

New Generator Program at CEC

by Boyd Lee



Major storm outages such as those resulting from ice, tornado, flooding and other causes, can be both physically and financially devastating to home and business owners alike. Being out of power for time periods that exceed 24 hours can lead to major losses in freezers and refrigerators and other out of pocket expenses.

At CEC, our objective is to eliminate as many of those unwanted extended outages as we possibly can. We are very aggressively attacking trees in the right of way with several state of the art tree cutting machines.

Since beginning the in-house tree program nearly two years ago, we have already seen reductions in outage times in several areas of the service territory. In addition to the tree trimming, CEC has also changed to individually fused transformers which have greatly reduced line outages by isolating problems to one transformer location.

But no matter what we do at CEC, Mother Nature still plays her hand occasionally with severe weather, leaving us all in the dark. But there is a solution. That solution is standby generators. Since the major ice storm of 2002, a number of CEC members have installed standby generators at their homes as a defense against outages. Most of them are of the portable variety, but many have been wired in to the permanent electrical system of the home and come on automatically when the power is interrupted. The benefit to the customer is obvious; no power outages...ever.

Until now, those generators really had no way of paying off for the customer except when they helped save a side of beef or a whole year's frozen garden vegetables in the freezer. But we've changed that at CEC. As most of you are probably aware, we began a demand control program for residential customers about three years ago and we've continued adding options to it every year since. This year we added the generator option. So now, if you happen to own a permanently installed generator or are willing to purchase and install one, we have a very special rate for you to take advantage of at your home.

How does it work? If you're willing to run your generator during the peak periods of the summer, CEC will give you an electric rate that is equivalent to rates of the mid 90's. In other words, it's a pretty good savings for you. Your only cost is the fuel to operate your generator for a few hours in the summer. Couple the electricity savings with the savings you get when you save that freezer of beef and vegetables, and now you've got a pretty darn good investment on your hands.

CEC has added a line of residential standby generators to its inventory for purchase by consumers. We have chosen the Guardian Elite generator which is made by Generac. Although the Guardian brand is not required to participate in our program, it comes complete with everything necessary to comply with all the rules of the program. In addition, CEC offers financing to qualified borrowers as well as installation if the customer wishes.

If you think you may wish to reduce your electricity costs and ensure complete peace of mind with power reliability, give us a call today. Bryant Potts, Keith DeVaughan or Boyd Lee are ready to help you determine if the time is right. Ask for any of them at 405-656-2322.