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NEWS RELEASE

Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 512
Defuniak Springs, FL 32435
www.chelco.com

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Ashley Williams
Director of Communications
850-307-1121
awilliams@chelco.com

CHELCO ASKS MEMBERS TO HELP KEEP ELECTRICITY BILLS LOWER

CHELCO members can help keep energy costs low by participating in CHELCO's "Beat the Peak" program, which is designed to save energy and help CHELCO manage the cost of wholesale power.

The idea is to curtail usage of electrical devices or appliances during a period of peak demand for power. Members are notified by phone, and announcements are made to the media before the peak time occurs, so members have adequate time to react. Normally, these peak periods occur in the winter on the coldest mornings of the year.

During extremely cold weather, CHELCO asks that members voluntarily conserve energy by following these simple tips:

- Take showers or baths at night.
- Lower the thermostat to 68 degrees or below.
- Turn off unnecessary lights.
- Postponing cooking, washing dishes and doing laundry.
- Do not use ventilation fans since they draw air outside.

"When we work together to 'Beat the Peak,' CHELCO avoids hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra cost. Those savings are passed on to our members," said Vice President of Member Services Steve Wolfrom. "In 2015, the savings totaled nearly \$650,000."

“A portion of CHELCO’s monthly wholesale power bill is based on the peak demand for electricity,” said Wolfrom. “Therefore, controlling peak demand reduces these charges. This is important to members because any fluctuations in what CHELCO pays for electricity is passed on to members through the wholesale power cost adjustment.”

CHELCO is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving more than 47,000 members in Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes and Santa Rosa counties. Please visit chelco.com for more information.

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