

# January Conveys Reflection and Resolve

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**F**or many people the first part of January is a time of reflection and resolve: reflection of a year that has slipped into the past, and resolve to make positive changes as the new year unfolds. At CAEC, we're looking back on some of the more prominent topics we shared with you during 2012 through the magazine.

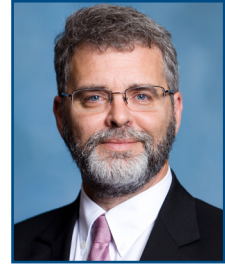
In reflecting on our cooperative's purpose statement that calls for energizing opportunities, we unveiled a number of opportunities, or conveniences, for members during the year. These included new apps and web services giving you additional ways to obtain information, such as the iMap weather radio application for iPhones and iPads. We also introduced a new low-interest loan program for making energy efficiency upgrades to your home. Developed in conjunction with PowerSouth (our power supply cooperative), this program is administered through Regions Bank. If you are interested in more information about available funds, call us and we'll help you get started with the process.

During the year we also shared some of our concerns with you. Mostly, these involved our nation's lack of a comprehensive energy policy as well as the "run-away train" that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seems to be driving. As we highlighted in the articles, the EPA has pressed its agenda to over-regulate emissions coming from coal generation, making it a prohibitively expensive fuel source. Although the U.S. now generates nearly half of all its baseload energy from coal, using some of the cleanest methods for processing in history, the EPA has essentially banned any new coal-fired plant from being constructed. These changes were not enough to satisfy their efforts and now this agency threatens the continued operation of our nation's remaining plants by pushing its greenhouse gas emissions standards, designed for new facilities, onto existing ones. They have also now set their sights on natural gas. Unfortunately, by the time Americans realize what has happened, our electric bills will have gone up significantly—with little chance of going back to low cost, reliable fuels. Leadership is desperately needed to develop a sensible energy plan based on solid environmental and economic evidence, not ideological rhetoric.

This past year we requested your help and many of you responded by contacting our federal elected officials through the Our Energy, Our Future campaign when the EPA announced their misguided regulations regarding carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants. To those of you who joined our grassroots effort, we thank you. It's important to remind our legislative representatives that decisions which limit the sources of energy generation have consequences to the price we pay for electricity.

As 2013 progresses, we look forward to opening additional avenues of dialogue and engagement with you. We resolve to inform you of ways to save energy dollars through efficiency measures and we pledge to notify you of concerns regarding energy policy challenges.

Enjoy the new year! ■



Tom Stackhouse  
President/CEO

## Contact Us

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# 2013 Board Election Timeline

## March 26

Trustees appoint Nominating Committee (Article IV, Section 4.05 of Member Bylaws).

## April 12

Nominating Committee meets (Article IV, Section 4.05).

## May 10

Nominating Committee posts slate of nominees for Districts 2, 5, 9 and the at-large Trustee at all CAEC customer service centers and on CAEC's website, [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop) (Article IV, Section 4.05).

## May 21

Nominations by petition must be received by 4:30 p.m. (Article IV, Section 4.05).

## June

All nominations by petition will be verified and posted at CAEC customer service centers and our website, [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop) (Article III, Section 3.03).

## July

*Alabama Living* magazine will include all candidates names and the mail-in ballot.

## July 25

Record date for voting (Article III, Section 3.07). Must be a member by this date in order to vote.

## August

Magazine will include CAEC's 2012 Annual Report. If you choose to vote at Annual Meeting, please bring your registration form to the meeting.

## August 2

Deadline for mail-in ballot to be postmarked (Article III, Section 3.03).

## August 9

Annual Meeting, Prattville headquarters, U.S. Hwy. 31, north of Prattville (4 p.m. registration, 6:30 p.m. business session). Election results will be announced.



## High School Seniors: CAEC Scholarship Forms Available!

College scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors graduating this spring.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded by the Electric Cooperative Foundation, Inc. (ECF), which provides scholarships for post-secondary institutions.

Applicants must be dependents of CAEC members. The scholarship will be paid by ECF directly to the educational institution for credit to the student's account.

Applications are available at [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop), any of our service centers or by calling (334) 351-2125 or 1-800-545-5735, ext. 2125 to have an application mailed to you.

