

Current Communicator



MEMBER NEWSLETTER
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Winter 2023 VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

New Solar Array

Addition of 5MW in Fluvanna County

Rural Broadband

CVEC Construction Wrapping Up

Reliability

A Top Priority for CVEC

Strategic Planning

New Initiatives and Goals

A Letter from the CEO

The year 2022 began and ended with prolonged single-digit temperatures, resulting in higher energy costs and higher electric bills for members. From the fuel pumps to the grocery store, consumers everywhere are feeling the impact of rising costs on their wallets. Increased natural gas prices, in particular, are having a significant impact on power supply in the electric industry.

In August 2022, **CVEC increased the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge on member bills for the first time since 2018**

to cover the rising cost of purchasing power from our suppliers. Persistent high energy costs combined with limited transmission capacity further impacted power purchasing costs, leading to another increase in the PCA for 2023. We understand the hardships that rising costs create and work hard to acquire the most affordable energy available and maintain the distribution system, while limiting the financial impact to our members.

As a not-for-profit utility, CVEC allocates electric service margins at the end of each year to our members in the form of patronage capital that will later be returned to members as capital credits. Patronage capital represents the members' ownership and investment in the Cooperative and is used to maintain and improve the distribution system. A total of \$1,662,399 was allocated to members in 2022.

CVEC recently conducted a member satisfaction survey. The feedback received from the survey and the 2022 Member Advisory Council meetings will be used during the 2023 Strategic Planning session, where **the Board and Staff will discuss and set goals and objectives for the next three to five years.** We appreciate all the members who participated and provided valuable feedback that will help shape the future of the Cooperative.

In early 2023, **the new 5MW solar array in Fluvanna County will "go online"** and the output from those panels will feed directly into CVEC's distribution lines, avoiding the cost of using the transmission grid. We are excited to be able to increase the output of clean, renewable energy for consumption by members and continue to look for cost-effective ways to further diversify our power supply portfolio.

In 2018, CVEC announced plans to bring affordable, fiber broadband to central Virginia. We are excited to say that **construction of the fiber network was effectively completed in 2022** – nearly one full year ahead of schedule. With the network in place, Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM will focus on completing as many final connections as possible in the first quarter of this year. We appreciate the patience and support you've shown for this transformation.

CVEC remains committed to providing the safest, most reliable, and most affordable electric service that we can. We will handle each challenge that 2023 presents with a continued focus on the best interest of our member-owners. As always, it is our pleasure to serve you.

Gary Wood
President & CEO

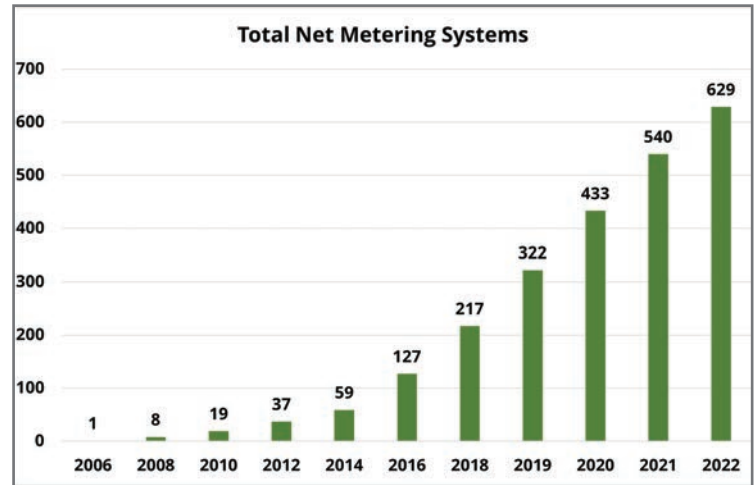
More Members Choose Net Metering Systems

Members continue to embrace renewable energy sources.

Members who rely on the power from their own solar panels have a special metering and billing agreement with CVEC called **net metering** that allows the member to connect their solar panels to the power grid. If the solar panels generate more power than the member consumes, the electric meter runs backwards and generates a credit to the member. Similarly, the meter will run forward if the member uses more power than is generated by the solar panels. Ultimately, net metering members are only charged for the net power consumed from CVEC.

The benefits of net metering systems include lessening our reliance on fossil fuels, increasing the range of our current energy sources, and minimizing the environmental impact of electricity.

