

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Spanish Stirrup Substation Capacity Increases to 10 Megawatts

In April we completed a project in our Spanish Stirrup substation, increasing available capacity from 5 megawatts to 10 megawatts. The demand for electricity grows slowly but steadily across our electric distribution system. Prudent planning requires that we project loads over a future period and prepare appropriately. We strive to develop intelligent solutions and energy efficiency in our operations, while also ensuring safe and secure infrastructure for today and into the future.

Electricity is generated at power plants and moves through a complex system, called the *grid*, of electricity substations, transformers, and power lines that connect the bulk transmission system to our members. To explain in very simple words, a substation consists of a bunch of electrical devices gathered and connected in one place. On top are clever electrical devices that control and protect others in order to make everything work properly. We regularly make assessment of existing substations and individual equipment to develop a predictive maintenance and substation life extension program.

Cost is usually a primary factor when determining a course of action: construction of a new facility versus uprating and/or expanding an existing facility. A new substation costs upwards of two million dollars. By utilizing the existing substation and transformers, refurbishing them and making other improvements, it allowed us to complete the project at a cost of just under two hundred thousand dollars.

This plan provided the most favorable cost/benefit ratio, and is consistent with near- and long-range system planning. Successful substation uprating requires a high degree of technical cooperation between the cooperative, the engineer, and staff. It's important to recognize that our Operations Department personnel made these improvements without our members experiencing a loss of power.

To our entire staff, thank you for a job well done!



May 2023 www.columbusco-op.org Vol. 34. No. 5

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Scholarships Awarded



The Columbus Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees has awarded scholarships to the following students for the 2023-2024 school year. Scholarship applicants must be an active member or an immediate family member of an active member. Scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

*Brye Baptiste
Carlos Camunez
Nancy Chavez
Kaylee Essary
Azure Green
Adrian Hernandez*

*James Hurt
Triano Landon Jasso
Naomi Kimble
Brittney Laborin
Iris Valenzuela Lerma*

*Emily S. Montes
Gemma Montes
Evaristo Mariscal
Madison McGinnis
Addy M. Offutt*

*Denisse Ortega
Helena M. Ramirez
Trinity Ruebush
Maria Saenz
Calleigh Sweetser
Jolie B. Ybarra*

The employees and the Board of Trustees of Columbus Electric Cooperative extend their best wishes to each student for a successful school year and all their future endeavors. Together we support the dreams of students and build better communities.

Donate to Operation Round-Up

Help our local youth pursue their educational dreams by signing up for Operation Round Up with Columbus Electric Cooperative. Operation Round Up rounds up your monthly bill to the next highest dollar amount making a donation to our scholarship fund. All donations are tax deductible. Sign up today at columbusco-op.org/operation-round or call us at 575-546-8838 for more information.

Help us help you!

Members please be sure to notify us of any address, telephone number and email changes. This helps us serve you better. You can update your information through SmartHub, give us a call at 1-800-950-2667 or through our website at columbusco-op.org

Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees approved 22 applicants for educational scholarships at their April meeting. They also voted to increase the award from \$750 to \$1,000 per semester. The Board approved the financial and operational reports for the month of March.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Thermostat placement can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. Thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home.



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

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