



Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. Member Newsletter

January 2022

This Month's Topics:

**New Services,
Upgrades, Changes or
Relocation of Services**

Who Owns What?

**Energy Tip of the
Month**

Scholarship Deadline

**Cut Your Energy Costs
Day**

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The Board of Trustees meets
the third Friday of the month
at 8:30 a.m. in the Cooperative
boardroom.

Improving New Services, Service Upgrades, Changes or Relocation of Services

What can I expect if I need a new service or an upgrade, change or relocation of service?

To better serve our members and prospective members, Sierra Electric is working to improve the process of a consumer's request for a line extension to supply power to a new service, or an upgrade, change or relocation of an existing electric service. Previously, our process was informal.

One of the first changes we have made is to require an application be completed by the consumer which is more detailed and requires information that they may need to ask their electrician or contractor. In addition, consumers will be asked to read and understand our line extension policy. And consumers will need to provide more documentation up front, including a copy of the deed, plat map with easements, and other requirements listed on the application.

Once an application is submitted, the consumer will be invoiced for an estimate fee. The estimate fee must be paid before details regarding the estimated cost of construction will be discussed or an estimate provided.

We will continue to answer general questions regarding our line extension policy but will only answer questions about an estimated cost of construction or specific details about a new service, upgrade, change or

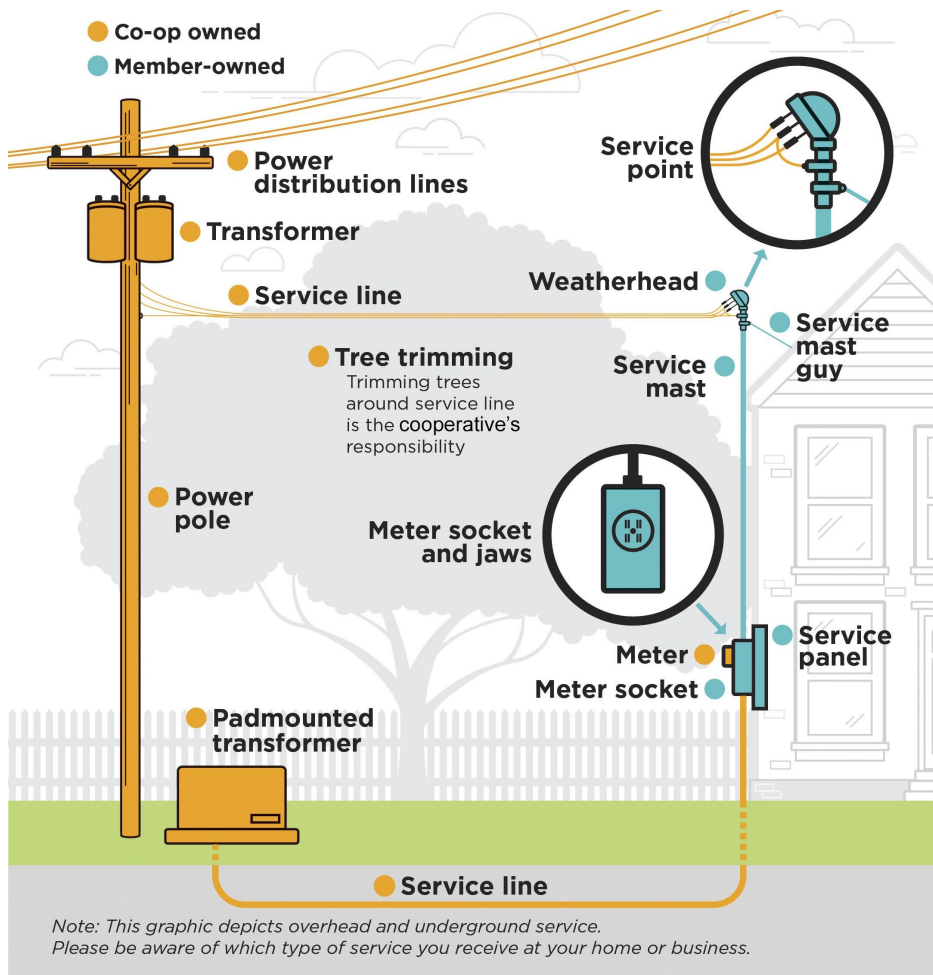
relocation from consumers who have submitted an application and paid the required estimate fee.

We want to customize this process to serve both our needs and our members.

Why do I have to contact the cooperative if I upgrade, change, or relocate my service?

The cooperative's distribution equipment was built based on the original type of service that existed or was built at each service point. While the member is responsible for keeping their member-owned equipment up to National Electrical Safety, state, and local codes, if a member makes upgrades or changes without notifying the cooperative, it could directly impact the distribution equipment needed to provide electric service to you or your neighbors. It could even interfere with or damage cooperative equipment. The member can be held responsible for the cost of damage to cooperative equipment.

To prevent this, always contact the cooperative if you will be upgrading, changing or want to relocate your service. The member is also responsible to only install equipment suitable for operation within the character of the service supplied by the Cooperative and not to install or construct any structure or vegetation that impairs the clearance of the cooperative's existing equipment. It is your responsibility to notify the cooperative of any existing or anticipated impaired clearances.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Need money for college? Apply for the SEC Education Foundation's scholarship award! Deadline is April 8th—get an application in our office or at

www.sierraelectric.org.

January 10th is Cut Your Energy Costs Day

WAYS TO \$AVE

Lower your water heater to 120°. Most of the energy consumed goes toward storing the water at the selected temperature.



Safe Electricity

Your cooperative encourages you to lower your energy costs. We are not in the business of making a profit—in fact, cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis. While we generate revenue to cover our operating costs, if we realize a profit in a fiscal year, we allocate the profit back to you—our members!

When you cut your energy costs, you not only lower your electric bill, but also ours!

Read our newsletter each month for more ways to save!



Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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