

CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

Celebrating independence

Independence Day this year is loaded with promise

As our state and nation emerge from pandemic restrictions, a celebration of freedom takes on added significance in 2021.

One of the iconic images of the July 4th holiday is Mount Rushmore, the faces of four presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln carved into stone, symbolizing American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Though we don't read as many quotes from Teddy Roosevelt compared to the other three patriots on the memorial, on this Independence Day, Clark Energy would like to share some fitting words from the 26th president of the United States.

Submitting a 1909 report to Congress by the Commission on Country Life, Roosevelt specifically pointed to cooperatives as key to the success of rural Americans.

"The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is (governed by a board), every person has one vote and only one vote," Roosevelt wrote. "Everyone gets profits based on their use

of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value."

More than a century later, Roosevelt's words ring true at Clark Energy. We are led by, belong to and were built by members of the communities we serve. In other words, Clark Energy is independent. Though we align with other cooperatives to efficiently serve you, we are not owned or controlled by any out-of-town interests. That's something to celebrate on this Independence Day.

Twenty-four years after Roosevelt left office, his fifth-cousin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the Rural Electrification Administration. When Congress authorized funding through the Rural Electrification Act, it enabled nonprofit electric cooperatives like Clark Energy to secure low-cost loans to acquire the necessary facilities to bring electricity to farms and other rural areas.

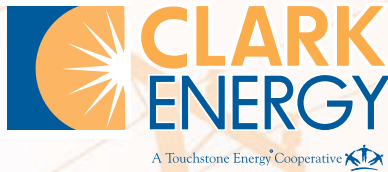
"The forward march of electric cooperatives has profound significance in terms of our fight to preserve the democracy," FDR said.



ANDREA HANKS

This patriotic message is not simply a footnote in history books. To Clark Energy, it is a rallying cry in our service for you, the member-owners who own the cooperative, especially as co-ops face challenges to our ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

"Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us," Teddy Roosevelt said in his Inaugural Address in 1905. "We have duties to others and duties to ourselves; and we can shirk neither. We have become a great nation, forced by the fact of its greatness into relations with the other nations of the earth, and we must behave as befits a people with such responsibilities."



From the President's Desk

Contact Us

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OFFICE HOURS

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OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

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Stanton - (606) 663-4330
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**To report an outage, please
call (800) 992-3269.**

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Texas experience highlights importance of reliability

At Clark Energy, we take the reliability of your electric service seriously. We want to be there for you, every moment of every day.

But sometimes Mother Nature intervenes, as happened in February. We experienced repeated severe ice and snow storms, knocking out power to thousands.

When power lines were knocked down, electric cooperatives responded by immediately sending crews to fix them. Crews from other cooperatives around the country came to help. They worked hard under very challenging conditions to restore power as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, Texas was experiencing power outages that were even more widespread, affecting millions. But the cause was different. For the most part, power lines were not damaged; rather, the weather affected power plants, freezing natural gas pipelines and wind turbines. In fact, all types of power plants experienced challenges.

This is a serious situation any time, but especially when temperatures are well below freezing. A single power line outage might affect thousands, but power plant outages can affect tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands. Fortunately, in Kentucky, our power plants are prepared for bitter cold conditions.

For electric utilities, the Texas experience emphasizes the fact that we must prepare for extreme situations. And we need options; as they say, "all of the above." Some must be dependable 24/7/365.

As we become more dependent on renewable energy, especially

wind and solar, we must understand and plan for how and when they operate. They need wind and sun to generate electricity; nothing we do will change that. For now, battery storage can provide only a few hours of electricity in limited areas.

Wind turbines and solar panels have much to offer. Notably, they do not emit carbon dioxide when they make energy. Plus, we do not have to pay for the wind and sun that fuels them. But the fact remains that we cannot depend on them 24/7/365. We need to retain traditional sources of power that we can switch on anytime, regardless of the weather.

As we transition to a grid where renewables play a greater role, I can assure you Clark Energy and our power provider will remain focused on reliability, along with maintaining competitively priced power and building greater sustainability for the future.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

JUPITERIMAGES

Want to grill outdoors but don't have space? Go electric

When you think of grilling burgers, steaks and veggies outdoors, the debate usually is between gas and charcoal. But a third option is the right one for a lot of grilling fans—electric.

Some of the electric grill's most attractive features include:

- It requires no fire or flame, so it's not necessary to keep it a safe distance from your house. This is a great benefit for those who live in apartments or townhouses.
- It heats up quickly. Just plug it in and start cooking. There's no wait for the charcoal to turn white-hot.
- It's easy to clean. Because the grill does not create any charcoal ash, it creates very little mess while cooking.
- It can grill sandwiches. Gas and charcoal models can't do that.
- If you buy an indoor/outdoor model, you can grill all year long.

