



From the Manager's Desk

MICHAEL SWAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

Your electric bill is impacted by private solar compensation

At Woodruff Electric, your local electric cooperative, our mission is clear. It's to provide you — our member/owners — with Reliable, Affordable and Responsible energy. We take our mission very seriously and want you to be aware of Act 464 and a state energy policy, that impacts your electric bill. When private solar installations produce more energy than needed, the excess energy is put on the electric grid to be available for other members, and the solar array owner is compensated through a process called net metering. Unfortunately, this excess energy is not always produced at a time when needed by other members but still costs the cooperative.

Currently, homeowners and businesses that install private solar panels are credited for energy they produce at a rate more than twice the price that we can buy energy from wholesale power markets. A state government ruling by the Arkansas Public Service Commission requires Woodruff Electric to pay this price. This unfairly impacts our member/owners because this higher cost is ultimately passed on to you.

The market value of wholesale energy varies over time and is currently approximately 5 cents per kilowatt hour. However, the average rate to deliver electricity in Arkansas is, on average 12 cents per kilowatt hour, which is what private solar owners receive in compensation, making it the highest price that utilities pay for energy. It's a huge windfall, and a clear subsidy, to those who can afford to install solar panels — at great expense to you, our member/owners. **Woodruff Electric is not against private solar installations or Act 464. We simply don't agree with the current Arkansas Public Service Commission rules regarding net metering rates.**

Net metering enables solar owners to receive the

equivalent amount of energy as they produced in excess back from the utility at zero cost, which shifts the financial burden on non-solar members for infrastructure, maintenance and operational costs. **Again, this is no fault of private solar owners, but an issue with Arkansas Public Service Commission state net metering policy.**

Combined, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas have the state's largest share of net metering accounts. We're big fans of solar; it's an integral part of our Balance of Power generation portfolio. **In fact, we at Woodruff Electric have a 1-megawatt solar array located at our headquarters office that generates energy that benefits ALL of our members.** However, we don't think it's fair for you, or us, to pay more than the market rate for excess energy produced by private solar installations.

Those who have already invested in solar to net meter will be protected and allowed to continue under the current policy, but to ensure fairness for all, the policy going forward for new net metering customers must change to protect all ratepayers from higher costs.

We will be working with Arkansas legislators who passed a good law (Act 464) to bring fairness and flexibility to how the Arkansas Public Service Commission administers net metering rules to the cooperative. It's time for the legislators to end a rule that forces utilities to pay more for electricity sold into our grid from private solar installations, punishing you, our member/owners with higher rates. We may need your help to ensure that our voice and goal of fairness for YOUR COOPERATIVE is heard. We will keep you posted on our progress to work with our valued legislators to correct this issue in the upcoming session.

WOODRUFF ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

At the end of 2022, 10 Woodruff Electric employees and one director received service awards for their service to the cooperative.

Those recognized are listed at right.

EMPLOYEES

35 Years of Service
Randy Baldwin

25 Years of Service
Lisa Stayton

20 Years of Service
Jamie Flowers
James McMahan

15 Years of Service
Danny Andrews
Daniel Baker
Kevin Scott

10 Years of Service
Josh Armstrong
Debbie Thomas

5 Years of Service
Anna Howton

DIRECTOR

40 Years of Service
Jerry Brown

WECC pays property taxes too!

Everyone who owns property has the duty to pay personal property taxes, and it's not any different for your local electric cooperative. Woodruff Electric pays taxes on our office buildings, power lines and substations. WECC pays taxes to seven different counties, which are used to support local government, law enforcement, schools and public roads. In 2022, Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation paid the following 2021 personal property taxes:

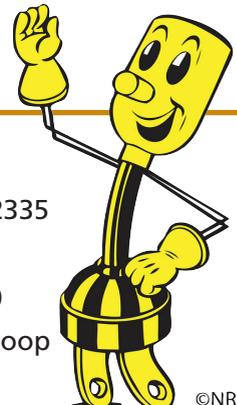
2021 Taxes

Cross County	\$ 269,449.72
Lee County	\$ 192,133.66
Monroe County	\$ 161,747.11
Phillips County	\$ 120,122.48
Prairie County	\$ 12,985.67
St Francis County	\$ 380,343.20
Woodruff County	\$ 206,654.93

Total property taxes paid \$1,343,436.77



my co-op



**Woodruff Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

3201 Highway 1 North,
Forrest City, Arkansas 72335
(870) 633-2262
Outages: (888) 559-6400
www.woodruffelectric.coop

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New year, new savings on your electric bill

Happy New Year! It's time for new resolutions. If you're resolving to save money this year, start with your electric bill. Winter months mean higher energy usage, as more time is spent indoors to keep warm. By implementing a few small changes around the house, it's possible to save big on your energy bills in 2023.



NRECA

- **Heating costs account for nearly 50% of a home's energy usage.** If you keep your thermostat temperature down for more than 8 hours at a time, you can save up to 1% of energy used per degree of reduced temperature.

- **If you have a heat pump, install a smart thermostat.** Choose settings that maximize your heat pump and minimize auxiliary heat use. Using auxiliary heat is very costly to your electric bill.
- **Insulating your water heater** can reduce standby heat loss by as much as 45% and save up to 16%

on annual water heating costs. Pre-cut jackets or blankets are inexpensive and available at most home improvement stores.

- **Regularly check and replace air filters** to help reduce heating costs and improve your system's performance.
 - **Air leakage into the home**, such as around plumbing penetrations, top plates, bottom plates, windows and doors can account for up to 20% of your energy usage. Use caulk, expanding foam and weather stripping to get an airtight seal and prevent heat loss.
 - **Space heaters are energy hogs** and can present a fire risk in your home. Ditch the space heater! Keep warm by wearing extra layers of clothing and using UL-approved electric blankets.
- Remember, the less energy you use, the more money you'll save. For more energy-saving tips, visit energy.gov.



Need assistance paying your electric bill?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides help with paying heating costs in winter months to qualifying individuals and families.

Beginning Jan. 9, applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds are available. Businesses are excluded from receiving the benefit.

Check eligibility at your local Community Action Agency (CAA) acaa.org.

LIHEAP is not administered by your local cooperative, but rather through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and it is operated by community action agencies.



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