

## MEA Members See 4th Quarter Rate Decrease

As of October 1, 2025, MEA members experienced a slight decrease in their electric bills as the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) rate dropped by about 6% in the fourth quarter compared to the previous quarter—marking the second overall rate decrease in 2025.

For a typical member using 642 kWh per month, this resulted in an average monthly savings of approximately \$3.49. The decrease was driven by lower purchased power costs and

a stabilizing balancing account, despite ongoing challenges such as higher natural gas and gas transportation expenses.

While MEA continues to navigate fuel price volatility and seasonal demand, this rate adjustment provides members with some welcomed relief heading into the colder months. More details about the fourth-quarter rate adjustment and past rates are available on our website at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop).

## MEA Board Approves Nearly \$3.8 Million in Capital Credit Retirements

At its October meeting, the MEA Board of Directors approved the retirement of nearly \$3.8 million in capital credits to members who received electric service in 1989 and part of 1990. This retirement follows the “first in, first out” method, which prioritizes returning capital credits to MEA’s longest-standing members.

Capital credits represent each member’s share of MEA’s margins and are one of the key benefits of being part of a cooperative. When financial conditions allow, MEA retires these credits to members—returning margins that are not needed for operations or reinvestment in the system.

Before capital credit retirements are paid out, MEA will first apply the credit amount to any delinquent or uncollectible balances owed to the co-op. Additionally, if an active member’s retirement amount is less than \$25, it will be credited directly to their electric bill rather than issued as a check.

Members who are due to receive a capital credit retirement check this year can expect it to arrive by mail at the end of November. To ensure timely delivery, please make sure MEA has your current mailing address and up-to-date contact information by contacting Member Services at 907-761-9300.

## Go Paperless - Don’t Miss Out on your \$10 Bill Credit

Did you know MEA sends out more than 30,000 paper bills every single month? That adds up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs every year. As a member-owned co-op, those are dollars that could be going back into keeping your rates stable, strengthening reliability, and supporting the communities we serve. It’s easy to sign up! Log in to your

SmartHub account on desktop or the mobile app, or create one if you haven’t yet and click on the “settings” tab. When you switch all your accounts to paperless billing, you’ll receive a one-time \$10 bill credit applied to your primary account (within 2–3 billing cycles). If you have any questions about the paperless bill credit, please contact Member Services at 907-761-9300.

## Be Prepared for Winter Storm Outages

Winter often brings high winds and heavy snow that can cause more frequent outages across our service area. On average, it takes MEA line crews three to four hours to restore power, though restoration times can vary depending on weather conditions and the extent of damage. It’s always

a good idea to be prepared by keeping flashlights, extra batteries, warm blankets, and a charged phone handy in case of an outage. For updates on larger outages affecting more than 100 members, visit our Facebook page. You can also view MEA’s live outage map anytime at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop)

## Don't Forget Our Upcoming Annual Holiday Lights Contest

Are you planning to deck the halls—or your home or business—with dazzling holiday lights this season? If so, don't miss your chance to enter MEA's Annual Holiday Lights Contest for a shot at winning an MEA gift certificate worth up to \$200!

### HERE'S HOW TO ENTER:

Simply snap a photo of your holiday lights display and send it to us either by Facebook Messenger or email it to [pr@mea.coop](mailto:pr@mea.coop). Photo entries will be accepted through December 8. All entries will be posted on MEA's Facebook page, where members can vote by liking their favorite displays. Winners will be chosen based on the number of likes received.

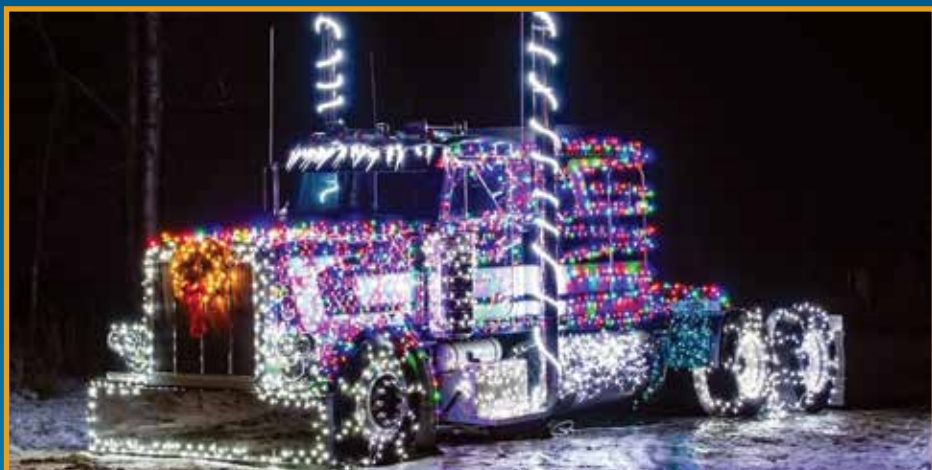
Prizes will be awarded in both Residential and Commercial categories:

**1ST PLACE:** \$200 MEA Gift Certificate

**2ND PLACE:** \$100 MEA Gift Certificate

**3RD PLACE:** \$50 MEA Gift Certificate

Thank you for helping light up our communities and we can't wait to see how you shine this holiday season!



Last year's 1st place winner



Last year's 2nd place winner

## MEA Elections Move to Primarily Electronic Voting

MEA is moving toward a more cost-effective and efficient future by transitioning to primarily electronic voting for all future board and cooperative elections. This change—recommended by MEA's member-led Election Committee and approved by the Board of Directors earlier this year—is expected to save the cooperative up to \$140,000 annually by significantly reducing paper, printing, and mailing costs.

Today, more than 80% of MEA members already have a SmartHub account, which provides a secure and convenient way to vote online. If you haven't yet created your free SmartHub account, you can easily sign up at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop). Members who prefer not to vote online can still participate by voting in person at the Annual Meeting or by requesting a paper ballot ahead of the election. Thank you for helping MEA reduce waste, save money, and modernize our election process—ensuring your cooperative continues to operate efficiently for the benefit of all members.

### NEED A PAPER BALLOT?

Members who prefer to vote by mail can still request a paper ballot in one of two easy ways:

Call Member Services at  
907-761-9300,

**OR**

Log in to your SmartHub account and select "2026 Paper Ballot Request" under the "Other Actions" section.