

Budget Billing Helps Average Bill Payments

Budget Billing and AutoPay programs is a convenient way for members to simplify their monthly electric service payments.

The cooperative's Budget Billing program is designed to avoid large fluctuations on a member's monthly bill, typically seen with winter and summer electricity usage.

Each month a new bill is calculated based on the average of the recent 12 months of usage. Co-op members can expect to see a small variance from month to month.

Qualifying members may sign up at any time throughout the year. To qualify, you must have a zero balance, have been at the service location for at least 12 months and have an acceptable payment history.

For added convenience, the cooperative recommends participating in AutoPay. The cooperative will automatically charge a member's credit card or draw from their bank account for the calculated budget amount for your monthly electric bill.

There are no sign-up fees associated with AutoPay or Budget Billing. For more information or to sign up, visit anec.com or call to speak with one of the cooperative's member services representatives.



Cheriton Substation Now Online

A&N Electric Cooperative has completed construction of its new Cheriton Substation near Bayview.

In early November the cooperative successfully transferred the load from the older Bayview substation to Cheriton substation.

"Many hours of planning and work were carried out to safely get us to this point and allow much needed load relief to the other stations in our southern territories and allow for growth of our system," Vice President of Operations and Construction Joe Cataldo says.

The new facility will bring increased reliable power to the residents and businesses in the southern end of the Eastern Shore, more specifically, from Eastville south to Kiptopeke.

Cheriton substation replaces Bayview

substation, which was more than 50 years old with a 25-megawatt capacity.

Increased demands and the evolution of technology created the need to upgrade to a new, cutting-edge facility. At Bayview Substation, the maximum infrastructure design life had been reached.

Cheriton substation is a state-of-the-art facility, built to meet the upcoming electrical demands of the surrounding communities.

It is designed to operate at twice the load capacity of Bayview substation and will utilize advanced technologies. The new substation will allow both autonomous and main office-controlled restoration.

Originally slated to begin operation in the spring, some supply chain challenges delayed the transfer of load to Cheriton substation until the fall.

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*A&N Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

Duncan Appointed to Serve District 1



Gregory L. Duncan Sr. was selected as the District 1 Director by the A&N Electric Cooperative Board, filling the seat held by the late Robert L. Nock.

The cooperative's District 1 covers the areas of Virginia's Eastern Shore from Parksley's northern border to the Maryland/Virginia State line and includes Chincoteague, Tangier and Smith Island, which is located in Somerset County, Md.

Duncan, who lives near Mappsville, is the chief executive officer of GL Duncan LLC and deputy director of solid waste for the Accomack County Department of Public Works.

Duncan currently serves on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Commission as secretary-treasurer. He is also a former member of the Accomack County Board of supervisors.

He is a graduate of Atlantic High School in Oak Hall, attended the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and a graduate Course of Study at the Wesley Theological Seminary.

Duncan also is an ordained United Methodist minister, with pastorates having included Adams United Methodist Church, in Parksley, and House of Prayer U.M.C., in Bloxom.

The appointment does not fill the seat's full term. Duncan must run for reelection at the cooperative's next Annual Meeting.

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov

Concern for Community



A&N Electric Cooperative employees volunteering at the food bank in October.



A&N Electric Cooperative participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

The Director Election Process

A&N Electric Cooperative directors are elected from the membership to represent them on the board. Directors are elected to three-year terms and elections are held every year. This year the cooperative will hold an election for three board director seats in August. The cooperative's bylaws govern the director election process and annual meeting.

APPLICATION

Members who are interested in running for a seat should contact the cooperative at elections@anec.com or call 757-787-9750 to request a 2023 Director Election Packet. The Director Election Packet has a Director Application that must be completed and returned to the cooperative. The packet also contains information regarding director elections and establishes a timeline for the process. The Director Application is used by the cooperative's independent Credentials and Election Committee to determine if a candidate is eligible to run for a seat on the board.

In 2023, the cooperative membership will elect two directors, from the following districts:

- District 1 (This district covers the northern areas of Accomack County from Parksley's northern border to the Virginia-Maryland state line and includes Tangier and Smith islands.)
- District 2 (This district covers the areas between Melfa and Parksley)
- District 3 (This district covers the area just north of Nassawadox, in the south, to just above Melfa in the north.)

QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

Eligible candidates must:

1. Be a natural person;
2. Have been a member of the cooperative for at least four cumulative years, which membership period need not be continuous;
3. Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
4. Maintain his or her primary residence in the director district from which the director or candidate seeks election;
5. Be current in all financial obligations to the cooperative;
6. If the cooperative has any separate director districts for any class, be a member of such class; and
7. Not have been convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude.

A director's term is three years.

NOMINATION

An independent nominating committee, representing the areas to elect directors, is appointed and selects the slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Nominating Committee members may not be an existing, or a close relative of an existing cooperative director, officer, employee, agent, representative or known director candidate.

The Nominating Committee uses the Director Application to help select a slate of candidates to bring before the general membership for election.

If a certified candidate is not nominated by the committee, they have

the option to be nominated by member petition. If a candidate seeks a member petition nomination, they are required to collect the signatures of at least 200 members in good standing, who reside in the district of the eligible seat. The signatures must be delivered to the board's secretary at least 75 days prior to the annual meeting.

The 2023 director election takes place at the Annual Meeting of the Members, which will be held no earlier than August, at the cooperative headquarters at 21275 Cooperative Way, Tasley, VA 23441.

