

CHELCO NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Youth Tour Students Energized Following D.C. Visit



Pictured above: CHELCO Youth Tour Representatives visit United States Capitol (from L to R:) Kristina Polanco (Walton), Kaitlyn Christensen (Freeport), Lily Adams (Baker) and Sophie Palm (Baker)

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought more than 1,500 high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the early 1960s. This year, 1,800 youth delegates and chaperones from 44 states participated.

CHELCO was proud to have Lily Adams (Baker School) Kaitlyn Christensen (Freeport High School), Sophie Palm (Baker School) and Kristina Polanco (Walton High School) as our delegates this year.

These young ladies received the highest marks during an interview process following the Florida Youth Tour Trip to Tallahassee with 12 of their peers from other schools in CHELCO's service territory.

While the group visited a number of historically significant sites, this is more than a sight-seeing trip of Washington, D.C. There is a strong educational component—teaching the importance of being an active participant in our democracy, about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. A of the trip for many is getting to meet and talk with their representatives in the House and the Senate.

"An incredible experience!"
-Kristina Polanco

Applications are sent to area guidance counselors in December. To participate, students must be high school juniors, and their parents must be members of CHELCO. Learn more about how to apply at chelco.com/youth-tour.

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Online Member Portal Upgraded

CHELCO's online member portal was recently upgraded. All of the same convenient features are still available, just with a new look. Members can login as usual with their email and password to access account details, billing and payments, outage information and more. Having trouble? Call (850) 892-2111 or email memberbilling@chelco.com.



CEO Insights: Freeport Developments Spark New Owls Head Substation

Some of you may remember that during our Annual Meeting in April, I shared a video spotlighting the new developments taking place along U.S. Highway 331 in Freeport, Florida. In case you missed it, developments such as Owl's Head Plantation, Owl's Head Farms, Lingleleaf at Owl's Head and the Bluffs at Lafayette will bring roughly 1,200 single-family homes, 350 multi-family units and 45-acres of commercial property to the main route running north to south in Walton County.

In anticipation of this growth, CHELCO has been working with our generation and transmission cooperative, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, on a new substation to serve these developing communities for over three years. I'm excited to share that more recently, the land was cleared for the new "Owls Head Substation", and the footprint of the new site, running parallel to the powerlines, is now more evident.

The first new substation to be built on CHELCO's grid since 2017, provides several benefits to CHELCO

and its members.

The most significant is that the new substation provides us with the opportunity to create more backup sources of power. If major outages occur at one of our nearby substations, we can quickly switch circuits and restore power to most members while repairs are being done.

The new substation, situated on over 3.5 acres, has extra room for additional equipment should developments continue. A very likely scenario considering a report released by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) of Florida ranked Freeport among the top five cities with the fastest growth rate in the state.

Sporting more capacity, this new substation can house 50-mega volt amps (MVA) with 25-MVA being installed initially. This is a drastic increase from neighboring Freeport substation, which has 12.5-MVA. Not to be outdone, the existing Freeport substation will be receiving some much-needed upgrades as

well once Owls Head is complete.

Owned and constructed by PowerSouth, the benefits of the substation, coupled with the minimal cost to CHELCO and its members, make this project a huge win for all of us.

We hope to have the Owls Head Substation energized by December of 2023, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

I look forward to sharing more about this with you in the months to come.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

What Is A Substation?

Our substations are the point at which power grid infrastructure becomes distribution.

Distribution substations "step down" the voltage coming in from the transmission lines to begin the process of sending power to your home.



"...the benefits of the (Owls Head) substation, coupled with the minimal cost to CHELCO and its members, make this project a huge win for all of us."

An aerial view of the site for CHELCO's new Owls Head Substation on U.S. Highway 331 South in Freeport, Florida.

Energy Expert: Dog Days of Summer



Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

During the dog days of summer, your air conditioning system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two, and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Another thing you can do is to use ceiling fans. Running a fan with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting a few degrees warmer without reducing comfort levels.

During the hot summer months, it's even more important to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste heat from incandescent bulbs creates unwanted heat and increases energy use, compared to LED bulbs. You

can also use a programmable or "smart" thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or when your family is sleeping.

Lastly, let mother nature help you reduce your energy consumption and plant trees or shrubs that provide shade in the hot summer months. In addition to the aesthetic value, well-placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

For more information or questions about energy efficiency, please reach out to our Energy Services Department at (850) 307-1122 or email us at energyservices@chelco.com.

Outage Resources

CHELCO has several resources to report and track outages.