**Deadline is March 15**

*CAEC Offices will be closed Jan. 21 for the  
Martin Luther King/Robert E. Lee Holiday*

# Compact Fluorescent Lamp Safety

**C**ompact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are an affordable and efficient alternative to traditional incandescent light bulbs. They use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

The body of a CFL is made like any light bulb, and can easily break if dropped or roughly handled. And as with any fluorescent light, CFLs contain a very

small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs because it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use, but be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it or replacing it.

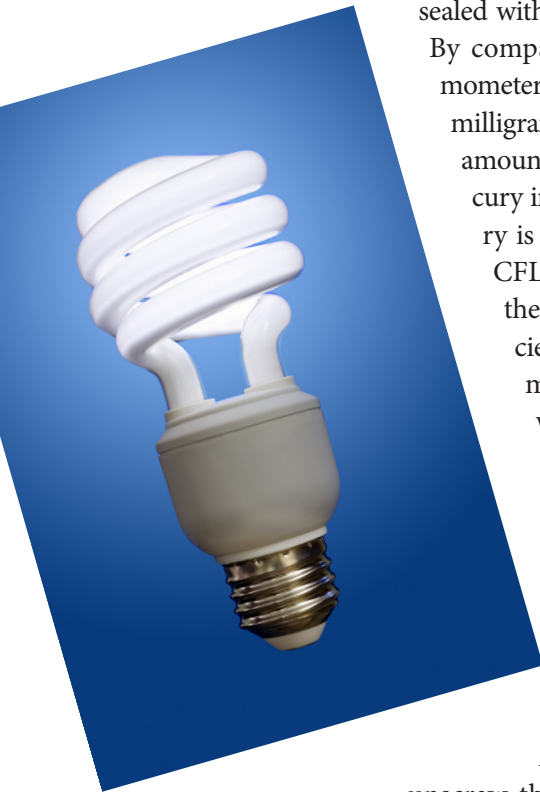
Always screw and unscrew the bulb by its base (not the glass) and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. In the event a bulb breaks in your home, use the following recommended cleanup and disposal procedure:

## BEFORE CLEANUP:

- Have people and pets leave the room and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area
- Air out any mercury vapor by opening a window or door for 10-15 minutes
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one
- Do not vacuum the area
- Collect available materials needed to clean up broken bulb: disposable gloves, stiff paper or cardboard, masking or duct tape, tweezers, damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and sealable plastic bags

## DURING CLEANUP:

- Carefully clean up the glass fragments and residue with stiff paper or cardboard
- Pick up any remaining small pieces of glass and residue using tweezers and tape
- Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe
- Place all cleanup materials in a sealable plastic bag or plastic container
- Wash your hands
- Leave windows in the affected room open as long as practical



- For breakage on carpet or other soft surfaces like upholstered furniture, visit the website <http://www.energystar.gov/> for additional details

safely clean and dispose of CFLs without any risk to your family or the environment.

### AFTER CLEANUP:

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly – avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors

*"CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. You can save just by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures."*

- Department of Energy

### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CFLs:

- For maximum savings, install in high use areas
- For maximum life, place in locations where the light is left on at least 15 minutes at a time
- In dimmable fixtures, only use the ones labeled for dimmers

Remember, a broken CFL bulb isn't cause for panic and it's not necessary to hire a professional to clean it up. By following these simple instructions, you can

- In the cold or outdoors, use the ones rated for low temperatures ■

## Stay Green by Recycling CFLs!

Did you know you can recycle your used or broken CFLs? CAEC makes it easy by offering a free CFL recycling service.

Just drop off your bulbs at any CAEC's service centers, and if the bulb is broken, place it in two sealed zip-top plastic bags and we'll dispose of it for you. It's that easy!

Save energy and the environment by using CFLs today!



# CAEC'S Peak Shaving Program

**E**ach day when we begin our morning routines of showering, making coffee and breakfast, checking email, watching the morning news, and again in the evening when we return home and switch on appliances simultaneously to prepare dinner, start the dishwasher or wash a load of clothes, we are contributing to energy usage known as peak demand.

This peak demand is when electricity consumers collectively use the most energy. And even though this excessive quantity of energy is not needed throughout the day, electricity providers are required to have the resources available whenever consumers need it. This leads to the necessity of building expensive peaking plants just for those short time-frames of high usage.