Since CVEC's first net metering agreement in 2006, there has been a steady increase in small-scale renewable energy systems being installed by members. If you are interested in installing any renewable fuel generating system, visit the "Net Metering" page at www.mycvec.com to view guidelines, criteria, and necessary forms.



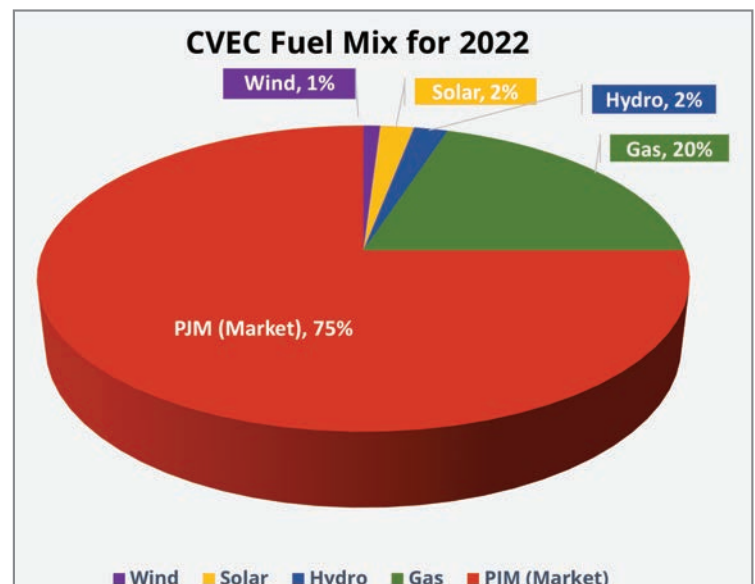
CVEC understands that not all members who would like to take advantage of renewable energy are able to install solar panels on their homes. In 2018, CVEC launched its community solar program, "Solar Share," as an option for members who occupy rental properties or are otherwise unable to install panels on their homes to take advantage of a no-contract, affordable, and maintenance-free

option for clean, renewable energy. Solar Share allows members to purchase blocks of solar energy up to 1,000 kWh per household through a monthly subscription rate of \$4.50 per 50 kWh block.

The addition of Solar Share provides members the power to embrace clean, renewable energy every month. It also enables CVEC to fulfill its mission of offering clean, renewable energy, and adding to its already diversified power portfolio. If you are interested in Solar Share, visit the "Community Solar" page at www.mycvec.com.



Another great benefit of Solar Share is that the subscription rate is locked in until the year 2043 and will not be subject to rate increases during that time. Members will still be responsible for paying the distribution costs associated with their solar shares.



CVEC Adds 5MW Solar Array in Fluvanna County

Construction is complete on a new 5MW solar array in Fluvanna County and it is set to go online in early 2023.

The new solar array, constructed and owned by Sun Tribe and Sol Systems, sits on a 62-acre site near the Cunningham substation. The energy output from the panels will be purchased by CVEC and will feed directly into the Cooperative's power distribution lines. Locally sourced energy saves on transmission costs assessed by other providers, thus making local solar a good bargain and welcome addition to CVEC's power supply portfolio.

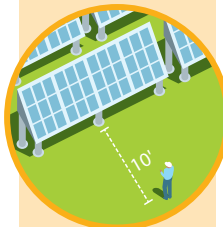


Did you know?

A 5MW solar array can generate enough electricity to power roughly 600 homes!

SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

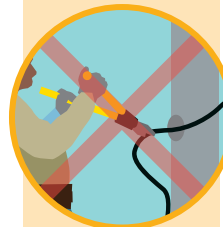
Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. CVEC is an equal opportunity provider.



Democratic Member Control

CVEC is a member-owned electric cooperative. Each year, CVEC holds an election at the Annual Meeting to select members to serve as directors and represent the membership in setting policies and making decisions.

SAVE THE DATE! **CVEC's 86th Annual Meeting** **September 20, 2023**

Members interested in running for a director position can make a "Member Petition Nomination," which must:

- List the name of the nominee;
- Indicate the director position for which the Member Petition Nominee will run;
- Contain the printed names, addresses, and original signatures of at least 100 CVEC Members;
- Use the Member Petition Nomination Form contained in the Director Candidate Packet, which is available from the Cooperative.