- Call (800) 342-0990 to report power outages, or download the "MyCHELCO" App in the App Store or Google Play.
- To receive outage information for your account, text "MyCHELCO" to (800) 342-0990.
- For an interactive map with details about outages, approximate restoration times and areas affected visit <http://outageview.chelco.com:8080/>.

Our crews work to restore power as quickly as safely possible.

Recipe of the Month



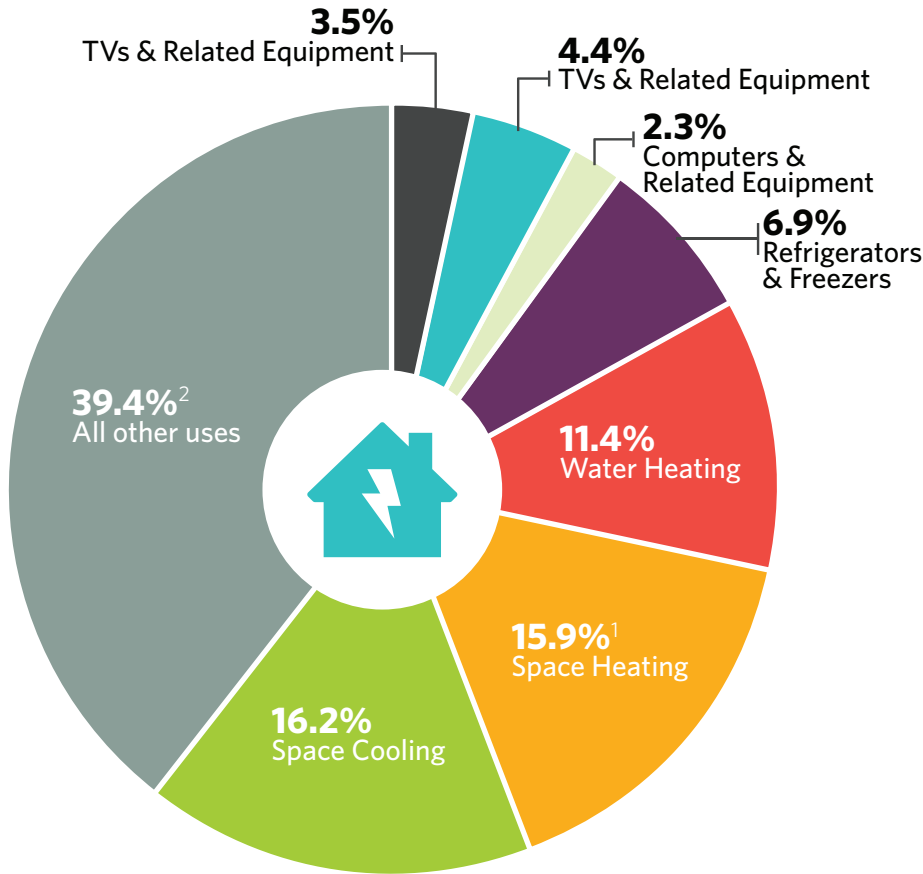
Texas Caviar

This bright and fresh Texas Caviar recipe is a perfect appetizer for your summer cookouts. Learn this recipe at CHELCO.com/recipes.

CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Reese Harrison, District 3; Brady Bearden, Vice President, District 4; Ronald Jones, District 5; Gerald Edmondson, President, District 6; Bert Prutzman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, District 7; Gayle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8; Dwayne Davis, District 9.

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) account for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

¹ Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

² Includes miscellaneous electronics, clothes washers and dryers, cooking equipment, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes.



For unclaimed capital credits, visit [CHELCO.com/capital-credits](https://www.chelco.com/capital-credits).

App Updates Now Available

Be sure to download the latest update of the MyCHELCO app for recent bug fixes and performance improvements. Whether you're at home, at work, or on the go, our mobile app offers fast, secure account access so you can easily manage account details, billing and payment information, schedule alerts and reminders, view usage graphs, report outages and more. Download available in your app store.

Operation Round Up

If you run a local non-profit organization that does great things in our community, we encourage you to apply for an Operation Round Up grant to help fund your organization and its projects. For more info on Operation Round Up, or to apply for a grant, visit [CHELCO.com/Operation-Round-Up](https://www.chelco.com/Operation-Round-Up) today.

IS \$25 YOURS?

If the account number below matches yours, call us at (850) 892-2111 or stop by any CHELCO office to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill! This month's winner is:

Dills - 950062596