Because candidates' eligibility to run for the board seat must be certified well beforehand, no nominations are taken from the floor of the annual meeting.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITY

A director is responsible for and must actively participate in the strategic direction of the business affairs of the cooperative. The Cooperative's board of directors is very active. It is anticipated that each month a board member will be required to spend a minimum of 5-10 hours reviewing reports and documents, attend meetings of the Board of Directors. As local community members, directors are often called upon by the general membership regarding the local distribution system and cooperative.

On occasion, travel is required that may last 2-4 days at a time. Directors are required to represent the cooperative on committees and attending conferences. Most meetings are conducted during traditional business hours and require out-of-area attendance.

Wholesale Energy Cost Projected to Rise Slightly for 2023

A&N Electric Cooperative's cost for wholesale power is projected to increase slightly as of Jan. 1, 2023. Members will notice this change in the Power Cost Adjustment line item on their monthly electric service bills.

The amount of the change to the Power Cost Adjustment was not finalized as of press time for this edition of *Cooperative Living*. Please check anec.com after Jan. 1 for the amount.

The Power Cost Adjustment changes periodically to reflect the cooperative's current wholesale power costs, which includes the costs of generating the electricity you use. This is a State Corporation Commission-approved adjustment and is a direct pass-through of actual costs, plus or minus any over- or under-recovery of electricity supply costs during the previous year.

New Year's Checklist

For many the new year is a time for a fresh start. Here are three things to get you off on the right foot this year and help you better manage your A&N Electric Cooperative service.

SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB

SmartHub is a valuable tool that makes it easy to manage your A&N Electric Cooperative account from your computer or your smartphone or other mobile device. The SmartHub app literally puts control of your account in the palm of your hand with the ability to track your daily and monthly energy use, report a power outage, set up bill reminders and pay your bill. You can also go paperless with SmartHub, if you're looking to become more environmentally friendly. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android phones and devices. To register, you'll need a valid email address and your A&N Electric Cooperative account number. SmartHub is also accessible through the web; just log onto anec.com to learn more.

UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT PHONE NUMBER

If a co-op member has changed phone numbers associated with their account but has not informed the cooperative, their ability to report an outage may be affected. The system A&N Electric Cooperative uses to predict outages utilizes member phone records to help locate issues with the cooperative's electrical distribution system. Out-of-date phone numbers listed on member accounts can impact that member's ability to report an outage, meaning longer response times in some cases. If your phone number has changed, contact us at 757-787-9750 to update that information.

SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

Planning to reduce your ecological impact for the new year? Elect to go paperless and eliminate the number of paper bills you receive from the



New Year, New Savings.

Visit our website to learn about programs to help you save energy and money.

cooperative. To sign up for paperless billing speak to one of our Member Services Representatives by calling 757-787-9750 Option 3, or fill out a "Contact Us" form at anec.com telling us you want to go paperless. Paperless billing also pairs well with the cooperative's AutoPay payment option.

SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION CERTIFICATION

If you have medical equipment in your home that requires electricity, please let us know about it. The cooperative will attempt to give these members advance notice of any planned or extended outages. This does not guarantee that your electric service will not be interrupted. If you have this type of equipment, complete the Serious Medical Condition Certification Form, with the assistance of your physician, and return it to the cooperative. The form can be found on the cooperative's website anec.com or at the Tasley office. An updated form is required when the anticipated length of time the serious medical condition will last ends, or yearly, whichever occurs first. The possibility does exist that members who fill out the certification may be without electric service for an extended period when there is major damage to the electrical system. In preparation for this type of situation, you may want to obtain

an alternate power source such as a generator or be prepared to relocate until power can be restored.

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

See if the cooperative's Generlink or SurgeAssist programs are a good fit for you. SurgeAssist is A&N Electric Cooperative's electronics protection program line in its member products and services, and helps address failures caused by surges. SurgeAssist covers surge-related issues that affect most home electronics and appliances. You are eligible for the program simply by being a member of the cooperative with residential service.

To aid members in safely connecting a portable generator to their home's electrical system, the cooperative offers a GenerLink emergency transfer switch program. The GenerLink is installed behind the electric meter and does not require rewiring of a member's electrical system. It includes an interlocking power cord for connection of a portable generator. The device detects when the generator is operating and automatically disconnects from A&N's distribution system, eliminating a dangerous backfeed.

For more information or to sign up for either program, log onto anec.com or call the cooperative at 757-787-9750.



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Get cozy under your favorite blanket for additional warmth. Don't forget to bundle up your furry friends, too.

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 fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. A&N Electric Cooperative is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are some tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

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.

Button up your home. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weatherstripping 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.

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.

Consider your approach to 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.

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.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 757-787-9750 or take advantage of our free home energy audits. A&N Electric Cooperative's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

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. Visit anec.com for additional energy-saving tips.



Electric Cooperatives Announce College Scholarship Program



Electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware are preparing to accept applications for their scholarship program from high school seniors who intend to pursue higher education studies.

The scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation, which since 2001 has provided approximately 998 scholarships to graduating high school students totaling more than \$900,000.

The open date for applications is Jan. 30, while the application deadline is April 3. Award recipients will be notified no later than June 1. The online application and additional information is posted at vmdaec.com/scholarship.

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in spring 2023, and whose primary

residence is served by a VMD member cooperative, is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied to a two- or four-year college or trade school.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2023. Scholarship funds, which will be sent directly to the educational institution, must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

The Foundation's board of directors will select recipients based on these weighted criteria: financial need at 40%, academic achievement at 40% and personal statement at 20%. Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to scholarship@vmdaec.com.