Member Petition Nominations must be delivered to the Cooperative at least 75 days prior to the Member Meeting.

For more information, please view Section 4.4 of the Bylaws located at www.mycvec.com.



CVEC CARES: Breast Cancer Awareness



In October, CVEC employees gathered to fill comfort care bags with mints, pens, moisturizing lotions, lip balms, inspirational decals, ginger ales, winter beanies, and gloves for patients at Centra's Alan B. Pearson Regional Cancer Center in Lynchburg. The Administration and Leadership Team at Centra welcomed CVEC employees, gathered for a group picture, and shared their appreciation for the kind donation.



Greg Hughes
Electronics Technician II

Thank you for providing 27 YEARS
of dedicated service to CVEC and its members!

What are those charges on my bill?

Each month, CVEC generates bills for residential members that include basic account information, special messages, and a line-by-line breakdown of bill charges. Below is a description of each charge.

The Basic Charge and Distribution Usage Charge are costs related to the ownership, operation, and maintenance of the CVEC electric distribution system.

- **Basic Charge** - Monthly cost of maintaining a connection to the CVEC distribution system and the monthly cost of metering and billing. This is a fixed charge on each bill.
- **Distribution Usage Charge** - Monthly charge for delivering energy via the distribution system. This amount is based upon kWh usage.

The Energy Charge and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), combine to pass through the actual wholesale cost of electricity without mark-up or profit.

- **Energy Charge** - Base cost of energy purchased from CVEC suppliers and is based on kWh usage. The current cost is 7.8¢ per kWh per Rate Schedule A.
- **Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)** - Regulated adjustment to your base cost of energy to balance any over or under recovery of actual wholesale power costs. The PCA amount increased in January 2023 because actual recent wholesale power costs and 2023 projected power costs are higher than the base cost included in the Energy Charge.
- **Utility Consumption Tax and County Consumption Tax** - State and local taxes collected through monthly billing and remitted directly to the applicable locality or Commonwealth of Virginia.

If you have any questions please visit www.mycvec.com or call 800-367-2832.

BILLING DETAILS

Previous Balance	\$183.12
Payment Received	-\$183.12
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Basic Charge	\$30.75
Distribution Usage Charge (\$0.0320000 / kWh)	\$86.66
Energy Charge (\$0.0784900 / kWh)	\$212.55
Power Cost Adjustment (0.020930 / kWh)	\$56.68
Utility Consumption Tax	\$4.12
County Consumption Tax	\$3.00
> Current Charges (due 01/26/2023)	\$393.76
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$393.76
A 1.5% late charge will be applied if not paid by the Due Date.	

Unclaimed Capital Credits

In 2021, CVEC issued a partial refund of capital credits allocated to those who were members in 2000 and 2020. Members due a refund greater than \$100 were mailed checks. A portion of the checks were not deposited or were returned as undeliverable. Following is a list of members who have not claimed their 2021 refund.

Anyone listed should contact the Co-op in writing for verification. Please provide:

- When the service was disconnected
- The last address while a CVEC member
- Current address and phone number
- Signature

AQUA VIRGINIA, INC
ARBYS
ASHTON, RAYMOND C
OR ANN
AUSTIN, BEATRICE
BABER, LESLIE R
BAILEY, NATHANIEL
BARRIE, ROBERT W
BAXTER, RICHARD
BELLONE, JOSEPH
BRADLEY, RICHARD
BRANMAR LOGGING, INC
BROWN, MARY LOU
BRYANT, BERNARD
CARBON-CORE
CORPORATION
CHAMBERS, EDITH J
COLLEY, C R
COLLINS, R A
COLONIAL PIPELINE CO
CSX TRANS 59524
CVS
DAVIS, LARRY A
DICKIE BROTHERS
DISHARON, LESLIE B
ELSAM, ERIC S

FAIR, ROY S
FISH, DELBERT L
FREEMAN GELLER, SANDRA
GRAVES JR, MACON
GRIEVE, EVELYN
HOWARD, MARY B
IL CASTELLO
JOHNSON, CLARENCE
JOHNSON, JOHN P
JOYNER, LAUREN
KEY, ARNOLD W
LAKE MONTICELLO
SERVICE CO
LEE, WALTER J
LEIDINGER, WILLIAM J
LEWIS, HUNTER
LINK'S CHOICE
LONG, HOLLIS W
LUSK, FREDDIE
MADE IN ASIA
MARSHALL, CHARLES E
MARTIN, WALTER M
MILLER, ROY C
MILLINGTON, ROSE C
PARCELLS, PATRICK
PHILLIPS, CONWAY

