

BARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

News

91 West Hwy 160 Lamar, MO 64759 | Office: 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636 | www.bartonelectric.com | facebook.com/BartonCountyElectric



Manager's Message
CEO/General Manager
Jeff Hull

New Rates Start This Month

Mission Statement Change With A Purpose

I have always communicated to you as your CEO, "we will not raise rates until we absolutely have to". At this year's Annual Meeting in May, I announced we will have an increase starting in October. Well, October is here, and I want to remind BCEC members we continue to work to keep controllable costs down. While this increase will affect all BCEC members, our goal was to cover costs and insure your cooperative stays financially stable going into the future.

As we look at our business, we know what we need to do daily to accomplish our goals. A Mission Statement is a short statement of an organization's purpose, identifying the goal of its operations. Recently staff and myself took some time to look at our Mission Statement and we determined it needed to be updated. Our new Mission Statement is "Committed to Safely Providing Reliable Energy and Quality Service to Enhance Our Members Lives and the Communities We Serve" We work hard every day to meet our member's expectations. We are honored to serve our member-owners and appreciate the opportunity to work for you.

Enjoy the fall season and stay safe as you work around or near power lines. Feel free to call or stop in anytime you have questions.

Our Mission Statement:

***"Committed to Safely
Providing Reliable Energy
and Quality Service to
Enhance Our Members
Lives and the Communities
We Serve."***

New Rates Start This Month

Rates	10/01/2018 Service Availability	10/01/2018 kWh Charge
Residential	\$35.00	\$0.1155
Pre-Paid Residential	\$35.00	\$0.1155
Residential - All Electric	\$35.00	\$0.1075
Irrigation	\$125.00	\$0.0780
Small Commercial	\$40.00	\$0.1155
Drive Wheels	\$40.00	\$0.1155
Large Commercial	\$50.00	\$0.1050
Security Lights	\$9.00	

What is Service Availability Charge?

The service availability charge covers a portion of the cooperative's fixed costs and is reflective of the investment in poles, wires, transformers and equipment it takes to provide you with electric service. It also supports fleet, facility and member service functions, such as line maintenance, substation upgrades, property taxes, right-of-way clearing, and general administrative responsibilities and is similar to service or facility charges that other co-ops and utilities charge. Regardless of how often you flip on the light switch or the TV, these costs are part of the bill you pay so electricity is available to you whenever you want it.

If one member uses only one kilowatt-hour of electricity and another member uses 100 kWh, Barton County Electric still incurs the same cost to build the line, maintain the distribution system and deliver electricity to both members. It takes just as much equipment to deliver one kilowatt-hour as it does 100 kilowatt-hours of energy. This is why the monthly service availability charge is important to recover a portion of the cost of delivering electricity to all members and help maintain the financial health of your cooperative.

Why is the Service Availability Charge different for residential and commercial members?

Different kinds of users require different configurations of lines, transformers and substations. Each configuration bears very different costs, which are allocated appropriately to each rate class. That way, no rate class is paying for the needs of another rate class, which is fair and equitable.

Seven Cooperative Principles

Cooperative principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

News

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



**COMMUNITY
BORN**

**COMMUNITY
LED**

**FOCUSED ON
YOU**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Barton County Electric Cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique. Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Jeff Hull, CEO of Barton County Electric Cooperative explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Electric co-ops, like Barton County Electric Cooperative, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means AMR metering, digital technology for our members, youth programs, and multiple bill pay options to name a few.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE
Call 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636

24 hours a day

Before you call:

- Check breaker(s) in your home and below your meter
- Check with your neighbors to verify they have power
- To better serve you when you do call please have the following information ready:
 1. Name on the account you are reporting
 2. Your six-digit BCEC location number

Bill Payment Options

1. The Office

You are always welcome to stop by the office located 1 mile west of Lamar at 91 West 160 Highway
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2. Drive-up Drop Box

located at our office available 24 hours a day

3. On-Line Bill Pay

available 24 hours a day at www.bartonelectric.com

4. By Mailing To

Barton County Electric Cooperative
91 West Highway 160
Lamar, MO 64759

5. Auto Pay

from your checking or savings account or with your debit/credit card

6. By Phone

Using your debit or credit card
Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm
417-682-5636 / 800-286-5636

7. Prepay

Call or stop by to learn more about how you can prepay for your electricity

Your Directors

- Kenny Owen, President
- Kevin Taffner, Vice-President
- Tom Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jerry Marti
- Karl Morey
- Karen Nims
- Matt Schlichting
- David Stump
- Charles Webb

Your CEO/GM

Jeff Hull



**SAFETY
FIRST!**

- Electric blankets help ward off the chill on cool nights, but they must be used correctly to be safe.
- Never put anything on top of an electric blanket; it could overheat.
 - Don't fold or tuck in while in use.
 - Never leave it on when unattended.
 - Be sure to replace if it becomes worn.



