

CHELCO NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Wholesale power provider's strategy to limit cost

PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, CHELCO's wholesale power supplier, primarily uses natural gas to generate its power, and in 2021, natural gas made up more than 87% of their energy mix. Coal took up the second-highest percentage at 8.4%, followed by hydro (3.5%), nuclear (0.4%) and renewables (0.3%).

Two years ago, natural gas prices were around \$1.84 per million British thermal units (Btu). Prices are now hovering around \$9.00 per million Btu. While PowerSouth plans to shift more into renewables and nuclear in the next decade, natural gas will remain a significant percentage of their energy mix for the foreseeable future. That's why they are doing everything they can to control the price they pay for it.

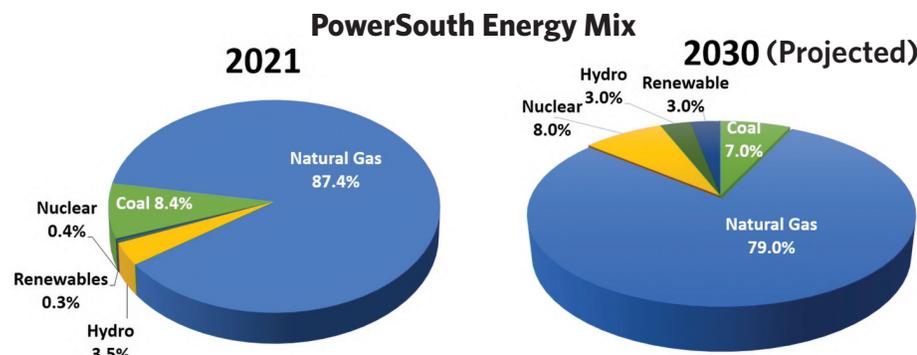
You may remember last month's CEO Insights column, in which Steve Rhodes, CHELCO CEO, discussed PowerSouth's efforts to limit costs and keep rates low. PowerSouth has managed to mitigate these hikes in natural gas prices through advanced

planning and coordination with other power-generating entities.

Through this Coordinated Planning and Operations Agreement (CPO), PowerSouth can purchase energy from a pool totaling approximately 40,000 megawatts (MW) when it is cheaper than generating it. Likewise, when PowerSouth is producing cheaper power – and has covered members' energy needs – it can sell surplus power back to the pool. Additionally, PowerSouth has a robust risk management program, which helps to buffer periods of high cost and limit rate increases as much as possible.

As a result, PowerSouth predicts savings of more than \$500 million in generation-related costs through 2042.

The dive into this pool of energy provides a depth of generation resources to seamlessly power members with reliable, cost-efficient energy well into the future. It's a nice win for PowerSouth and CHELCO members.



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Did you know...

CHELCO offers several free educational programs. Our Safety City and Live Line Safety Demonstrations are often performed at schools and businesses and are an excellent way to educate the community on electrical equipment and safety. For more info, visit the Education Programs tab on CHELCO.com.



CEO Insights: Lagniappe - A little extra

My wife, Tami, and I moved to the Florida Panhandle when I accepted my position as CHELCO CEO nearly 10 years ago. Since then, we have thoroughly enjoyed the area's welcoming combination of warm weather, Southern hospitality and beautiful scenery. Tami, who grew up in Miami, didn't have quite the adjustment I did coming from the Midwest. However, we are both happy to now call ourselves Northwest Floridians.

One of the greatest things about our move to the Panhandle is the wide array of restaurants along the Emerald Coast, including one of our personal favorites, Louisiana Lagniappe in Destin. We've enjoyed many excellent meals there, and it has become one of our go-to restaurants in the area. But as many times as we've said, "Let's go to Louisiana Lagniappe," I never really considered just what "lagniappe" meant. I decided to give it a quick Google search, and I discovered that lagniappe was the Cajun-French word for "a little extra." It made perfect sense. Our experiences at Louisiana Lagniappe always provided

a little extra, and I have now added a new word to my vocabulary.

I say all this because I believe "lagniappe" relates perfectly to CHELCO. While we're committed to providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, we also have something extra to offer. Our value-added services - our lagniappe - are our way of enhancing your overall membership experience.

Some of our most common value-added services are our energy and efficiency programs. Whether you're interested in renewable energy, smart home devices, surge protection, or anything within the scope of energy services, CHELCO offers many excellent resources to meet your needs.

CHELCO's in-home energy audits have now resumed after a two-year pause due to the pandemic. Our Energy Services personnel are excited to visit members' homes once again and help identify ways to lower their usage through standard audits and infrared and blower door tests. Or, if you like to handle things on your own, our website also offers an energy calculator for homes,

businesses, appliances and lighting, as well as several self-help energy tools.

Additionally, our all-new House of Pressure demonstrations make it easy to visualize how certain habits could lead to wasted energy. Our Energy Advisors offer tips on adjusting to improve efficiency in your own home, showing things like proper exhaust fan use, air circulation and much more. If you are interested in seeing one of these presentations, we're available to present at schools and businesses. To learn more, contact our Energy Services Department at (850) 307-1122, or visit our Energy Efficiency pages on CHELCO.com.

Our goal with all these "little extras" is to offer services that you, our members, can trust and rely on. I doubt that "lagniappe" will be a word that I use every day, but now that I have familiarized myself with it, there's no better way to describe CHELCO's value-added services - a little extra. I hope you and your family have a good month.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

Apply for Operation Round Up grants online at CHELCO.com

If you run a local non-profit organization that does great things in our community, we encourage you to apply for an Operation Round Up grant to help fund your organization and its projects.