POPEYE'S
PYRAMID CONSTRUCTION
RAGLAND, WAVERLY E
RAMM, MARK
RICE, FRANCIS CLAY
RIVER LAWN FARM, LLC
RUST, PATSY OR THOMAS D
SEAY, RICE L
SHIFFLETT, LINDA
STEPHENS, PHILIP
SWINK, PHYLLIS BRUSH
TAYLOR, FREDERICK R
VIAR, RUBY
WELLS FABRICATION
WELDING
WHEELER, SANDRA LEE
LAWRENCE
WIECKING, DAVID K
YOUNG, RICHARD E

*A full listing of
unclaimed capital
credits can be found
at mycvec.com.*

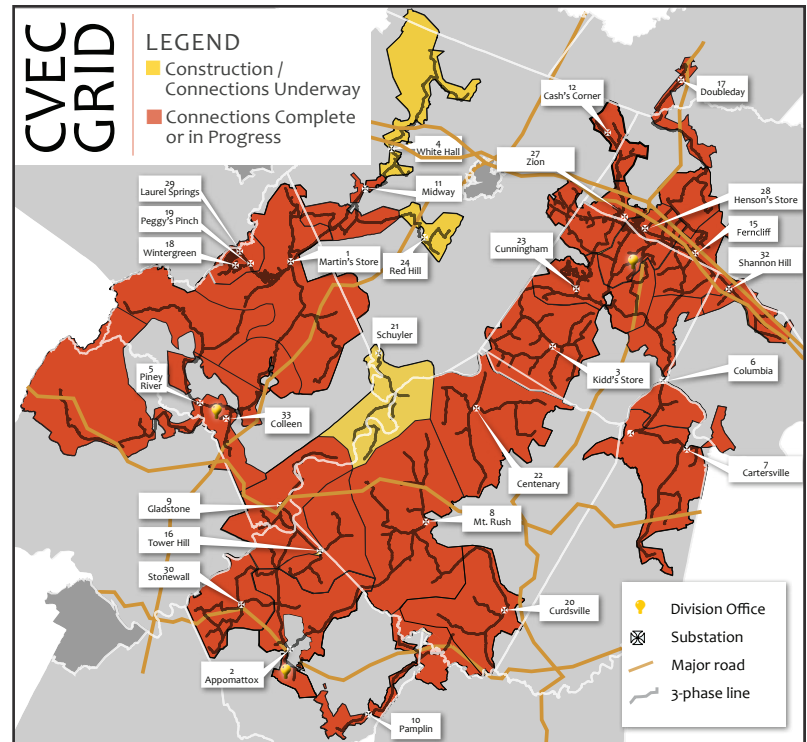
Rural Broadband is Changing Lives for Members

Over 18,000 CVEC members are taking advantage of the fiber network that is being built across the cooperative's infrastructure. Never before have members had access to speeds fast enough to stream, game, or even upload family photos!

In 2018, CVEC committed to making reliable and affordable high-speed internet available to all 38,000 members. Today, construction on the 3,600-mile fiber network is complete, 26 substations have fiber capabilities, and individual connections are underway. For White Hall, Red Hill and Schuyler, connections have begun. Service extension placement will continue in these areas, plus the other CVEC substation areas, until every registered location is online.

Gigabit speed internet and crystal clear voice-over-IP phone service is offered to members by CVEC's wholly-owned subsidiary, Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM. In honor of Firefly's 4th birthday, hundreds of members sent in stories and testimonials describing how access to affordable, reliable internet has transformed their lives. The emotions and relief felt by new internet subscribers was so familiar to those who were connected and received electricity for the first time from CVEC 85 years ago. Cooperatives have long filled the needs of their membership, whether by delivering power, serving their communities, or giving back to their members.

The newly-constructed fiber optic network will also increase the reliability of members' electric service by providing better and faster communication to and from all electronic utility devices located throughout CVEC's distribution system. The faster CVEC's Control Center can locate a fault on the system, the faster your power can be restored.



