Central Electric Power Association will hold its 86th annual membership meeting on March 21, 2023 at the Carthage Coliseum on Hwy 16 East in Carthage.

As pursuant to Central Electric Power Association's bylaws and to provide each Central Electric member an opportunity to vote in a director election, the official ballot and proxy will be mailed to all Central Electric members the week of Feb. 20, 2023.

Enclosed will be an information sheet with "how-to-vote" details along with a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope for members to return their ballot or proxy. Your official ballot

must be received via mail no later than March 21, 2023. The election results will be published in the April issue of *Today in Mississippi*.

In accordance with the laws of Mississippi and the bylaws of the association, members will elect three directors for three-year terms: two directors from Leake County and one director from Attala County.

Mark your calendars for March 21, and we'll see you at the annual meeting!



# Energy efficient FARMING EQUIPMENT

Finding ways to use less energy can reduce costs and result in more efficient farming practices for years to come.  
Photo Credit: Bonneville Power Administration

by Miranda Boutelle

**Q** Are there ways to reduce energy use on a farm?

**A** The importance of farms cannot be understated. Farmers feed our families and keep the country running, but the business brings many challenges, including risk and uncertainty. Finding ways to use less energy can reduce costs and result in energy savings for years to come.

## Motors and Pumps

Because motors and pumps account for a significant amount of energy use on a farm, replacing inefficient motors with efficient models can save energy and reduce costs. Adding variable frequency drives (VFDs) allow you to vary the frequency and voltage supplied to the motor or pump to adjust the motor's speed. This saves kilowatt hours and reduces load by only operating at the needed capacity. VFDs can be used in place of a phase converter, which allows use of three-phase power equipment where there is only access to single-phase power.



Irrigation equipment can be upgraded to use less water, which means less pumping and reducing the amount of water and energy consumed.  
Photo Credit: Bonneville Power Administration

## Irrigation

Upgrade irrigation equipment to use less water, which means less pumping and reducing the amount of water and energy consumed. The goal is to get the right amount of water where it is needed. This can be accomplished by reducing evaporation through system design and fixing leaks in the system. GPS and geographic information system technologies allow for more specific irrigation targeting. Monitor and test systems regularly to ensure maximum efficiency.

## Lights

The longer lights are on, the higher the potential for savings. Prioritize replacing incandescent or fluorescent exterior lighting on photocells or lights that stay on all night. LED lights last two to four times longer than fluorescents and 25 to 35 times longer than incandescents. That means less frequent replacement, which saves on materials and labor costs.

## Heater Controls

In climates where engine block heaters are used to keep vehicle engines warm enough to start, adding engine block heater controls with temperature sensors and timers will reduce electricity use. To keep water from freezing on farms with livestock, save energy by using stock tank heaters with thermostatic controls, which operate only when needed instead of running constantly. Insulated stock tanks may eliminate the need to heat water.

## Emerging Technology

New farming technologies that offer efficiency possibilities include electric tractors, space heating and water heating. Equipment with information technology capabilities can aid efficiency by monitoring conditions and automating farming tasks. As with home efficiency practices, consider the equipment used most and the savings potential from upgrading or modifying existing equipment.

Miranda Boutelle is the vice president of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.

# Easy ways TO CONTROL water use



by Katherine Loving

Conserving water at home can result in several downstream benefits and savings. Being mindful of home water use helps preserve the amount of water in our local reservoirs and reduces costs associated with water and wastewater treatment, including the cost of delivering it to the home (for those using a public water service).

Leaky toilets, showerheads, and dripping faucets can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water annually. Home water conservation can simply start by checking your house for any leaks and drips. Another simple way to conserve water is to limit running water when it isn't necessary. For example, turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, and defrost

food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of placing frozen food under running water.

Home gardens are another potential area for water conservation. Thoughtful planning can transform your home garden from a water drain to a water-efficient oasis.

Start by planting drought-resistant plants or those with minimal water needs to avoid waste by

watering from plant-to-plant. Additionally, a drip irrigation system for plants that require more water can boost efficiency by using less water over a longer period. Alternatively, set lawn sprinklers on a timer to limit water use and place them where the water will only reach plants, not pavement.

Another conservation option is to use a rain barrel to collect water for non-potable purposes. Harvested rainwater is an excellent option for watering ornate gardens and washing cars.

Another option for collecting water for the garden is to collect cold water that runs while you're waiting on the water to heat. Every drop of running water you can utilize helps.

Reducing water use at home can also help lower your energy use. The Department of Energy estimates that water heating accounts for about 20% of a home's energy bill. Switching to an energy efficient heat pump water heater can save considerable money on electric bills. Heat pump water heaters have higher upfront costs than storage tank models, but tax incentives and potential rebates can offset this cost. Check with your local electric cooperative to see if they offer rebates or a load management program.

Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

If upgrading your water heater isn't an option, there are small changes you can make to increase water heating efficiency. Reduce hot water use by switching to low-flow faucets and showerheads. You can also turn down the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and insulate hot water lines to increase energy savings.

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As you can see, there are a variety of changes — some large, some small — that can help you conserve water at home.

Additional ways to conserve both water and electricity in the home include upgrading clothes washers and dishwashers to newer, more energy efficient models. Running these appliances only when full or selecting a “light wash” setting reduces water and electricity use. Washing

dishes by hand uses more water than an energy efficient dishwasher, so avoid this method when possible.

If your home uses well water, it's important to be mindful of water conservation, particularly in drier climates. Well pumps run on electricity and can be a source of higher energy bills. Dry, over pumped wells can cause the pump to run continuously, using excess energy in the process. Malfunctioning well pumps also lead to spikes in energy use. Regular maintenance can help identify problems, such as leaks and faulty intake, which can lead to increased use of both water and electricity.

As you can see, there are a variety of changes — some large, some small — that can help you conserve water at home. Regardless of how you do it, thoughtfully managing water use can protect our water supply and make significant changes on energy bills.



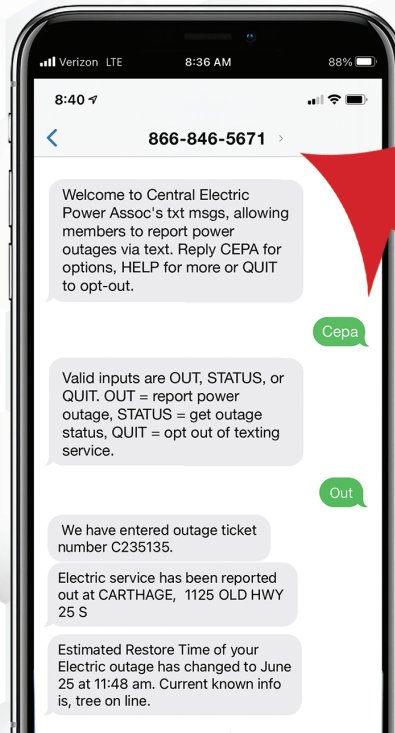
Turning off the tap while brushing teeth can save up to four gallons of water per minute, or up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.

# Have an outage...**TEXT US!**

To sign up for texting power outages, please visit

**www.centralepa.com.**

Once you have enrolled, you will receive outage updates. Simply text the word "**OUT**" to 866-846-5671 to report your power outage.



## Remember, there are **THREE** ways to report an outage:



**PHONE**  
601-267-3043



**WEBSITE**  
www.centralepa.com (Click on **Report an Outage**)



**TEXT**  
Once enrolled, simply text '**OUT**' to 866-846-5671

