

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. A wide, white sand beach curves along the shore, meeting clear turquoise water. The water transitions to a deep blue further out. The land is lush green with some buildings visible. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

# the Co-op Connection

JUNE 2020

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER

# CFEC Continues COVID-19 Response

**Through April and into May, Central Florida Electric Cooperative has continued to follow guidelines set by the State of Florida and the federal government.**

Our office lobbies were closed and members were asked to make their payments other than in person.

Within the cooperative, personnel were asked not to move around out of their respective areas and some of our more fun activities, such as potluck lunches, were stopped. Meetings were eliminated as much as possible and travel reduced. We even collected mail differently to reduce contact and promote social distancing.

As it has been for our members, it was a different world for CFEC inside the building and out. However, our mission to be the finest example of an electric cooperative where excellent service, competitive rates and concern for the consumer, community and environment guide our every action stayed the same. We look forward to being able to greet our Members in person once again and

*For updates on the re-opening of CFEC lobbies for in-person transactions, follow the CFEC Facebook page.*



<https://www.facebook.com/CentralFloridaElectricCooperative/>

participate in normal social activities and community events around the service area soon.

## CFEC is lowering power cost for May to help Members

To help our local communities affected financially by Coronavirus, Central Florida Electric Cooperative is lowering the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) for Members by 17% for the month of May. The reduction in WPCA was approved by the CFEC Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled April board meeting Monday night. Members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will pay \$100, which is down from \$121 in April.

The WPCA is used to “adjust” the amount charged to Members when the price of fuels to generate electricity rise or fall over time. Our generation cooperative Seminole Electric uses natural gas to generate a large part of the electricity they provide to CFEC and the other distribution co-ops in Florida. The decline in price of natural gas due to a surplus in world supply combined with other effects of Coronavirus, afford CFEC the opportunity to pass along these savings to Members for the month of May.

The lower cost of power will be reflected in the WPCA on bills processed beginning May 1st through May 30th. Members will see the WPCA credit on their bill and the credit will vary based on the amount of power used.

We hope that these savings will help those Members who may be struggling financially due to the economic effects of the Coronavirus. We know these times are tough and want to help our Members as much as we can.



Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.

~ YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

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Cover photo by NASA.

# Here's How The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment Fits In Your Bill

## The 3 Primary Charges On A Power Bill:

- Facilities Charge:** This charge represents payment for many of the fixed costs of making electric service available to each member. This charge is determined by the Cooperative's investment in the 4,400 miles of distribution lines, 88,000 poles, 25,000 transformers, 34,000 meters, fleet, inventory, administrative support and building maintenance. The facilities charge is \$0.95 per day.
- Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment:** This item is either an additional charge or a subtracted amount on Members' bill. If the numbers are in parentheses, it is subtracted from the bill. The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment is just that, an "adjustment" based on the price of fuels used to generate electricity. Because Central Florida Electric's wholesale power provider, Seminole Electric Cooperative had to pay less recently for the natural gas needed to generate electricity, this savings is passed on to members. This month it was a 17% reduction from the month before.
- Energy Charge:** This is the Members' rate for using power. If you use less than 1,000 kilowatt hours, the rate is \$.098. If you use more than 1,000 kwh, the rate changes and is reflected separately on the bill. This rate is the wholesale cost for the energy used.



## Charges on your Electric Bill:

### Facilities Charge:

30 Days @\$0.95..... 28.50

### Wholesale Power Cost

Adjustment .02650 ..... (26.50)

### Energy Charge:

1000 kWh @\$0.098..... 98.00

**Total Current Electric ..... \$100.00**

In this example, if the member uses exactly 1,000 kilowatt hours of energy, the cost is \$98. The facilities charge for 30 days is \$28.50, and the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, with the 17% reduction, would subtract \$26.50 for a total bill of \$100, plus taxes.

## For Energy Bill Assistance:

### Suwannee River Economic Council- Gilchrist+Dixie

- Phone- (352) 463-2940
- Kim (352) 463-1895

### Chiefland Senior Center- Levy (Seniors Only)

- Phone- (352) 490-7055
- Email- [levaging@suwanneec.net](mailto:levaging@suwanneec.net)

### Tri-County Resource Center

- (Referral Service, Funds Limited)
- 15 North Main St. Chiefland, FL 32626
- Phone- (352) 507-4000
- Fax- (352) 493-7006

### Central Florida Community Action Agency- Levy

- Phone- (352) 493-1734 EXT: 0
- For Appointments (844-356-8136)
- Online Applications: [www.cfcaa.org](http://www.cfcaa.org)

# Be Ready. Be Prepared.

**Hurricane season starts June 1. COVID-19 and a worldwide pandemic may have caught people by surprise, but a hurricane doesn't have to.**

**Now is the time to prepare for a potential hurricane.**

**Being ready in case of this type emergency.**

## Sign Up for the Special Needs Registry

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with local emergency management agencies, developed the Special Needs Registry to allow residents with special needs to receive assistance during a disaster.

The registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies.

To register for the Special Needs Program, go to the Florida State Emergency Response Team website for Special Needs Registry at <https://snr.floridadisaster.org>. Create an account by selecting your county from the drop-down menu, then click on "Sign

Up." Select a username and password and fill out the questionnaire. If you are unable to complete the registry on the website, contact your county emergency management office.

- Alachua County Emergency Management: 800-374-9689
- Dixie County Emergency Management: 352-498-1464
- Gilchrist County Emergency Management: 386-935-5400
- Lafayette County Emergency Management: 386-294-1950
- Levy County Emergency Management: 352-486-5213
- Marion County Emergency Management: 352-369-8100

## Important Numbers For Shelter Information

- **Levy County** Emergency Management 486-5213 or the Levy County Sheriff's Office 486-5111 [www.levydisaster.com](http://www.levydisaster.com)
- **Gilchrist County** Emergency Management 386-935-5400 or the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office 463-3410 [www.gilchrist.fl.us](http://www.gilchrist.fl.us)
- **Dixie County** Emergency Management 498-1240 or the Dixie County Sheriff's Office 498-1231 [www.dixieemergency.com](http://www.dixieemergency.com)
- **Alachua County** Emergency Management 352-264-6500 or the Alachua County Sheriff's Office 955-1818 [www.alachuacounty.us](http://www.alachuacounty.us)

To report a power outage, call CFECA at 1-800-227-1302 or (352) 493-2511. Follow the prompts on the outage reporting system.

For an emergency requiring ambulance service, fire and rescue or the Sheriff's department, call 9-1-1

# Generator Safety Tips to Use This Hurricane Season

**Never run a generator in an enclosed space or indoors.** Most generator related deaths and injuries involve carbon monoxide poisoning. Always place generators at least 20 feet from the home with exhaust pointed away from windows or doors.

**Always be careful** when dealing with gasoline and gas-powered generators. You should turn off a gas-powered generator and let the engine cool before refueling. This will help reduce the risk of fire in the case of an accidental spill or burn. It's also important to store gas properly in an ANSI-approved container in a cool, ventilated space.

**Avoid electrical hazards.** If you don't have a transfer switch, it's best to plug appliances directly in to the generator, however, if you must use an extension cord, use an extension cord for outdoor use that is rated properly for the appliance load and always check the extension cord for cuts or tears. Installing a transfer switch that connects the generator to your circuit panel to power hardwired appliances is a good investment to avoid the safety risks of extension cords.



**Do not attempt to backfeed your house.** Backfeeding means trying to power your home's wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. This dangerous practice presents a fire risk and serious electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer.

# DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

A Family Disaster Supply Kit is essential in planning for a disaster. Your Disaster Supply Kit should include the items previously discussed and these additional items.

- Water (1 gallon per person per day for 7 days)
- Non-perishable food
- Sterile gauze pads
- Flashlight and batteries
- NOAA weather radio
- First aid kit
- At least two weeks supply of medication, medical supplies used regularly and a list of allergies
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- Medical records and primary care physician contact information
- List of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of needed medical devices
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- Supplies for your service animal

- Special needs items  
*Be sure to include specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and those family members with a disability.*

- Clothing  
*Include seasonal or rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots.*

- Vehicle  
*Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline*

## First Aid Kit

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelleltes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal

- Food  
*Enough for at least up to seven (7) days, non-perishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary needs.*
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

- Flashlight  
*Do not use candles and be sure to have enough batteries.*

- Radio  
*Battery operated or hand cranked radio, a NOAA weather radio*

- Cash  
*Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm.*

## Important Documents

- Insurance cards
  - Medical records
  - Bank numbers
  - Credit card numbers
  - Copy of social security card
  - Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
  - Other personal documents
  - Set of car, house, and office keys
- Items should be kept in a water proof container*

- Important phone numbers  
*Maintain a list of important phone numbers including county emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, and a number for our of town contact.*

## Pet care items

- Pet food and water
- Proper identification
- Medical records
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications





## Sweet Corn with Southern Barbecue Butter

### PREPARATION

Preheat oven broiler on high. In small saucepan over low heat, combine barbecue sauce and butter until melted and smooth. Place sweet corn in a medium-sized baking dish and pour barbecue mixture over sweet corn. Broil sweet corn for 5-10 minutes, 4 inches from broiler, being sure to watch the whole time. Turn and baste the sweet corn until golden. Serve warm.

