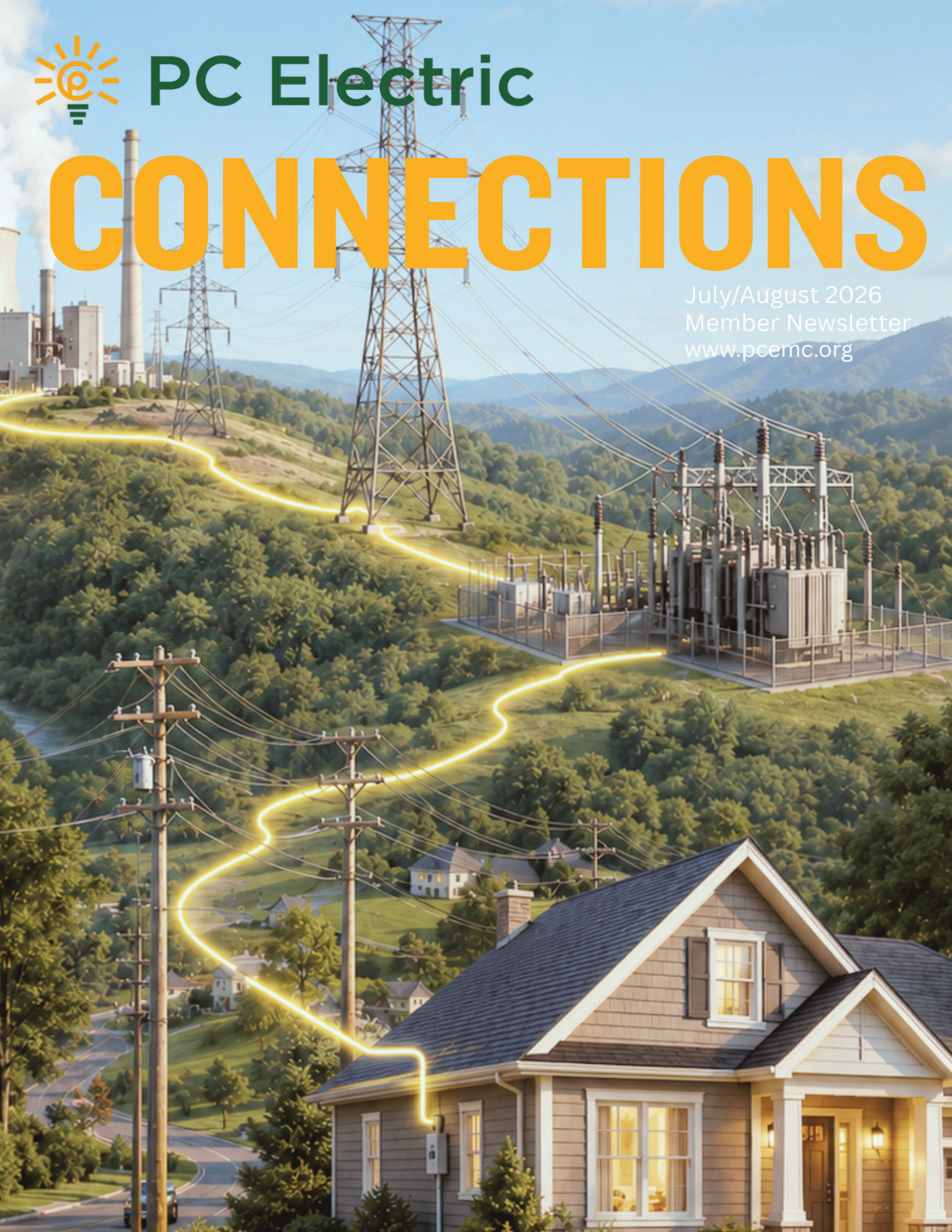




PC Electric

# CONNECTIONS

July/August 2026  
Member Newsletter  
[www.pcemc.org](http://www.pcemc.org)



**Connections Magazine is the official publication of PC Electric**

2506 False River Drive  
P.O. Box 160  
New Roads, LA 70760  
225.638.3751 Phone  
800.738.7232 Toll Free  
www.pcemc.org