If you decide to buy an electric grill, consider:

- If you plan to shuttle your grill between the kitchen and the patio, buy a portable model that fits on a tabletop.
- Choose a model made from commercial-grade stainless steel so it will resist corrosion, especially if you plan to grill outdoors.
- Look for a brand that offers a lifetime warranty. The least expensive models come with warranties as limited as 90 days to three years.
- Electric grills are powerful and should be the only appliance plugged into an outlet. If they have to compete for power, preheat times lengthen.
- Most electric grills are designed for outdoor use only, so if you want to use it inside, choose a model designed to direct food drippings outside of the unit as a fire safety measure.



RICHARD SEMNIK/ADOBE STOCK

How to clean A/C filter

Even if you have your central air conditioning unit professionally inspected and maintained every spring as you should, that doesn't let you off the hook for keeping A/C filters clean.

The filters collect dust and dirt that otherwise would fly around inside your house along with the cool air the A/C blows out. When the filter is full, that cool air can't get through to your house.

When that happens, the A/C has to work extra hard to do its job. The harder it works, the more energy it uses. The more energy it uses, the higher your electric bill.



MOKEER/ADOBE STOCK

Forcing the unit to work overtime can shorten its life because it will wear out quicker.

It's a good idea to change or clean the filters once a month during air condition season.

You'll find your filter or filters inside of the air-return vents on or near the ceiling or close to the floor. To clean the filter:

- Remove the vent cover, which is usually screwed into place.
- Visually inspect the filter for dirt, dust and discoloration.
- If it looks dirty, replace it. You can buy disposable filters at a home store or hardware store.
- If your filter is reusable and not disposable, vacuum it to remove the dust.
- For an especially dirty reusable filter, rinse it in the bathtub or laundry room sink. Let it air-dry completely before replacing it.
- Repeat every month.

July safety matters

Stay cool and safe in the pool

If your home has a swimming pool, it's probably your go-to solution to beat the heat.

Before taking that first plunge it is important to have swimming pool equipment, hot tubs and spas inspected by a licensed electrician to ensure your facilities are grounded correctly and up to code.

If your plans include adding a swimming pool this year, please choose your site carefully, considering any power lines that may be overhead or underground. Call 811 before starting an in-ground installation.

There is a hidden danger called Electric Shock Drowning, or ESD, and it's entirely preventable. ESD happens when electricity from a pool or hot tub leaks electric current into the surrounding water.

If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming. Exit the water as quickly as possible but



YAN LEVSHUTTERSTOCK

avoid touching metal ladders or rails, which increases the risk of shock.

If someone is experiencing an electrical shock in your pool, go to the circuit breaker and quickly turn the power off. Call 911 immediately. Don't become another victim by jumping in to help.

Take extreme care when using electrical equipment near a swimming

pool. Keep cords and equipment at least 5 feet from the water or use battery-operated appliances rather than plug-in machinery.

When you are wet or get out of the water, don't change the radio station or touch anything electrical until you are dry.

Clark Energy cares about your safety. Stay safe and cool in the pool.

Keep cool this summer without blasting A/C

There's no need to lose your cool when you get your summer electric bill during the hottest days of the year. Instead, try some alternatives to cranking up the air conditioning when the sun is blazing and it hasn't rained in days.

■ **Install a dehumidifier.** If it feels as humid indoors as it does outdoors, there's too much water in the inside air. If you see water dripping out of the air conditioner or if you have to set it so low that you're freezing just to reach a comfortable humidity, the dehumidifier will help.

■ **Cook outdoors or eat cold food.** Salads, raw veggies and fruit make great summer meals, and they don't require you to turn on the stove or oven, which can make the air in the

kitchen too warm. Instead, gather the family for a barbecue and fire up the outdoor grill or serve a cold buffet on extra-hot evenings.

■ **Hang bright curtains.** Red, orange and yellow tend to deflect heat, so for curtains, those are energy efficient. Closing the curtains or blinds during the day will keep sunrays from



JACEK CHABRAZEWSKI/ADOBESTOCK

heating up the home you're trying to keep cool. Or install solar screens or a window tint to let in light but keep out the heat.

■ **Run fans.** Ceiling fans with blades that turn counterclockwise pull heat up out of the room while sending a soft breeze down into it, so anyone nearby will feel cooler. Portable electric fans placed in windows facing outward can suck heat out of a room on days when you want to give your A/C a break.

■ **Run your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer after dark.** Appliances that use heat to operate also throw some heat into the rooms where they are located. So run them during the coolest part of the day, after the sun goes down.