

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

Local Voices Shape Local Solutions October is National Cooperative Month

By Abby Berry, NRECA

When you hear the word *cooperative*, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Columbus Electric Cooperative.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like Columbus Electric Cooperative—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes Columbus Electric Cooperative different.

Our story began in 1946 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means, we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

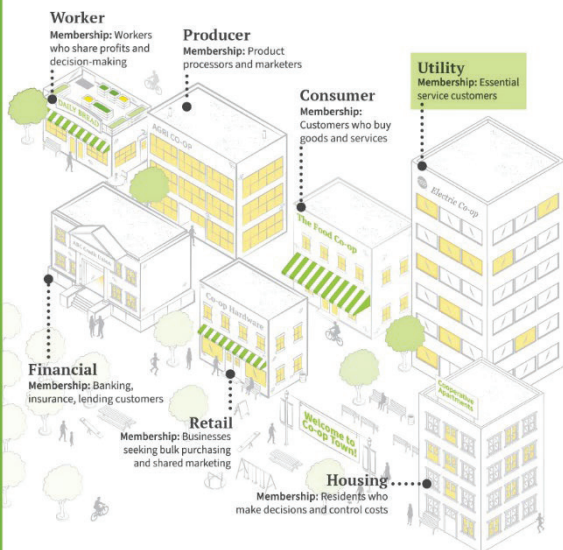


KINDS OF CO-OPS

Cooperatives come in many forms—from electric utilities and credit unions to farm supply stores and housing co-ops—but all cooperatives are built with a common purpose: to meet the needs of the members they serve.

Co-ops strengthen local communities, keep decisions close to home and invest in long-term success.

October is National Co-op Month.



Notice: Energy Assistance and Moratorium Protection (LIHEAP)

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2026. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the New Mexico Human Services Department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for low-income heating energy assistance program (LIHEAP). Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2026, through March 15, 2027, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2026. Members of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at (888) 427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance. Para información en español llame 1-800-950-2667.

Congratulations Frankie!



Pictured above: (left) Frankie Gonzales, Journeyman Lineman (right) Pete Sanchez, Crew Foreman

Frankie Gonzales, an employee with Columbus Electric Coop, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the United States.

Frankie and the support staff at Columbus Electric Coop can be proud of their accomplishment. Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association personnel.

Congratulations to Frankie Gonzales, who can look forward to a very rewarding lifelong occupation.

Board Highlights

The CEC Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 22. They approved the operations and financial reports for the month of August as well as a work plan amendment and a change in the October board meeting date to October 23, 2026.



Our office will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2026 in observance of Veteran's Day

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

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

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