To help offset some of this high demand, CAEC offers a Peak Shaving Program to members. In short, the program impacts CAEC's wholesale power rate by shaving (reducing) peak energy use.

Implemented Oct. 1, 2007, the program currently targets water heaters, which use approximately 14 percent of a home's annual electricity. A peak shaving device (PSD) is installed for a member's electric water heater and reduces energy usage during peak times by delaying the reheating cycle to non-peak times. You still have hot water when you need it while helping to reduce our peak energy needs –which cost millions of dollars to fulfill.

The objective of the Peak Shaving Program is simple – if CAEC's system demand usage can be reduced during peak times, then we can lower the effect of our wholesale power cost. Peak energy can cost two to three times more to produce than off peak power, but this program offers a way to manage electricity use at the most expensive times. Keeping CAEC's wholesale power costs down helps keep rates lower for all our members:

## *How does the program work?*

- ▶ Let CAEC know you want to participate in the free Peak Shaving Program. Call (800) 545-5735,

ext. 2118 or fill out the form on page 34 of this magazine and mail it in or drop it by one of our service centers.

- ▶ Those who participate also qualify for an electric water heater rebate.
- ▶ The PSD is installed by a licensed electrician at no cost to you.
- ▶ You still have hot water when you need it; the reheating process is just delayed to off-peak times.

If you have questions about CAEC's peak shaving program or would like to help us reach our goal by signing up, call (800) 545-5735 or (334) 365-6762, ext. 2118. ■



Other cooperatives of PowerSouth (our wholesale power provider) are participating in the peak shaving program as well, and the overall goal is to have 50,000 water heaters enrolled in the program by the year 2016, eliminating the need to build one peaking plant, which can cost approximately \$200 million!

With the PSD installations to date, CAEC's wholesale power costs have already been offset by more than \$600,000.

# Enjoy a Hot Shower and Help Control Costs at the Same Time



**B**y having a CAEC Peak Shaving Device installed on your electric water heater, you'll still have hot water when you need it, while helping the cooperative reduce its need to pay for peak-time power costs.

If enough people join this effort, we can have a positive effect on our future rates. Will you join us?

The peak shaving device for your electric hot water heater is free, and will be installed by a licensed electrician at no cost to you just by submitting the form below.

To learn more about this program, visit our website, [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop), or call (800) 545-5735, ext. 2118 or (334) 351-2118.

Yes, I agree to do my part by joining CAEC's peak shaving program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

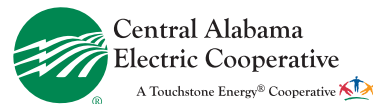
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Size(s) of Water Heater(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Mail form to: Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 681570, Prattville, AL 36068



# Recipe for *Efficiency* from CAEC

## Caulking

We all want our home to be energy efficient, and according to the U.S. Department of Energy, drafts are responsible for the loss of between

5 and 30 percent of a home's energy. Keeping tight seals around your doors and windows is a simple and cost-effective way to help reduce power bills.

### Utensils (tools):

Standard Caulking Gun  
Scissors or Knife

Putty Knife  
Towel

### Ingredients (supplies):

Latex Paintable Caulk

**Directions:** Caulking compounds vary in strength, properties and prices. For a long-lasting seal, choose permanently waterproof, flexible, shrink-crack-proof 100 percent silicone (specifically for doors and windows), and if you are painting, try paintable silicone. For this project, we will caulk around a door frame.

1. Before you apply the caulk, wipe down the surface with a damp cloth to remove any residue or dirt; then strip or scrape old caulk out of the gap or crack.

2. Take the tube of caulk and cut the tip at a 45 degree angle.



3. Pierce the seal on the cartridge to allow the caulk to flow evenly.



4. Insert the tube of caulk into the caulking gun.



5. Start applying a bead of caulking to the areas you have prepared, squeezing evenly, and with consistent pressure and speed to control the rate at which the caulk leaves the tube.



6. Complete a section at a time and smooth out the caulking with the tip of your finger.



*Note:* The trick to a good caulking job is to hold it at a consistent angle and draw the bead continuously rather than in a stop-and-start fashion. Then release the trigger before pulling the gun away to avoid excess caulk oozing out.

Caulk forms a flexible seal for cracks, gaps or joints less than one quarter-inch wide. Making smart choices like caulking to stop air seepage throughout your home can help you save energy and money. ■