

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.



Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



HOME ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW - CALL 811

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# Connections

WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Rising Natural Gas Prices Drive Rate Increase

Due to the rapidly rising cost of natural gas, the Cooperative will be forced to increase rates beginning June 1st. According to the New York Mercantile Exchange, natural gas prices are estimated to be 77% higher this year than actual 2021 prices. WREC's operations have been tremendously impacted by escalating fuel prices, coupled with 40-year high inflation.

There are two main factors that have impacted the cost of natural gas. One factor is increased exports of energy to Europe due to the Russian-Ukraine war. The second is higher demand at home due to unseasonably warm weather across the country. These factors have caused energy use to spike, driving up demand on already tight supplies. High demand along with tight supplies have pushed natural gas prices to historic levels. Natural gas and other fuel sources used to generate the energy Members' consume is reflected in the fuel charge on your bill.

The fuel charge is a straight pass-through, which means the Cooperative does not make any margins on fuel. As a not-for-profit,

Member-owned electric Cooperative, WREC takes seriously its responsibility to provide safe, reliable, competitively priced power to our Members. We work hand-in-hand with our suppliers and wholesale power provider to meet our Members energy needs.

Seventy cents of every dollar WREC receives goes to fund the operations of our wholesale power provider, Seminole Electric Cooperative. Seminole is a not-for-profit generation and transmission Cooperative owned by WREC and eight other Cooperatives throughout the State of Florida. Seminole strives to maintain a diverse fuel portfolio to maintain stable rates.

Due to these unforeseen circumstances, WREC was forced to increase its fuel charge. This fuel increase reflects the steep increase in natural gas costs. Members will now pay \$134.05 for 1,000 kilowatt hours of energy consumed, which is an increase of \$4.00 over our current rate of \$130.05 per 1,000 kilowatt hours consumed. As soon as fuel prices decline to a sustainable level, WREC will lower the fuel rate on your energy bill.

January 2021 - 2022 YTD Daily Prompt Month NYMEX Settlement



# Home Energy SAVING TIPS



Take advantage of home energy saving tips to help cut costs and save more. Below are several tips you might be interested in. Following these tips will save you money on your monthly electric bill.

1. Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs. LED's use one-fifth the energy of incandescent lighting and lasts up to fifty times longer. Incandescent bulbs give off 90% of energy as heat.
2. Unplug electronics when not in use and use power strips to make them easier to turn off. Smart power strips make it an easy task to save money. Standby power can account for up to 10% of your home electricity use.
3. Turn off the lights! One of the quickest ways to lower your energy bill is to turn off any lights when you exit a room, even for just a few minutes. Do not leave unnecessary lights on.
4. Install a programmable thermostat and adjust it by a few degrees when not in the house. By reducing the temperature by 1 degree your cost savings over time can affect energy use by 3-5 percent.
5. Wash laundry in cold water and only with full loads. Today's modern detergents work great in cold water and about 90% of the energy used by clothes washers goes towards water heating. For the dryer, do not over-dry your clothes and make sure to clean the inside lint filter before each drying cycle.
6. Check caulking around windows and weather stripping around outside doors for air leaks. Uncontrolled air leakage can waste up to 40% of your heating and cooling costs per year.

For more energy saving tips visit: [touchstoneenergy.com](http://touchstoneenergy.com)



## Know what's below. Call before you dig.

**811 is the phone number you call before digging** to protect yourself and others from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines. There are millions of miles of buried utilities beneath the surface of the earth that are vital to everyday living like water, electricity, and natural gas.

811 is the federally designated call before you dig number that helps homeowners and professionals avoid damaging these vital utilities. When you make the free call to 811 a few days before you dig, you'll help prevent unintended consequences such as injury to you or your family, damage to your property, utility service outages to the entire neighborhood, and potential fines and repair costs.

Call 811 before you start any digging project. You'll avoid injury, expense, embarrassment — and a very inconvenient day in the dark.

For more information visit:  
[call811.com](http://call811.com)

**To Report An Inoperative Or Malfunctioning Street Light**  
Please call your local Cooperative Office, **OR** you may also log on to [wrec.net](http://wrec.net) and click on the **Repair Street Light** button, then complete and submit the **Street Light Repair Request Form**, or you can download the **SmartHub® app** and request a street light repair.

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VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: [wrec.net](http://wrec.net)

Your Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Dade City to conduct the business of the Cooperative and its' subsidiaries.

**LEGAL NOTICE: Operation Round-Up** is a Registered Trade Name for **WRECares**. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration #SC-02353. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. 1-800-435-7352.

## WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# Connections

WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

- WREC OFFICES -  
PASCO:

Billy E. Brown Corporate Center: 352-567-5133 - P.O. Box 278, Dade City, Florida 33526-0278  
One Pasco Center District Office: 352-588-5115 | New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813-979-9732  
Bayonet Point District Office: 727-868-9465 | Land O'Lakes/Odessa: 813-972-9233

CITRUS: Dunnellon: 352-489-6818 | Crystal River District Office: 352-795-4382

HERNANDO: West Hernando District Office: 352-596-4000

POLK: One Pasco Center District Office: 863-687-4396 | SUMTER: Bushnell: 352-793-7813



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