



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

CARTHAGE: 601-267-5671 | PHILADELPHIA: 601-656-2601 | RANKIN: 601-829-1201 | SEBASTOPOL: 601-625-7422

107 EAST MAIN STREET • CARTHAGE, MS 39051

AUTOMATIC METER READING

Coming soon!

The following list of frequently asked questions will provide additional details pertaining to AMR:

Q: What is automated meter reading (AMR)?

A: Automated meter reading (AMR) systems use a digital meter to send meter reading data remotely, eliminating the need to read meters manually.

Q: Why is Central Electric installing AMR?

A: Benefits to utilizing the cellular AMR system includes saving money on meter readings, efficient power outage response, & easier diagnosis of high energy bills. As we enhance the system, more benefits will become available to our members.

Q: When will AMR happen?

A: The project is expected to begin in early 2025.

Q: Who will be changing the meters?

A: We will utilize contractors to install the meters.

Q: Will I need to upgrade my meter base?

A: Probably not. The AMR meters fit right into the same meter base as your current meter. But, if our AMR installers discover your meter base is broken or needs maintenance, you'll need to call a licensed electrician to fix the problem. The meter base at your home or business is part of your electrical system, just like the breaker panel or wiring inside the walls. Central Electric's service rules require member-owners to provide a suitable meter base and keep it in good working order as a condition of receiving electric service from the cooperative.

Q: Do I have a choice in getting an AMR meter?

A: No. AMR meters will be installed on all accounts.

Q: How much is AMR going to cost member-owners?

A: There will be no additional cost to the member-owner to install the AMR system.

Q: What information does the AMR meter report?

A: The AMR meter reports electric use and power interruption data.

Q: What day of the month will the new meters be read?

A: The AMR meters will actually report electric use daily.

Q: Will Central Electric still do meter inspections?

A: Routine inspections of meters will continue so we can spot safety hazards, maintenance issues, theft, or other problems.

Q: Will the AMR meter notify Central Electric when the power goes out?

A: Yes, but we still recommend that you report any disruption of service. Our phone numbers are the same: 601-267-5671; 601-625-7422; 601-656-2601; 601-829-1201.

Q: What benefits does the AMR system provide?

A: Here are the top reasons why AMR is a good move for Central Electric and our members:

- Saves money.
- Reduces visits to your home/property.
- Reduces the potential for misreads and data entry errors.
- Provides easy, quick, inexpensive meter re-reads.
- Enhances accuracy of electric bills.
- Contributes to more efficient outage restoration.
- Enhances troubleshooting service problems.
- Quickly spots meter tampering and energy theft.
- Allows for additional member services in the future.



ARE YOU A LEADER?

IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Our Cooperative Youth Leaders program

offers the tools and knowledge that will enable you to sharpen your leadership skills in your classroom, community, church, and family. Since 1986, students in Mississippi have competed for the opportunity to participate in this unique leadership program. This program is an educational and fun experience that makes a lasting impact on young people.

Our program is for high school juniors interested in enhancing their leadership skills.

Once you are selected as a Central Electric representative, you will attend:

Cooperative Leaders Workshop

The three-day workshop features a true cooperative learning atmosphere. More than 80 students from across the state will experience cooperative team-building exercises, a breakfast with their legislators, a visit to the Capitol, a town hall meeting, and motivational speakers. We will also have time for games and interaction between the students.

You will have the opportunity to earn a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship.

Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Each year, Mississippi’s student delegation joins more than 1,800 high school juniors from 44 states across the nation at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where they learn about cooperatives and rural electrification from a national perspective.

The Youth Tour is a wonderful sightseeing experience that also offers an opportunity for making new friends.

The Youth Tour is organized by the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

It is an honor to be selected

The group of young Mississippians participating in the program represent electric cooperatives across the state. Students are selected through various forms of competition conducted by the local cooperatives.

Annually, more than 1,000 young people are involved in the program selection process statewide

Cost

Students’ expenses for both events are funded entirely by Central Electric. There are no hidden costs; Central Electric pays for all travel, lodging, meals, educational materials, and admission fees. Our support of the program demonstrates a commitment to our young people and a desire to provide an effective, high-quality leadership program to help prepare them for life’s challenges.

How to get involved

Central Electric’s Cooperative Youth Leaders program director will contact an official at each of our local schools and provide program details. If you are interested in being a representative, contact your school guidance counselor or fill out and return the application on the following page.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERS APPLICATION

(Please limit your information to this sheet)

Are you currently a high school junior and your parent(s) or legal guardian receives electric service from Central Electric Power Association? If so, you are eligible to apply to represent Central Electric Power Association in the Cooperative Leaders Workshop February 26-28, 2025, and the NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. June 14-20, 2025.

