

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative,

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Considering Solar? Know Before You Go!



Choptank Electric receives close to seven applications per week from members interested in applying for renewable energy interconnections, with the majority being for solar systems. On the Eastern Shore, there are approximately two dozen solar installer/contractor companies that our members can utilize as their solar company. But how do you start? Choptank Electric would like to make members aware of how the process should go to avoid costly investments.

1. If you want to install solar to save money, invest instead in...

While installing solar panels is very appealing as a cost-saving measure, did you stop to consider simpler undertakings such as adding insulation, sealing air leaks, and completing other basic fix-it projects that could cut your energy costs immediately? Even if you are not the do-it-yourself-type, a call or visit from our knowledgeable Energy Program Coordinator could reveal some easier and more affordable options that can make as much of an impact long-term and often costs less than installing solar panels.

See Solar
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April 8 is Lineman Appreciation Day!

The NRECA recognizes Monday, April 8, 2019 as National Lineman Appreciation Day this year. What does it mean to be a lineman?

Linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on. They work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain, and repair the electric infrastructure, and they are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents. There would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of lineworkers. A Big "THANK YOU" to our Choptank Electric Cooperative Linemen!

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Solar

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2. Check your contractor once. Check your contractor twice.

As with any major home improvement project, purchasing from the right installer/contractor is every bit as important as the product you are purchasing. Due diligence is critical to ensure you get the best system, for a fair price, installed correctly and on time. We encourage our members to not be swayed by one particular contractor and instead, obtain 2-4 bids options.



A good contractor will be fully licensed and insured, have extensive installation experience, and be willing to answer all



your questions and communicate with Choptank Electric Cooperative. Finally, it never hurts to contact your local Better Business Bureau or Attorney General's office to corroborate the credibility of a specific contractor.

3. Communicate with Us!

We are here for you! Choptank Electric should be one of your first contacts when it comes to installing solar. Our experts at Choptank Electric can answer basic to detailed questions and provide research material on what we as an electrical distributor require for interconnection. Our staff can also review your past energy usage, and help you determine

how any projects you have undertaken have improved your energy efficiency.

4. A solar primer – how does it all work?

Once selected, an installer will proceed to conduct a feasibility study to determine your property's ability to harness solar power, the possible size of the system, and determine how much the system will provide you in terms of generation. A reputable contractor would also take steps to communicate with Choptank Electric and obtain your usage

history to aid them in crafting a successful system, as well as obtaining any required interconnection forms to ensure our system is capable to allow a new solar system. Next, a contract will be drafted to explain and detail the specifics of your system. At this point, it's a matter of signatures, installation, and inspections before we can call the process finalized.

Although installing solar panels on your home or business is an exciting new trend, don't lose sight of doing your research, asking questions, carefully



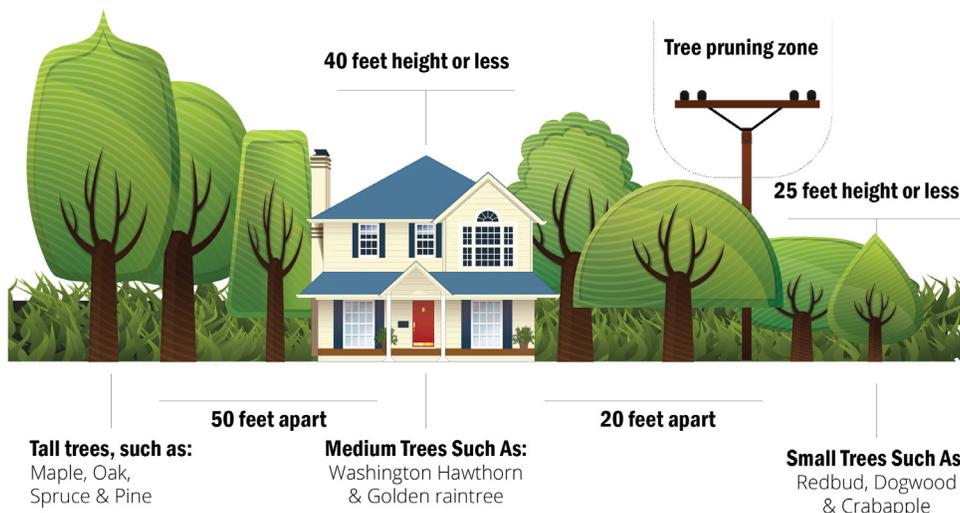
scrutinizing any contract before signing an agreement, and keeping an open line of communication with Choptank Electric so that we can ensure that you, the member, are taken care of. Visit Choptank Electric's

website at <https://choptankelectric.com/green-energy> or scan this QR code to get a preliminary understanding of net metering and the generation interconnect process.

Are you ready for Spring? Play it Safe!

As your electric cooperative, it's our responsibility to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric to all of our members. One of the ways we do that is through proven vegetation management activities such as tree trimming, tree removal, mowing, and herbicide application. These practices conserve and enhance the vast natural resources of the Delmarva Peninsula that are touched by the Cooperative's maintained utility lines.

Since May of 2003, all tree trimming and mowing operations have been performed by Asplundh Tree Experts of Willow Grove, PA. Over this thirteen (13) year period, Asplundh has provided a mix of resources at a reasonable rate to assist the Cooperative in its effort to maintain vegetation and minimizes its impacts to our infrastructure.



But what can our members do to help us maintain these right-of-ways? Some simple things our members can do is think before you plant. When you are looking at planting bushes, shrubs, or trees, look up and see if there are any power lines above, or near that spot. Some trees could grow up and interfere with power lines, so instead, think of planting shorter bushes or shrubs near those areas.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

result in fines and repair costs, or potentially, your life. For more information about local services, visit <http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com/>.

Another way to protect your yard and your life is to call before you dig. Calling before you dig means when you are finding a new spot for your mailbox, or installing that new fence, call 811 which is a free service that marks out underground utility lines, pipes, and cables. This way, you aren't causing damage to any utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially



**April showers
bring Spring
savings!**

Spruce it up with
Co-op Connections:

Your Style



Your Home



**Your digital
space**



Linemen Collage

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From the Board of Directors, Staff, and employees of Choptank Electric Cooperative, we would like to wish all of our members a blessed Easter!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



February 2019

Trust Awards

- Deep Roots - \$500 containers
- Tuckahoe Equestrian Center - \$300 lumber
- Easton High School Class of 2019 - \$300 prom party
- Brown Box Theatre Project - \$1,000 lights
- North Caroline HS Band of Blue - \$1,000 jackets
- Easton Church of God - \$500 rentals
- Sudlersville Elementary - \$994 washer and dryer
- Friends of the Caroline Co. Public Library - \$300
- Chapel District Elementary School PTO - \$1,000 sign

- The Warwick Cemetery Committee - \$300 tree removal
- LEAD Maryland - \$500

The total of approved applications for February was \$27,652.96 which included \$15,999.00 for individual home and medical expenses.

Electric Trust is a 501-c-3 charitable foundation funded by Operation Round-Up donations from members of Choptank Electric. Funds from the Trust are distributed in all nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