Scholarships Available

Any high school or home school senior graduating in 2023 whose parents or guardians are consumer-members of CVEC and whose primary residence is served by the cooperative is eligible for a VMDAEC Education Scholarship.

For more information, visit mycvec.com.

Applications opened on January 30, 2023 and the deadline is April 3, 2023!



Weather Woes Impact Reliability for Members

An unusually active year of storms and weather-related events challenged the Cooperative's efforts and historical reliability achievements.

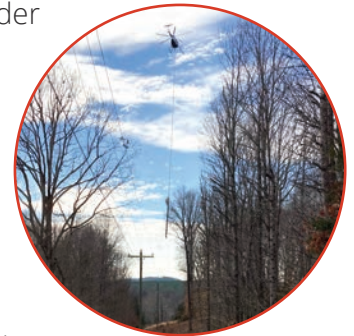
When an outage occurs, it leaves members without the comfort and conveniences that we've all become accustomed to. Heating or cooling homes, cooking, and even lighting a room becomes much more difficult because they must rely on backup sources.



Each year, CVEC's operations and reliability teams work to inspect the health of our distribution system and proactively identify danger trees or other objects that could cause a power interruption for our members. CVEC utilizes a drone contractor each year to perform visual inspections of the electric lines and pole-top equipment, as well as ground crews to perform pole inspections just below ground level. Drone and pole inspections for this year are scheduled to begin in the spring.

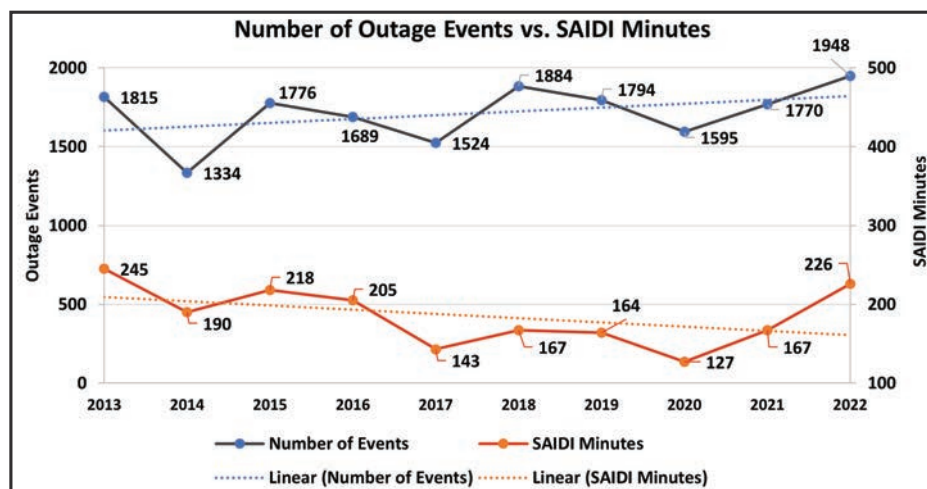


CVEC also has an aggressive vegetation management program to keep the rights-of-way clear of trees and vines that could cause outages and hinder access for CVEC crews. In January, we utilized Aerial Solutions to trim rights-of-way via a helicopter in portions of our territory where it is difficult for ground crews to access. Beginning in the spring and continuing into late 2023, we will be trimming rights-of-way using ground crews and equipment, so be on the lookout for a notice in the mail!



In addition to being proactive about reducing the potential for outage events, CVEC works hard to reduce the impact when outages do occur. Through the addition of protective devices such as fuses and reclosers, we are able to better isolate faults when they occur and keep as many members in service as possible. In 2022, CVEC experienced over 1,900 outage events - the highest number we've seen in over a decade. However, the chart below shows how the additional protective devices, increased inspections and line patrol, removal of danger trees, and good response times have reduced the overall impact of outage events when they do occur.

The new year brings new opportunities and new hope for a better weather year. No matter what hand mother nature deals us, we are committed to improving service reliability for our members!



Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket; while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

There's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. CVEC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. **Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
2. **Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
3. **Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
4. **Monitor your appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.
5. **Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up--beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.



For information about
local services and
payment assistance
programs, visit 211.org

CVEC Employees Give Back

Each year, CVEC employees look for ways to give back during the holiday season and help those in need in our communities.