Operation Round Up favors awarding grants that reach a broad segment of the community, impact low-income families, aid in youth

development, promote programs to maximize energy efficiency, support and promote the local agricultural community and cover expenses directly related to the delivery of a program.

For more info on Operation Round Up, or to apply for a grant, visit CHELCO.com/Operation-Round-Up today.



CHELCO Charity Golf tournament raises thousands



Sgt. Mark Wendel of the Walton County Sheriff's Office was having a blast at the CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament, as seen jumping for joy above.

The CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament, held May 20 at Blackstone Golf Course in Mossy Head, raised over \$12,000 for the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and the Emerald Coast Autism Center.

"We're thankful to be a part of a community that gives back, and because of their participation, our tournament continues to impact many lives," said Bonnie Whitfield, CHELCO Communications and Community Affairs Supervisor. "Also, I would like to thank Bill Putz and the staff at Blackstone Golf Course for

the hospitality and professionalism they provide each year."

In total, 22 teams played in the tournament. When the final strokes were counted and handicaps were calculated, the team from Clark Partington Attorneys at Law took home first place with a score of 54.

CHELCO would like to thank all the tournament's sponsors and players who helped support three great causes, with a special recognition to our Gold Sponsors: Southland Utility Services, Gasworks, PowerGrid Services, Tri-State Utility Products and Panhandle Power Solutions.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a great time to enjoy the pool, but if you run your pump too much, it can drive your energy bills significantly higher. You could save up to 75% on your pool pump energy costs by downsizing to a smaller, more efficient pump and reducing filtration time to six hours per day. Additionally, cleaning your intake grates regularly will help your pump's overall performance.



ACRE supports co-ops nationwide

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is a grassroots political action committee (PAC) that supports and advocates for co-ops around the country. Co-ops just like CHELCO have ACRE's support to help implement policies at the state and federal level that are beneficial to cooperatives and their members. ACRE contributions to candidates are backed by over 36,000 eligible members across 47 states, with an average contribution of \$65.

For more information, and to learn how you can get involved to make sure your co-op is fairly represented in office, visit electric.coop/acre.

Recipe of the Month



Cheeseburger Pie

We love cheeseburgers, and we love pie. Why not combine them? Learn this recipe and more at CHELCO.com/recipes.

CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Reese Harrison, District 3; Brady Bearden, Vice President, District 4; Ronald Jones, District 5; Gerald Edmondson, President, District 6; Bert Prutzman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, District 7; Gayle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8; Dwayne Davis, District 9.

Southland COO Mike Morris retires



Southland Utility Services Chief Operating Officer Mike Morris retired on June 30 after nearly 17 years of service.

Morris led Southland, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CHELCO, with safety as the top priority at all times. He says he is proud of the safety culture that CHELCO and Southland have built over the years.

"At Southland, we went six years with no lost-time accidents," Morris said. "We never wanted anyone to be injured, and we always wanted everyone to go home safe at the end of the day."

Morris joined Southland in October 2005, when it was still known as CHELCO Services, Inc. (CSI). In his time with Southland, he managed a team of hardworking employees dedicated to performing utility construction work for CHELCO, as well as commercial businesses, residential developers and individual homeowners throughout Northwest Florida.

"I've had the pleasure of working alongside Mike for nine years," CHELCO CEO Steve Rhodes said.

"During that time, I've been impressed with his dedication to Southland as well as CHELCO. As the COO of Southland, he has built an employee and management team second to none in the industry. Mike is a true leader, and I'm fortunate to have had him on my team over the years. I will miss his sound decision-making skills, wisdom and sense of humor on my team. That said, he has earned his retirement, and I wish all the best for Mike and his wife, Pat, as they journey into this next chapter of their lives."

Southland Board President Brady Bearden commended Mike on his thorough leadership and transparency with CHELCO and the Southland Board.

"I'm excited for Mike in his retirement planning," Bearden said. "Mike has been with Southland for nearly 17 years and is responsible for what the company is today. He has seen and led the organization through major changes over the years. We wish Mike all the best in his retirement. He and his leadership and professionalism will be missed."

Connections Corner

The Co-op Connections discount program is another benefit of being a CHELCO member. Local businesses, participating pharmacies and thousands nationally offer discounts to co-op members. Don't forget to download the Co-op Connections app!

This month, we highlight and thank the following businesses:

**Sleep Inn & Suites:
DeFuniak Springs - Crestview**
17834 State Hwy. 285 S.
DeFuniak Springs
(850) 307-9000
10% off best available rate

**AAA Accounting &
Management Services**
1512 John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville
(850) 345-2250
Free Quickbooks Review and
Assessment (\$255 value)

Bob Taylor's Carpet One
5902 State Hwy. 85 N.
Crestview
850-682-1090
10% discount on floor covering
materials only.

For more information, visit
CHELCO.com, email
energyservices@chelco.com or
call CHELCO's Energy Services
Department at (850) 307-1122.

IS \$25 YOURS?

If the account number below matches yours, sign this page and mail it with your bill to CHELCO or drop it off at any office. You'll win a \$25 credit on your next bill.

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For unclaimed capital credits, visit [CHELCO.com/capital-credits](https://www.chelco.com/capital-credits).