

Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

Increased demand could test the state's supply



MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

DO YOU REMEMBER THE ELECTRICITY BILL YOU RECEIVED AFTER THIS winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, as we look forward to summer, a reverse weather pattern has the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use more electricity this summer than last and pay more for it. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have been shut down. Add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings of higher electric bills.

No one knows how much extra your co-op might have to pay, but the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees 90 percent of the state's power grid, is predicting record-breaking peak power usage. To keep the system reliable, ERCOT prefers to maintain a small percentage of generation capacity beyond what is needed to meet peak demand. This extra energy capacity is called the reserve margin, and it measures the system's ability to meet demand for power during the hottest days. The current projections for hotter summer weather and increased demand could test the reserve margin.

With that in mind, we all need to get ready for summer by managing our electricity use.

A few simple home improvements and changes in day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your home and hot air outside. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air conditioning system's thermostat to 78 degrees or maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Would you like to make an even greater impact on your bill? Check your home's insulation. According to energystar.gov, the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed. It is also important to use insulation with a recommended R-value of 30–60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand.

At energystar.gov, you'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

Most importantly, Central Texas Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for investors. An important part of that mission entails providing you with tools to better manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. State Highway 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W.C. "Dub" Stewart, President, Llano County
Allen Goodwin, Vice President, Kendall County
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Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

(830) 997-2126

1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA

(325) 388-4542

8 a.m.–5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties



Essay Earns Student a Trip to DC

Editor's note: This essay earned Catherine Lemke, a sophomore at Mason High School, a trip to Washington, D.C., in Central Texas Electric Cooperative's Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest. Her essay is the third in a series of winning compositions that will be printed in *Texas Co-op Power*. The views expressed in this essay are not necessarily those of Central Texas Electric Cooperative.

The Future of Technology and the Impact of Smart Grid

Science and technology have advanced greatly in recent years, from the creation of the telephone, to remote controls, to rockets, all the way to wireless internet. However, many more technological wonders are being created every year. Smart grid is one of these marvels.

The potential benefits of smart grid are revolutionary. Smart grid is a type of technology that allows consumers and utility services to communicate both ways. Smart meters are used in the grid, replacing traditional meters. The smart meters will help regulate energy usage, leading to reduced price for both consumers and utility services. Smart meters improve both communication and connectivity. This allows power gathered from different plants to be distributed. Smart grid provides refined visibility of electricity distribution and can manage demand and generation of power.

Smart grid can enhance the lives of the population by restoring energy faster. The United States is extremely dependent on electricity—in everything from recreation, to common jobs, all the way to the government. This means that quick restoration of electricity is essential. After a blackout or power disturbance, smart grid can restore electricity to emergency services, including hospitals, grocery stores and fire departments.

This could potentially save hundreds of thousands of lives. Furthermore, smart grid could prevent blackouts and power

disturbances. By isolating power outages, smart grid contains failures to one area instead of damaging the entire power line. Smart grid reduces injuries and loss of life in grid-related incidents as well as adding resiliency by upgrading security, which prevents hail from storms, earthquakes and even terrorist attacks.

The environment also gains much from smart grid. By drawing energy from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectricity, in addition to improving efficiency of generating and delivering electricity, Smart grid can help the environment and reduce pollution.

Consumers' wallets will also benefit from smart grid. Smart grid lowers the price of using electricity and power in a multitude of ways—for example, lowering interruption cost and reducing the probability of expensive power outages and blackouts. It also diminishes the cost of producing, delivering, and using electricity. Smart grid also decreases prices on electricity, lowering the cost for consumers, creating new jobs, and improving the nation's economy as a whole.

However, no new technology comes without its risks. Rebuilding the entire grid would be a costly project, although smart grid would inevitably be worth the price; regardless, it would cost consumers a large sum of money. Also, the real-time cost of the grid could theoretically cost certain industries money. Services such as hospitals, which require a large amount of electricity, would have large bills, which could increase hospital bills for the vast population. Another drawback is the risk of viruses; as is with smartphones and computers, if infiltrated, the whole of smart grid could collapse.