CVEC employees held a Thanksgiving donation drive to benefit families in need during the holidays. The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB), which serves Albemarle, Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Fluvanna, Greene, Nelson, Orange, and many other localities outside of the CVEC service territory was the recipient for 2022.

Employees from both CVEC and Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM raised **\$1,823**, which provided a total of **7,292 meals** to individuals or families throughout much of CVEC's service territory!

Employees from CVEC's Appomattox and Palmyra offices participated in their county's Angel Tree programs and purchased gifts and much-needed items for local children. Employees from the Nelson office donated over \$800 to purchase food gift cards to help brighten the holiday season for several families in our community.



In December, CVEC employees partnered with Cville Sock Love and held a holiday "Sock Love" drive to collect new socks for individuals in need in our community. In total, employees donated 230 pairs of socks that were distributed to Charlottesville's homeless community, as well as the local Boys and Girls Club, and school social workers for children in need.



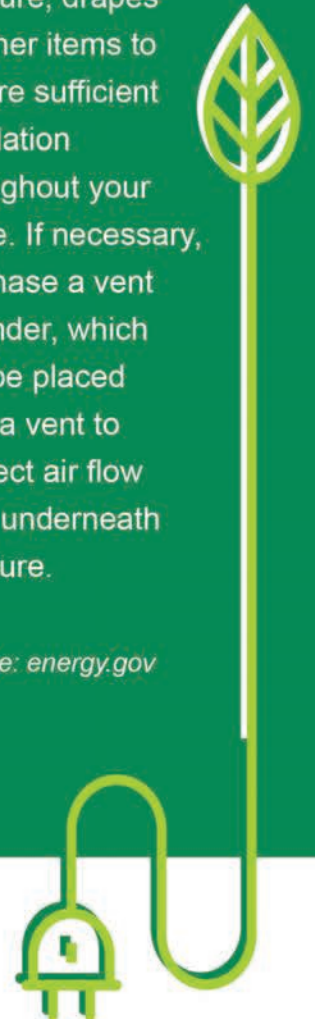
Concern for the Communities we serve is one of the seven cooperative principles that guides how CVEC operates. CVEC and its employees are proud to serve our member-owners and give back to our local communities.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)





Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

CORRESPONDENCE: P.O. Box 247 | Lovingson, VA 22949

PAYMENTS: Dept. 1340 | P.O. Box 2153 | Birmingham, AL 35287-1341

(800) FOR-CVEC | www.mycvec.com

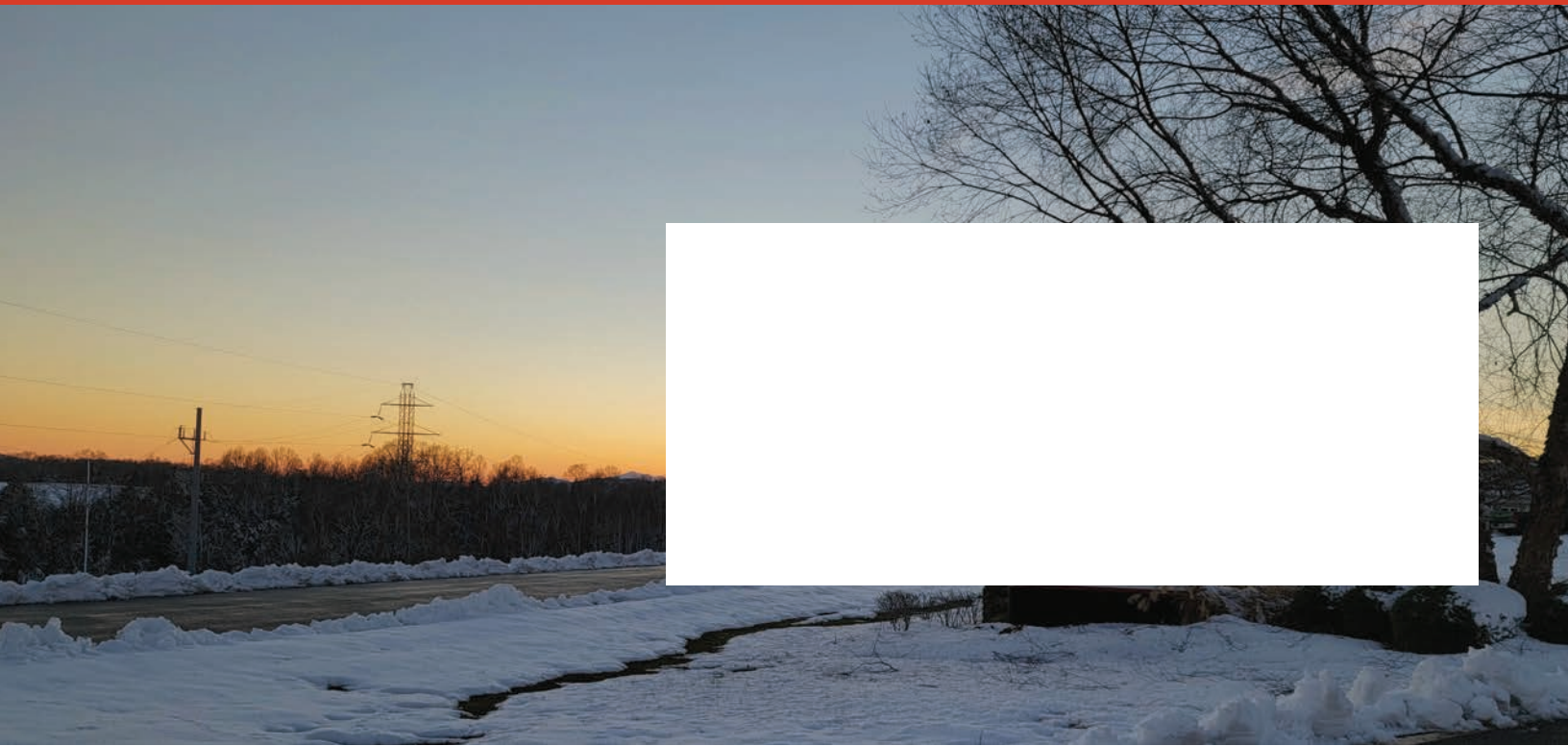
Presorted Standard

U. S. Postage

Paid

Harrisonburg, VA

Permit No. 312



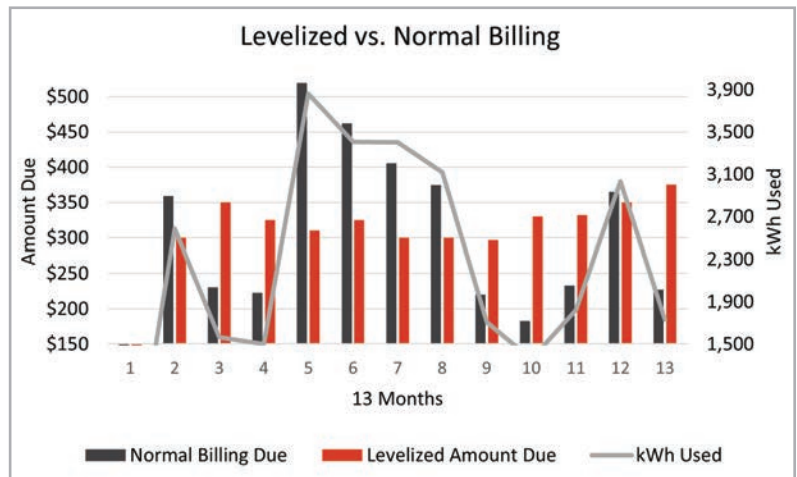
CVEC Offers Easy & Convenient Account Options

As your electric provider, CVEC strives to deliver reliable and affordable electricity that powers the comfort and convenience items in your home, but we don't stop there!

CVEC offers several billing and payment options to make monitoring and paying your energy bill as easy and convenient as possible.

The Levelized Budget Billing program is designed to help avoid significant fluctuations in monthly bills. To determine the amount you will pay each month, the Cooperative calculates a rolling average amount based on your usage in the current month and the previous eleven months. There is no settle-up month and you can sign up any month of the year.

CVEC also offers a variety of account text and/or email notifications to help you monitor your energy usage and payment due date.



The chart above shows how levelized billing can reduce fluctuation in the monthly amount due by using a rolling average. This is especially beneficial during prolonged periods of high or low temperatures, or even short periods of extreme temperatures.

For more information about CVEC's billing and payment options, visit the "My Account" tab at www.mycvec.com.