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 ears fresh sweet corn, shucked
- ¼ cup your favorite barbecue sauce
- ¼ stick butter
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



## Grilled Key Lime Shrimp Skewers

### PREPARATION

1. Combine and mix avocado, mayonnaise, sour cream, mustard, paprika, horseradish, hot sauce, garlic, lemon juice, and all-purpose seasoning in a small bowl. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed with salt and pepper. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.
2. Preheat grill to high. Carefully skewer shrimp, leaving at least one inch on either side of shrimp. Drizzle lightly with oil and season with salt and pepper. Place over direct heat and cook for 2 minutes per side or until cooked through. Remove from grill and sprinkle with lime juice and parsley. Serve with remoulade sauce.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 Florida Key limes, juiced
- ½ Florida avocado, mashed
- 2 tablespoons parsley, finely chopped
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons spicy mustard
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (your favorite)
- 1 teaspoon garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
- 1 lemon, juiced
- Oil for cooking
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



## Grilled Romaine Salad

### PREPARATION

1. In a small bowl combine cheese, yogurt, vinegar, mustard, herbs, salt and pepper. Mix and adjust seasoning as needed. Store in refrigerator until ready to use.
2. Preheat grill pan to medium-high. Brush both sides of lettuce halves and season with salt and pepper. Place on hot grill pan for 1-2 minutes per side. Remove and set aside. In the same pan add 1 tablespoon oil and sauté corn for 5 minutes or until corn starts to caramelize. Add tomatoes and cook a few minutes more. Spoon mixture over romaine halves and drizzle with yogurt dressing. Top with more cheese if desired. Serve warm.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 heads romaine lettuce, split lengthwise
- 2 ears sweet corn, cut off cob
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup plain yogurt (whole or skim)
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup fresh herbs (such as parsley and thyme), finely chopped
- ⅓ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- Oil for cooking
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

## CFEC Payment Options In Response To Covid-19

### ■ Drive-Through Locations

Payments can be made at CFEC's Drive-Through locations at the Main Office and Cross City Office. Payments can also be placed in the drop-box at each location after hours. All office lobbies are closed at this time.

### ■ E-check/Automatic Draft

Payments can be made by electronic check through the CFEC online Member Portal at [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com) by selecting the "Pay By E-Check" option and entering your bank account and routing information. **There is no fee for paying via E-check.**

### ■ By Phone

Payments can be made with a credit or debit card processed through our third-party provider, SEDC. A \$2.50 (per \$500) service fee will be charged by SEDC and is NOT a CFEC charge. Payments made through SEDC are posted to the member's account at the time of payment.

Pay By Phone at **352-493-2515** or toll free at **844-434-3962**. Pay online at [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com). Note: Payment with debit or credit card has a service fee of \$2.50 per \$500. Payment with e-check is free.

### ■ Bank Locations

Payments can be made at any Drummond Community Bank location or at the Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Florida, during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.

### ■ By Mail:

Mail payments to:  
Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 9  
Chiefland, FL 32644.

Please allow sufficient time for delivery or payment may be received as late.

*Thank you for your continued support of CFEC. We look forward to serving you again in person soon.*



**Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

~ YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

### MEETING NOTICE:

The Board of Trustees for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Cooperative's main office in Chiefland.

Under the Covid-19 "Social Distancing" order, attendance will be limited. For information on Member participation call CFEC Member Services at **800-227-1302** or **352-493-2511** during regular business hours.

## To Report A Power Outage:

Call: **1-800-227-1302** or **352-493-2511**, follow the prompts of the Automated Outage Response System

Use the **CFEC Connect App**:

Click on "report outage." Fill in the form and click "submit." If you are already logged in to the app, simply click the "report outage" triangle, and "yes" to report the outage.

Online: Log on to [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com), click on "outage information" and fill in the form with the required information. Hit "send" when complete.



**CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**



Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

~ YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORLANDO, FL  
PERMIT NO. 3937

**MAIN OFFICE**

11491 NW 50th Ave.  
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247  
352-493-2511  
or 800-227-1302

[www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com)

**Physical Address/Payment Locations**

**MAIL ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 9  
Chiefland, FL 32644-0009

**CROSS CITY OFFICE**

207 NE 210 Ave.  
Cross City, FL 32628  
352-498-7322

**INGLIS OFFICE**

167 Highway 40 West  
Inglis, FL 34449  
352-447-3553

**ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS**

Drummond Community Bank  
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)

*For a complete listing of payment  
locations, go to [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com).*

*This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

# Hurricane Season Starts June 1.

Now is the time to prepare. Start by collecting a 7-day supply of food, water, medicine, batteries and other essential needs.

Read more about how to be ready for hurricane season, including local shelter information and signing up for the special needs registry, on pages 4 and 5.

## Now Is The Time To Get Ready For A Hurricane!



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