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DISTRICT 1**  
Al Ewing

**DISTRICT 2**  
Jimmy Ewing, Jr.

**DISTRICT 3**  
George G. LaCour, Jr., Vice President

**DISTRICT 4**  
Ralph B. Chustz, Sr., President

**DISTRICT 5**  
Brenda Hurst, Secretary/Treasurer

**DISTRICT 6**  
Eric Elliott

**DISTRICT 7**  
Chris Settoon

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

**Craig Magruder**  
General Manager

**Deron McLin**  
Operations Manager

**Amanda McDuff**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Lisanne Labatut**  
Executive Administrative Assistant & H.R. Manager

**Chad Nichols**  
Safety Training & Projects Coordinator

**Jill Copeland**  
Manager of Member Services and Communications

## **Shift Timing, Shift Savings**

As we settle into the heat of July, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder and daily routines—from cooking dinner to doing laundry—often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across (155400) our community is at its highest. At PC Electric, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours, typically late afternoon to early evening, there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid like a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use. By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours—like doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed or cooking meals earlier in the day—you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to lower energy use during peak hours.

Smart technology (179200) can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices (791403) about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

# Where Does Your Electricity Come From?

Many people assume that their electric cooperative produces the electricity that powers their homes and businesses. In reality, our cooperative's job is to deliver electricity — not produce it.

Think of it like this: if electricity were water, the power plant would be the place where the water is made and pumped, and your electric cooperative would be the network (1172401) of pipes that safely delivers it to your home.

When we mention "our power provider," we are referring to the company or organization that generates the electricity. These power suppliers operate large power plants that produce electricity using different energy sources such as natural gas, coal, nuclear energy, hydroelectric power, or renewable resources.

So how does electricity get from the power supplier to your home? The process begins at the power supplier's generating plant, where electricity is produced. Once generated, that electricity travels across high-voltage transmission lines — sometimes many miles — because electricity can travel more efficiently at very high voltages.

That electricity is then delivered to one of our substations. A substation acts like a transfer station or distribution hub. Inside the substation, equipment called transformers lowers the voltage from transmission level to a safer, usable level for local distribution.

From the substation, electricity travels through our distribution lines — the poles, wires, and equipment you see throughout our communities. These lines carry power to (1513902) neighborhoods, farms, and businesses.

Before electricity enters your home, another transformer — usually mounted on a pole or located in a ground-level box — lowers the voltage again so it can safely power your lights, appliances, and electronics.

Our cooperative maintains and operates this local delivery system every day. That means we maintain substations, repair power lines, respond to outages, and work to safely deliver reliable electricity to our members.

This is also why you may sometimes hear us say that "our power provider has lost transmission to a substation" or that there is an issue with the power supply. When this happens, it means the electricity being generated and sent to us from the power supplier has been interrupted before it reaches our local distribution system.

While we do not generate electricity ourselves, we play an important role in making sure power is delivered safely and reliably from the power supplier to the members we serve.

From the power plant to the transmission lines, through our substations, and finally to your home — delivering electricity is truly a team effort.

## Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans

### What does this program do?

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. However, as of March 31, 2026, the USDA has stopped all REAP grant applications and awards nationwide. This means that no new REAP grants are being approved, and USDA has also stopped working on grant applications that were already (1895601) submitted. Anyone who applied before will have to apply again later when the program reopens. At this time, USDA has not given a date for when REAP grants will start again.

The good news is that even though REAP grants are on hold, the program has not shut down completely. USDA is still accepting applications for REAP loan guarantees. These loans can still be used to pay for energy upgrades and renewable energy projects. With a loan guarantee, USDA helps reduce risk for lenders, which can make it easier for farmers and rural businesses to get financing. For some operations, this may still be an option worth (2354804) considering while grants are paused. Local USDA Rural Development offices can explain how these loans work and whether they may be a good fit.

Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

### Who may apply for this program?

#### **Agricultural producers**

An entity directly engaged in production of agricultural products where at least 50 percent of their gross income coming from agricultural operations.