As with every new technology, smart grid has its pros and cons. However, the benefits of smart grid far outweigh the negatives. Smart grid can improve the lifestyle of the main population, save wallets and save lives.

Attend Your Co-op District Meeting

BE A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER. ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DISTRICT MEETING, held during the first two weeks of June. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 p.m. Here's the schedule:

MONDAY, JUNE 4—DISTRICT 6

San Saba County
Cherokee High School cafeteria

TUESDAY, JUNE 5—DISTRICT 3

Mason, McCulloch and Menard counties and northern Kimble County
Richard P. Eckert Civic Center*
DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 7—DISTRICT 2

Kerr and Real counties and southern Kimble County
Ingram Elementary School cafetorium

MONDAY, JUNE 11—DISTRICT 4

Llano County
Llano High School auditorium
DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

TUESDAY, JUNE 12—DISTRICT 1

Kendall County
Comfort High School auditorium
DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 14—DISTRICT 5

Gillespie and Blanco counties
Gillespie County Fair Grounds**
DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

Member meetings will be held in each district, but only districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 will elect a candidate for the board of directors. Districts 2 and 6 will still meet to exchange information between co-op management and members. An important video will be presented that explains current issues affecting Central Texas Electric Cooperative members. Please remember to check *Texas Co-op Power* to see which district you're in, and bring the registration card from that issue to your meeting to expedite registration.

Each member attending will receive a \$10 bill credit. See you at the meeting!

**Mason County members will meet at a new location this year. The District 3 meeting will be at the Richard P. Eckert Civic Center at 1024 McKinley Ave. in Mason.*

***Gillespie County members also will meet at a new location. The District 5 meeting will be at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds at 530 Fair Drive in Fredericksburg.*

Retirees Honored



Congratulations to Bob Davis, meter and apparatus supervisor, on his retirement! Davis has dedicated 39 years of service to Central Texas Electric Cooperative.



Congratulations to Lamar Notestine, staking tech I, on his retirement! Notestine has devoted 14 years of service to Central Texas EC.



Central Texas Electric Co-op

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Take the Sizzle Out of Summer With a Slow Cooker

AS THE SUMMER HEAT RAMPS UP, COOKING DINNER with an oven or on a stovetop becomes less and less appealing. Sure, most of us enjoy a home-cooked meal, but introducing heat from a range into your home while trying to keep from lowering the thermostat excessively can be counterproductive. Plus, there's the general unpleasantness of standing over a hot stove when it's 100—or more—degrees outside.

Salads are a favorite alternative during summer's swelter, but it's nice to have the option of a more substantial meal without sacrificing comfort or pushing utility bills sky-high.

A slow cooker presents an elegantly simple solution to this dilemma. It takes a bit of planning, but once you've mastered that small step, the rewards are plentiful.

What slow-cooked meals lack in quickness, they make up for in affordability and convenience. After a modest bit of prep and before heading out to work in the morning, you can throw a few basic ingredients into a slow cooker, turn it on, and, voilà, dinner will be waiting when you get home. Or choose a recipe with a shorter cook time for a lazy weekend supper.

Speaking of relaxed weekend meals, in honor of Father's Day, here are a couple of savory, hearty recipes to celebrate the dad in your life.

Easy Cheesy Barbecue Chicken

FROM *CROCK-POT: THE ORIGINAL SLOW COOKER RECIPE COLLECTION*

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 bottle (26 ounces) barbecue sauce
- 6 slices bacon
- 6 slices Swiss cheese

1. Place chicken in a 4½-quart slow cooker. Cover with barbecue sauce. Cover and cook on low 8–9 hours. (If sauce becomes too thick during cooking, add a little water.)

2. Before serving, cut bacon slices in half. Cook bacon in microwave or on stovetop, keeping bacon flat. Place 2 pieces cooked bacon on each chicken breast in slow cooker. Top with cheese. Cover and cook on high until cheese melts. ▶ Serves 6.

