

# COLUMBUS<sup>®</sup> CURRENTS

## New Meters to Help Us Serve You Better

Columbus Electric will be installing new, automated meters over the next two years to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery can help us keep costs down for members.

We began installing a handful of test meters at various locations in late June. We will be testing the meters over the next couple of months to assure the accuracy of the information we are receiving. A schedule will be sent out to members prior to beginning the full-scale installation of meters so that members are aware of the timeframe for their new meter to be installed. This is anticipated to start in late August or early September. The schedule will also be posted on our website at that time. Again, the process to replace all of the current meters on our system with automated meters will take about two years.

Members' kilowatt hour rates will not change. Your first bill following the installation will show two readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter.

Members can expect to lose electrical service for a few minutes during the installation. You will need to reset electronic clocks and other devices.

The biggest change? With the new automated meters, Columbus Electric will be able to read meters remotely from the co-op's

headquarters. Remote meter reading will save us time, labor and money. In addition to reducing operational costs, the new meters, which can receive and send information to computers at the co-op headquarters, will help improve the reliability of our system. The new technology allows us to detect problems more quickly and to locate outages more precisely. In some cases, we will be able to fix the problem before members know their power has been out.

The new technology can help us monitor the electric system in almost real-time. We can use this information to make the process of delivering power much more efficient.

The meters, which provide daily information about power use will help consumer members understand how and when they are using electricity. Armed with this information, Columbus Electric customer service representatives will be in a better position to help members address billing inquiries.

At Columbus Electric taking advantage of new technologies is one more way that we are looking out for our members.



## Youth Tour 2019



Tye Wagley and Krista Jimenez traveled to Washington, DC in June as part of the Government In-Action Youth Tour. The two represented Columbus Electric and the State of New Mexico. They returned thanking Columbus Electric for the knowledge they attained and the lifetime experience that they will never forget. The trip included traveling to many monuments, museums and meeting the New Mexico Senators and Congressmen at the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Their trip was made possible by the Columbus Electric Scholarship Fund and the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association. CEC looks forward to continuing this opportunity and will be ready to accept applications for the 2020 Youth Tour by mid-September of 2019. Keep an eye out for more details in September!

*enter to win!*



### Kiosk Promotion

Pay your bill using our Kiosk Payment system located in the CEC office lobby and earn a chance to win a 28" Blackstone Griddle!

### How to Win:

Pay your bill using the Kiosk, present your receipt to a customer service representative and be entered for a chance to win the Blackstone 28" Griddle. Promotion ends September 30, 2019.

**Congratulations to Karen Halden, Winner of the Outdoor Bistro Set**



### Electric Heat Pump

- \$300/ton for units rated from 15 to 17 SEER
- \$450/ton for units greater than 17 SEER
- \$100/unit additional incentive for central air source with integrated controlled ETS backup in lieu of separate ETS incentive
- \$85/unit for terminal units (through-the-wall mounted heat pumps)

### Irrigation Motor

- \$8/hp
- 1.50/hp wiring assistance if the motor replaces a fossil-fueled engine, or is a new installation

**Restrictions do apply. For more information go to [columbusco-op.org](http://columbusco-op.org) or call our office at 1-800-950-2667**

*Emergency Response Number*  
**1-800-228-0579**

*Toll - free Office Number*  
**1-800-950-COOP (2667)**