

Celebrating Co-op Month at First Electric

October is National Co-op Month, a time when electric cooperatives across America pause to celebrate the people who make this model work: our members. At First Electric Cooperative, that celebration is more than a slogan. It's the way we operate every day — grounded in service, built on local accountability and focused on reliability and affordability for the communities we call home.

The cooperative difference starts with ownership. If you receive electric service from First Electric, you're not just a customer, you're a member-owner. That means your voice shapes our priorities, you elect your board of directors, and any margins are reinvested into the system or returned to you through capital credits. It's a model designed to serve, not to maximize profit.

Reliability you can count on

This year reminded all of us how dependable power matters. From heat waves to pop-up storms, our crews worked around the clock to keep the lights on and restore service safely when outages occurred. We're investing in the grid by rebuilding lines and trimming right-of-way because reliability isn't an accident; it's a commitment.

Broadband that keeps families connected

Through Connect2First, we're extending that same cooperative spirit to broadband — building out a fiber network that supports work, school, health care and small business. Members tell us the combination of fast, consistent speeds and local support is a game-changer. As we expand, we remain

focused on providing hometown-reliable service.

Neighbors helping neighbors

Concern for Community is one of our seven cooperative principles, and it shows up in big and small ways: Operation Round-Up grants to local nonprofits, classroom support through education programs, volunteer hours by employees and even a traveling grill to say, "Thanks a GRILLion," to groups serving on the front lines. When our communities thrive, we all thrive.

Co-ops were created to do hard things together — bring power to rural Arkansas when no one else would, and now, bring high-speed internet to places the market overlooked. That spirit is alive and well at First Electric. Thank you for the trust you place in us and for the everyday ways you strengthen your cooperative, from your family, friends and neighbors at First Electric and Connect2First.



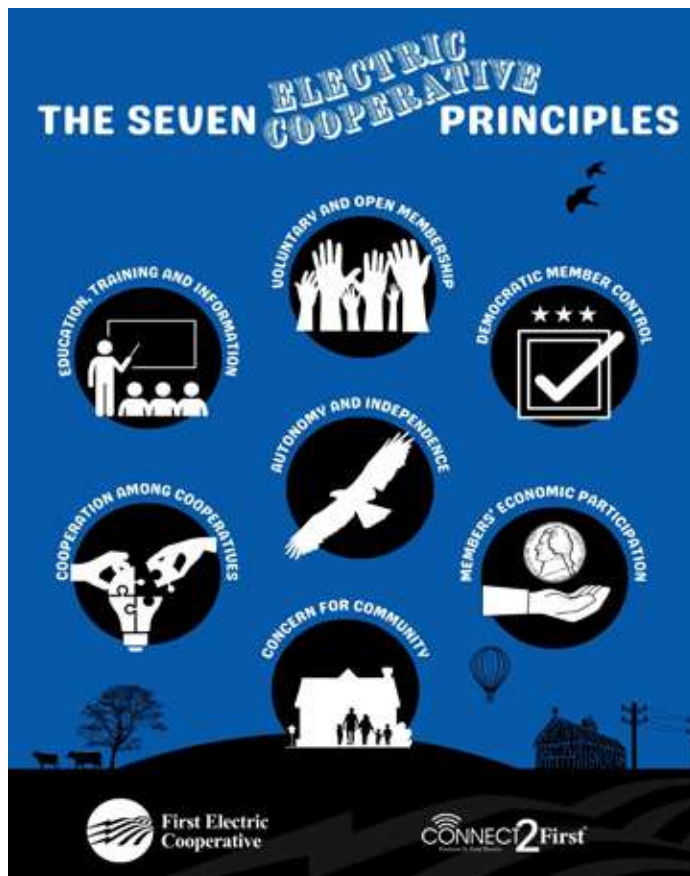
The Power of Seven

THE POWER OF SEVEN is how your co-op turns membership into momentum. Because you're an owner, not just a customer, we keep our **DOORS OPEN** by welcoming every neighbor. Your vote is **ONE VOICE** that sets our direction. The value we create is reflected in **SHARED GAINS**, which strengthens our service and returns capital. We protect hometown decision-making with **LOCAL CONTROL**, and we grow together through **LOCAL EXPERTISE** by providing clear information, safety and training. We team up with our family and create **CO-OPS TOGETHER** to restore faster and build smarter. And we show up where it matters most with **NEIGHBORS FIRST** by supporting schools, nonprofits, and main streets!

Seven simple promises. One powerful result — you and your community are getting reliable power, local fiber and a cooperative that's always on your side.

The Power of Seven

- **Open Doors** (Voluntary & Open Membership)
- **One Voice** (Democratic Member Control)
- **Shared Gains** (Member Economic Participation)
- **Local Control** (Autonomy & Independence)
- **Local Expertise** (Education, Training & Information)
- **Co-ops Together** (Cooperation Among Cooperatives)
- **Neighbors First** (Concern for Community)



Your vote matters

Your voice powers Arkansas — and registering to vote is how your family, farm and hometown get heard.

As a First Electric member, you know neighbors look out for neighbors. When you add your name to the rolls, you help shape the schools our kids attend, the roads we drive, the jobs we grow and the reliability that keeps the lights on.

Whether you're new to the area, just turned 18 or moved recently, take a moment to get registered — then, remind a friend. Strong communities start with informed, engaged members. Let's make the great state of Arkansas shine, together. Scan the QR code to learn how to register.



**THE POWER
TO SERVE YOU.**

106,630

ACCOUNTS SERVED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Hudspeth, Chairman
tracy.hudspeth@fecc.coop
Heber Springs District

Todd Prothro, Vice Chairman
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Heber Springs District

Karissa Rushing, Secretary/
Treasurer
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Benton District

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Perryville District

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Jacksonville District

LEADERSHIP
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President/CEO
mark.snowden@fecc.coop

First Electric
firstelectric.coop
800-489-7405
(Option 2 for outage reporting)

Connect2First
connect2first.net
833-411-2234
(Option 2 for outage reporting)

WATT WASTERS

BY WILLIE WIREDHAND

Watt Wasters are devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. Common examples include televisions, game consoles, soundbars, streaming boxes, microwaves with digital clocks, laptops in sleep mode, printers, smart speakers and phone chargers.

These small energy draws, known as standby power, can add up over time. To reduce their impact, members can:

- Use smart power strips to cut power to multiple devices at once.
- Adjust settings like “Instant On” to reduce standby consumption.
- Unplug idle chargers and rarely used gadgets.
- Put coffee makers, lamps and other small appliances on smart plugs.

Taking simple steps to stop Watt Wasters helps save energy and money while keeping your home efficient.



GENERATED USING AI



RELIABLE INTERNET STARTS HERE

Call 833-411-2234 or visit connect2first.net to learn what services are AVAILABLE NOW to you.