Cooperative Youth Leaders program guidelines

1. Applicant must be a high school junior (11th grade) whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) receives electric service from Central Electric Power Association.
2. The top applicants will be selected by an independent panel of judges to participate in an interview process. Following the interview process, winners will be selected to represent Central Electric Power Association in the Cooperative Leaders Workshop in Jackson and the NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.
3. If selected, student must commit to attend both the Cooperative Leaders Workshop February 26-28, 2025, in Jackson, MS and the NRECA Youth Tour, June 14-20, 2025, in Washington, D.C.
4. Application must be filled out by the student and postmarked by **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**. Please email your application to jcpatterson@centralepa.com or mail to:
Cooperative Youth Leaders
Attn: Jessica Patterson
Central Electric Power Association
Post Office Box 477
Carthage, MS 39051

Student’s full name _____

Name student goes by _____

Student’s mailing address _____

Student’s 911 address _____

Parent(s) or legal guardian _____

Name Central EPA bill is listed in _____

Account number _____

Daytime phone number _____

Alternate number _____

Email address _____

School _____

Student’s t-shirt size _____

Student signature _____

Parent/legal guardian signature _____

Please list any school and community activities/memberships and leadership positions: _____

Please list any awards or special recognition: _____

What are your college and career goals? _____

What are two characteristics of a good leader and why? _____

What is an interesting fact about yourself? _____



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Please contact Central Electric’s youth leadership program coordinator if you have any questions.
Jessica Patterson, program director
601-267-5671 • jcpatterson@centralepa.com

Like our Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Cooperative Youth Leaders page www.facebook.com/ECMYLP and follow us on Instagram [@msyouthleaders](https://www.instagram.com/msyouthleaders).



FEDERAL TAX CREDITS, INCENTIVES, AND REBATES FOR EFFICIENCY UPGRADES



by Miranda Boutelle



How do I use federal tax credits and rebates to upgrade my home?



Tax credits and rebates can help bridge the affordability gap to higher efficiency equipment for your home, allowing you to complete energy efficiency upgrades that can lower your energy use and save you money in years to come.

First, knowing the difference between a tax credit and rebate is important. A rebate is a payment for purchasing or installing a qualified product or home improvement. Depending on how the rebate program is set up, it may be provided at the time of purchase or applied for and received after installation. Check with your electric cooperative to see if they offer rebates. Typically, the rebate is applied as a credit on your electric bill. In some cases, the rebate is provided as a cash payment to those who complete eligible projects.

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar amount that taxpayers can report on their tax documents to reduce the amount of taxes owed. You apply for a tax credit when you file your tax documents, so it typically takes longer to reap the benefits than it does with a rebate.

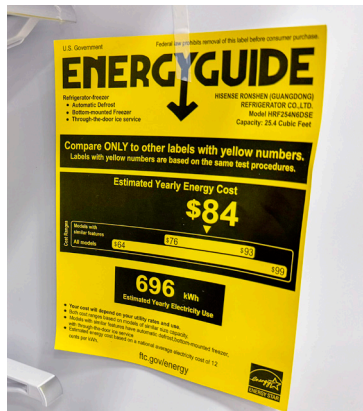
According to ENERGY STAR®, homeowners can qualify for up to \$3,200 annually in federal tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades. Federal tax credits are available for heating and cooling system upgrades, including heat pumps, furnaces, central air conditioners, boilers, and geothermal heat pumps. Tax credits for ENERGY STAR®-rated heat pump water heaters cover 30% of the project cost, up to \$2,000. You can also improve your home's envelope — the portion of the home that separates the inside from the outside — with tax credits for insulation, windows and skylights.

If an energy efficiency upgrade requires improving the electrical panel in your home, there's a tax credit for that, too. You can receive 30% of the cost of the panel upgrade, up to \$600.

These federal tax credits are available through 2032. You must own the home you're upgrading, and it must be your primary residence. Federal tax credits only apply to existing homes in the United States, not new construction.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 expanded available funding for many home upgrades. The act allocated \$8.8 million for home rebate programs to be implemented at the state level, and this funding is offered in two different programs. The HOMES program allows up to \$8,000 per home for standard-income households. Higher rebates are available for low- to moderate-income households. The HEAR program offers rebates of up to \$14,000 per home for qualified, efficient electric equipment for low- to moderate-income households.

These programs are designed to bolster existing programs and should be available in late 2024 or early 2025. Check with your electric cooperative or state office to find out if they are being offered in your state.



When shopping for appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR® logo on the energy guide to identify which products are the most efficient options.



Tax credits for ENERGY STAR® heat pump water heaters cover 30% of the project cost, up to \$2,000.

Additional energy efficiency rebates might also be available. More than half of U.S. states require energy efficiency programs for residents, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. These programs can help people save money on their electric bills and help states meet climate goals, reduce system costs, and improve the electric grid.

I have had the privilege of working in energy efficiency rebate programs for many years and have seen the benefits of these programs firsthand. Tax credit and rebate programs can make upgrades more affordable — helping people save money and improve the overall comfort of their homes.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.