#### **Small businesses**

Must be located in eligible rural areas and one of the following:

- Private for-profit entity (sole Proprietorship, Partnership, or Corporation)
- A Cooperative [including those qualified under Section 501(c)(12) of IRS Code]
- An electric utility (including a Tribal or governmental electric utility) that provides service to rural consumers and operates independent of direct government control)
- A Tribal corporation or other Tribal business entities that are chartered under Section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act (25 USC 477) or have similar structures and relationships with their Tribal entity without regard to the resources of the Tribal government.

Must meet the Small Business Administration size standards in accordance with 13 CFR 121.

NOTE: Agricultural producers and small businesses must have NO outstanding delinquent federal taxes, debt, judgment or debarment.

### Who may qualify for loan guarantees?

Eligible borrowers are:

- Rural small businesses.
- Agricultural producers.

### What are the borrowing restrictions for loan guarantees?

- Individual borrowers must be citizens of the United States or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence.
- Private-entity borrowers must demonstrate that loan funds will remain in the U.S.

### What is an eligible area?

- Projects must be located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 residents or less.

### How may the funds be used?

Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, such as:

- Biomass (for example: biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels).
- Geothermal for electric generation or direct use.
- Hydropower below 30 megawatts.
- Hydrogen.
- Small and large wind generation.
- Small and large solar generation.
- Ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation.

Funds may also be used for the purchase, installation and construction of energy efficiency improvements, such as:

- High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC).
- Insulation.
- Lighting.
- Cooling or refrigeration units.
- Doors and windows.
- Electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots.
- Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor.
- Replacement of energy-inefficient equipment.

### Looking Ahead

Federal programs change from time to time, and the pause on REAP grants is disappointing news for many rural families and businesses. Even so, USDA Rural Development continues to offer support through many other programs, and planning now can help people be ready when REAP grants eventually return.

For the most current information, and a complete list of conditions (2629300) for the guaranteed loan, residents are encouraged to contact their local USDA Rural Development office.

# HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE: **PREPARE NOW.**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE, NOT WHEN THE STORM ARRIVES.

## ✓ **BUILD OR RESTOCK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT.**



Bottled Water & Non-perishable Food



Flashlights & Extra Batteries



First Aid Supplies



Prescription Medications



Phone Chargers & Backup Power



Important Documents (Waterproofed)

## ! **SPECIAL ATTENTION: DEPENDENCE ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.**



- Discuss emergency plans with your medical provider **NOW**.
- Ensure batteries and backup power options are **READY**.
- Know the location of emergency shelters & alternate care facilities.
- Arrange transportation ahead of time.

## ✓ **PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES.**



- Charge devices ahead of time.
- Use flashlights (**NEVER** use candles due to fire risk).



## 🏠 **HAVE A FAMILY PLAN**



- Discuss where to go & how to communicate.
- Check on elderly neighbors & loved ones.



**STAY WEATHER AWARE. MONITOR TRUSTED FORECASTS. **PREPARE TODAY.****

## FEELING LUCKY?

LOOK FOR YOUR ACCOUNT  
NUMBER TO WIN A BILL CREDIT

If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by August 31, 2026, to receive a \$25.00 credit on your bill. Your account number can be found on your billing statement.

**GOOD LUCK!**



**FOLLOW  
US!**

**On Social  
Media**



### ***Quick Tip: Save Energy (and Money!) While You're Away***

Before you head out for your next vacation, there's one quick thing you should add to your travel checklist: unplugging your electronics! Did you know that many electronics and appliances still draw power even when they are turned off? It's called phantom energy (or standby power), and it can account for up to 10% of your monthly energy bill.

Before you lock the door, take 5 minutes to unplug these sneaky energy vampires:

- TVs, gaming consoles, and sound systems
- Laptop chargers and phone docks (yes, even if the device isn't connected!)
- Coffee makers, blenders, and microwaves
- Alarm clocks and fans in guest rooms

Unplug the house, save some green, and enjoy total peace of mind on your trip!

