



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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ECM FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Foundation was created by the electric cooperatives of Mississippi in 2005. In an effort to give back to the communities they serve, the Foundation provides scholarships for post-secondary and vocational education to accredited institutions for qualifying high school seniors. For the fall of 2023, the Foundation awarded scholarships to dependents of employees of participating electric cooperatives. Five Central Electric employees' children who are entering college this fall were awarded the ECM Foundation Scholarships. Central Electric wants to congratulate each recipient on receiving this scholarship.



John Patrick Irby is the son of Donovan and MJ Irby. He is a graduate of Morton High School. John Patrick enjoys hunting, fishing, four-wheeler riding, and golfing. He plans to attend East Central Community College's lineman program.



Blaine Ogletree is the son of Neal and Kristin Ogletree. He is a graduate of Leake Academy. Blaine enjoys riding horses and hunting. He plans to attend East Central Community College and pursue a degree in electrical technology. He also plans to attend their lineman program.



Dallas Wayne Johnson is the son of Derek and Suzanne Johnson. He is a graduate of Leake Academy. Dallas enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. He plans to attend East Central Community College to pursue a degree in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.



Jake Shoemaker is the son of Jeremy and Nikki Shoemaker. He is a graduate of Pisgah High School where he was selected for the all-state and all-district football team, was the defensive MVP, and won awards for leadership and character. Jake is an avid hunter and fisherman. He plans to attend Hinds Community College and then Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.



Conner Kirkwood is the son of Lang and Allyson Kirkwood. He is a graduate of Leake Academy where he was a member of the Beta Club and baseball team. Conner enjoys hunting, fishing, and golfing with friends. He plans to attend East Central Community College and then Delta State University to pursue a bachelor of commercial aviation in flight operations.

HAPPY *Independence* DAY JULY 4TH

Our employees will observe Independence Day and our offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for the holiday.

To report an outage, please visit centralepa.com, and click on **Report An Outage**. Call **601-267-3043**, or text the word **OUT** to **866-846-5671** if you are enrolled in the outage texting service. A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.





THREE

SURPRISING FACTS

about energy efficiency

by Paul Wesslund

We're more energy efficient than you might think. And you may also be surprised to learn that we can do even better with a little innovative thinking, and by controlling hidden power users.

Electricity touches our lives nearly every minute of every day and makes up about 5% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. So, it makes sense to use it wisely, whether you're concerned about how it affects the environment or you want to save money. Or both.

Here are three surprising facts about energy efficiency that can help you make the best use of your electricity.

Proof of efficiency

A little-known way of measuring efficiency is with a statistic called the energy intensity index. It shows how much energy it takes to produce a dollar of the economy's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Another term that's been used for that idea is energy productivity.

Whichever term you use, the indexes show that we're getting better at creating more economic activity with less energy — energy intensity is down, and productivity is up. Way up.

The numbers show that energy intensity is about half of what it was 30 years ago. That's because we're making strides in a range of ways from building codes, to light bulbs, to motor vehicle mileage. And these improvements are expected to continue. The Department of Energy projects energy intensity will decline by 30% over the next 30 years.

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Out with the old, in with the new

The old phrase “you have to spend money to make money” is catchy because at first, it sounds like it doesn't make sense. But when it comes to appliances that consume a lot of energy, it can make dollars and sense.

From dishwashers to computers, energy efficiency is improving dramatically every year as technology, federal rules, and plain old competition give you a better bang for your buck. In fact, if your refrigerator or dishwasher is more than 10 years old, the money you can save on energy use for a new appliance could pay for itself in just a few years.

The yellow Energy Guide labels found on products at your appliance store will tell you how much you can save with a new purchase. Another way to compare the old to the new is to Google “flip your fridge.” That will take you to an ENERGY STAR® calculator that will compare the energy use of your current appliances to what's available in stores.



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Slaying vampires

Did you know you could be spending \$100 to \$400 a year on energy you don't even need? That frightening fact even comes with scary names — phantom power, or vampire electronics. It's the TV and video games that draw power so they're ready to turn on instantly. It's the digital clocks. It's the computers and phones plugged in even though they're fully charged.

Getting rid of phantom power can be tricky. You probably don't want to regularly shut off your wireless router or constantly reboot your smart TV. But you can plug several devices into a power strip and turn it off when you're not using them. Or smart power strips are available that will do that for you. When you're shopping for new electronics and appliances, look for the latest ENERGY STAR®-rated models that take vampire loads into account. To start exorcising the phantoms, take a notepad through each room of your home to list anything that's plugged in, so you can figure out which energy-users you might be able to control without causing too much inconvenience.

Phantom power costs do add up, but it's also true that your home has much bigger energy users. If you're concerned about energy costs, make sure you're heating and cooling system is up to date and working efficiently, and that your windows and doors aren't leaking air.



Phantom power is energy consumed by electronics and appliances when they're in standby mode but not being used. Phantom power costs typically range from \$100 to \$400 annually.

Your electric co-op can advise you on the most effective steps for energy savings—they're your local leading authority on home energy use. And that's no surprise.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

WE ARE PREPARED FOR **SUMMER STORMS**

Summer is here and that means a time for severe storms and hurricane season. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Mississippi's electric cooperatives are ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round — through right-of-way clearing — to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission lines, substations, and distribution power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. When electrical lines, which serve tens of thousands of people, are damaged at the transmission level, it can affect the time it takes to restore power locally; but this does not stop our line workers from going out to assess and repair damage in our local communities immediately.

Co-op crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to the line leading to your home or business. Make sure you notify your co-op, so crews can inspect these lines.



We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans.

keeping you **SAFE** **DURING AND AFTER SUMMER STORMS**

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Mississippi's electric cooperatives encourage you to practice safety with these reminders — for during and after a summer storm:



AVOID WIRES AND WATER

When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.



SKIP THE MAKESHIFT SHELTER

During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.



PORTABLE GENERATORS

Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.



FLOODED AREAS

Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see by calling your co-op immediately.



ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Never use electrical equipment that is wet — especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.