COOK'S TIP To make cleanup easier, coat the inside of the slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray before adding ingredients. To remove any sticky barbecue sauce residue, soak the stoneware in hot, sudsy water, then scrub it with a plastic or nylon scrubber—don't use steel wool. Or use a slow cooker liner for easy cleanup.



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Cheesy Buffalo Chicken Soup

NINA MARTIN | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

- 1 rotisserie chicken or whole roasted chicken
- 8 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 red onion, diced
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 32 ounces chicken broth
- ½ cup hot wing sauce
- Garlic powder to taste
- Optional garnish:
 - Avocado
 - Cilantro
 - Cheddar cheese
 - Green onion

- 1.** Remove meat from chicken and shred.
- 2.** Put meat, cheeses, onions, cilantro, chicken broth and wing sauce in a 6-quart or larger slow cooker. Stir in garlic powder.
- 3.** Set on low 4–6 hours. Then garnish as desired. ▶ Serves 8.

Payment Options

Mail



You can mail your payment to:
Central Texas Electric Co-op
PO Box 553
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

SmartHub®



You can pay online or with the SmartHub app. You can also monitor your usage, report outages and more. Sign up today at ctec.coop

Auto Pay



Have your bill automatically paid through bank or credit card draft each month.

CTEC Offices in Fredericksburg, Kingsland, Llano and Mason



Pay your bill at our drive-thru window or in the lobby from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Monday through Friday. An after hours drop box is also available anytime.

Automated Phone payments



Payments can be made securely 24 hours a day by calling 1-877-495-6842

Online Banking



You can make one time or recurring payments through your bank website.



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Celebrating Old Glory

FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14. THIS LESSER-KNOWN AND LESSER-CELEBRATED HOLIDAY, established by Congress in 1949, pays tribute to a great and meaningful symbol.

Most of us know that the 13 red and white stripes and the field of 50 stars represent the original 13 colonies and the current 50 states. But there’s much more to learn about Old Glory.

The Beginning Recognizing that a new nation needed a new flag, Congress passed the country’s first flag law June 14, 1777: “Resolved, that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

A Proclamation In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson paved the way for the observance with a proclamation addressing his concerns about “forces within and forces without that seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud.” The proclamation urged Americans to “give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America.”

The Symbolism The red on the flag represents valor and bravery; white symbolizes innocence and purity; and vigilance, justice and perseverance are represented by blue. The stripes are symbolic of rays of sunlight, and the stars reference the heavens.

The First Flag The oft-told story of President George Washington asking Betsy Ross to create the first flag unfortunately can’t be substantiated. The Betsy Ross House, a museum in her honor, promotes her story but encourages visitors to decide whether it’s historical fact or well-loved fiction.

The Pledge As originally written in 1892, it read: “I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Congress added the phrase “under God” to the pledge in 1954.

While only Pennsylvania recognizes Flag Day as a state holiday, we wish you a happy Flag Day and encourage you to take time to acknowledge the significance of the day.

CENTRAL TEXAS EC
APRIL 17

Regular Board Meeting Recap

Meeting called to order and prayer offered.

Approved: Yearly lead auditor/partner rotation

Approved: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held March 13, 2018

Approved: March 6–April 9, 2018, Membership List and Membership Conversions

Reviewed: Safety Report for Two Months Ended February 28, 2018

Reviewed: Financial and Statistical Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Approved: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Financial and Statistical Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Approved: Resolution Authorizing Allocation of Patronage Capital

Reviewed: CEO Expenses for 2017

Reviewed: Director Expenses for 2017

Reviewed: Financial and Statistical Reports for Two Months Ended February 28, 2018

Approved: Audit of Central Texas Electric Cooperative Inc. and Subsidiary for the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

Approved: Finalizing 2022–2026 Load-Following Contract

Discussed: District Meeting Update

Discussed: Legislative Conference Update

Discussed: Expectations for Afternoon Training Session

Discussed: Communications Committee Update

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 3

Meeting adjourned.