



## Chad Fowler Earns Board Leadership Certificate



Community Electric Cooperative Board Director Chad Fowler recently earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board Leadership Certificate.

In order to begin fulfilling the requirements of this certificate program, candidates first must earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. NRECA's CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide basic governance knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors.

The Board Leadership Program consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development. Directors can earn the BLC if they have 1) completed the CCD and 2) earned 10 credits from a choice of over 20 BLC courses. Directors may attend BLC

courses at any time but will not be awarded a certificate until all CCD program requirements are completed.

"As elected officials, as well as being co-op members themselves, our directors understand the value of education and the knowledge it takes to not only contribute but to lead in the best interests of their fellow members," says Steve Harmon, president and CEO. "We are incredibly proud of Mr. Fowler's achievements and his willingness to continue to serve our cooperative."

In addition to Fowler's achievements, other CEC board members have also earned certificates through NRECA's programs: board chairman Jeanette Everett holds the Director Gold credential (twice), board director John Stewart also obtained the Director Gold credential, and board directors Diana Beale, Doug Chesson and Michael Faulk hold CCD certificates.

## Co-op Closed Labor Day



Community Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. Report a power outage by calling the after-hours number below.

### CONTACT US

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After-hours Outages  
1-855-700-2667



Office Hours  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Community Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## Help Us Beat the Peak this Month

August is typically the hottest month of the year; often referred to as the "dog days of summer." It's also a time when Community Electric Cooperative asks you to help us "beat the peak." This peak is the time of day when energy use is at its highest. CEC's rates from our power supplier next year will be based on these periods of peak demand. That's why we're asking our members again to be mindful and reduce energy use between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

We suggest setting your thermostat a few degrees higher during this time of day. Try using fans to create wind chill and feel cooler, but always turn fans off when leaving the room.

Turn off and unplug non-essential lights and electronics. Consider purchasing a smart power strip to help you save even more. Avoid using large appliances like ovens and clothes washers during peak hours.

Help us save on transmission costs for next year and we'll pass the savings directly back to you. Find more tips at [comelec.coop](http://comelec.coop).



# Co-op to Resume Normal Operations



To help our members during the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Electric Cooperative temporarily suspended service disconnections due to nonpayment of bills. Electric co-ops are built by, and belong to, the communities we serve. That community focus drives our co-op as we respond to evolving COVID-19 challenges and local concerns.

“We recognize the significant economic fallout from the pandemic on local families and our local businesses,” says Steve Harmon, CEC president and CEO. “The economic health of Community Electric Cooperative is directly tied to the well-being of our local community.”

Not-for-profit electric co-ops like CEC have no shareholders and routinely return excess revenues to their members. Because of this structure and the desire to keep energy costs as low as possible, some co-ops have more-limited reserve margins to sustain high rates of nonpayment.

Nationally, the pandemic is projected to cost electric cooperatives \$10 billion through 2022, according to new research by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

As our community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, starting on Aug. 31, Community Electric Cooperative will resume disconnections for accounts with a past-due balance.

“During this transition, our goal is to help you avoid disconnection of electric service,” says CEC Manager of Member Services Brenda Mansfield. “The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented. We know our consumer-members may be facing financial challenges and we understand you may have trouble paying your electric bill during this critical time. If you missed payments and have a past-due balance, we can help.”

If you're unable to pay your bill, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss making a payment or setting up a payment plan. You can reach us at 757-242-6181 or via email at [member@comelec.coop](mailto:member@comelec.coop).

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Add a smart power strip



Adding a smart power strip into your home office or your entertainment center is pretty easy. Traditional power strips house many different devices and use only one outlet, but remember, if devices are plugged in, they will continue to use energy. Smart power strips can actually cut power off and save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Summer Safety

Summer is the time for swimming and boating. Storms and heavy rains are also common during the summer season. Awareness of electrical hazards around water can help prevent deaths and injuries.

- Keep safety in mind when selecting cooling equipment for your home.
- Have a qualified, licensed electrician install and service any electrical equipment in your home.
- Have electric-powered equipment inspected and maintained regularly for safety.
- Make sure your equipment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.

Source: [esfi.org](http://esfi.org)

## Install and Operate Generators Safely

A generator makes life easier during a power outage, but only if it's installed and used safely. Never connect a generator directly to household wiring without the assistance of a licensed electrician. Voltage feedback from improper installation could fatally injure your family, neighbors or line crews.

Keep portable generators outdoors and install a carbon monoxide detector in nearby enclosed spaces. Always keep children away from generators. Contact Community Electric Cooperative for more advice on operating your generator safely.

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

Call 811 or visit [VA811.com](http://VA811.com) at least 3 days before any digging project.

It's the law.

August 11 is National



Day!