

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month.

By Anne Prince

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Columbus Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating *you*! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Columbus Electric Cooperative works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. We partner with and support area schools in Animas, Deming and Columbus and other charitable organizations such as

Cancer Support of Deming, Shop with a Cop, County Fairs in Luna and Hidalgo counties and summer sports programs to name a few.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including our water heater program and rebate program that includes appliances, outdoor power equipment and more.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And of course we're here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

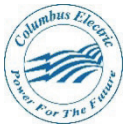
Columbus Electric Cooperative is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative





Seven Cooperative Principles

#1 Voluntary and Open Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



#2 Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



#3 Member's Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



#4 Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



#5 Education, Training and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.



#6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



#7 Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.



Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees, at its regular meeting in September reviewed and approved the financial and operational reports for the month of August. The Board heard reports on the activities of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Tri-State G & T from representatives from Columbus Electric that sit on the boards of those organizations. James Jackson, a representative of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, presented information related to benefits.



Our office will be closed Friday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day

Notice: Energy Assistance and Moratorium Protection (LIHEAP)

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2022. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the human services department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for low-income heating energy assistance program (LIHEAP). Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2022, through March 15, 2023, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2022. Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at (888) 427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

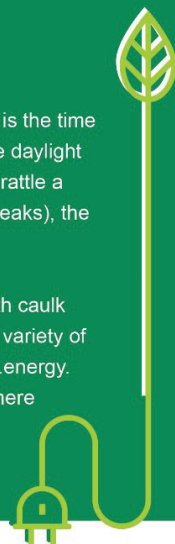
Para informacion en espanol llame 1-800-950-2667.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

www.columbusco-op.org