

What's Good for the Members Is Good for the Cooperative



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

A **UNIQUE BUSINESS MODEL** keeps electric cooperatives effective and vital. Co-ops have operated in the United States for more than 80 years, and during that time, the basic model hasn't changed. Because Central Texas Electric Cooperative is a nonprofit, member-owned organization—operating in the fashion of its forefathers—it can focus on keeping costs down and providing exceptional service.

For us at Central Texas EC, those goals involve minimizing expenses and maintaining a quality system that delivers the kind of service members expect and deserve.

For you, the member-owners of this organization, keeping the cost of electricity down can be achieved through energy conservation. Factors that affect the level of your energy consumption include the energy efficiency of your home, the number and types of electric appliances used, and your household's lifestyle. As a conscientious co-op member, you can direct your attention to these three areas to minimize your consumption.

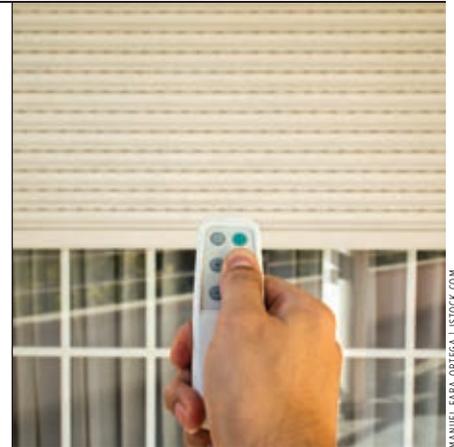
1. Energy Efficiency: The type of home you live in plays a major role in determining how much electricity is used. Smaller homes with less than the recommended insulation, inefficient heating and cooling systems, inefficient appliances, and leaky doors and windows might use more energy than a larger, more energy-efficient home. Weatherstripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to stop air leaks, and installation is a task you can do yourself.

It's also important to have your heating and cooling system serviced by a qualified professional to make sure it's in top working order. Don't forget to change the filters at least monthly while the system's in use.

2. Quantity and Types of Electric Appliances: It's especially important to make sure that appliances—including air-cooling and heating systems—have high energy-efficiency ratings. As computers and other electronic appliances have become a greater part of household life, their presence adds to the demand for energy. Without thinking about the increased energy use, families might add TVs, video game systems and computers to the home; over time, the total of those additions can drive up power demand. The newest technologies and devices can make our lives easier, but part of the cost involves the electricity necessary to keep them running.

3. Lifestyle and Energy Use: If you're "hot natured," you might run the air conditioner frequently. If that's the case, be aware that your choice has an impact on your electric bill. Similarly, having a lot of people running in and out of the house, leaving doors open; taking long, hot showers or baths; and leaving lights or appliances on when not in use—all of these contribute to demand for kilowatt-hours. Even with Central Texas EC's low cost per kWh, consuming more power means creating a higher electric bill.

Central Texas EC strives to make sure our members have all the power they need and to control costs as much as possible, but your choices and habits play a big role in your electric bill each month. For more tips on how to manage your electric use, visit ctec.coop.



Motorized window shades and blinds can be put on programmable timers for maximum efficiency and convenience.

Smart Window Use Can Regulate Indoor Comfort

YOU CAN USE YOUR WINDOWS to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- ▶ Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- ▶ In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will "trap" the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- ▶ Choose window treatments that not only look nice but also save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material, which can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats; or draperies with white plastic backings, which can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- ▶ If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your home's interior.
- ▶ Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

Spare Change Changes Lives

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD it's the little things that count in life: being kind to our neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after ourselves while enjoying the great outdoors. Although each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a little, we see a big, positive impact in our community.

That's why Central Texas Electric Cooperative has been proud of our Operation Round Up program. For more than 11 years, co-op members who opt in to the Operation Round Up program have their monthly electric bills automatically rounded up to the next whole dollar amount, and the difference is deposited into a fund that assists worthy local service organizations or individuals in need. An independent committee (or sometimes the co-op's board of directors) oversees contributions, evaluates funding applications and distributes funds to recipients such as local volunteer fire departments, community service organizations or residents in need.

How does it work for a member? If your bill for one month is \$82.70, that amount would be rounded up to \$83, with 30 cents going to Operation Round Up for that month. Most members don't even notice the extra money they contribute. Over the span of a year, the average amount of spare change contributed by a member is barely more than \$6.

Six dollars doesn't sound like much, but when you put together those small, monthly contributions from all the program members—that's when things start to get exciting.

The average Operation Round Up contribution is only 50 cents per month, but this small monthly donation has allowed the program to award grants totaling more than \$118,000 since its inception. If you are not already rounding up your bill, help make a great program even better.

About 250 local electric co-ops nationwide run Operation Round Up programs. All told, consumers at these co-ops have raised more than \$100 million since South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative originated the idea in 1989.

If you're one of the members who makes Operation Round Up possible, thank you. If you would like to participate, you can sign up by calling any of CTEC's branch offices. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

983 N. U.S. Hwy. 87, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

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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. to 5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties



Central Texas Electric Co-op

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\$104⁹⁵ MONTH

All plans require 24 month commitment.

One-time setup fee of \$49.00 and \$7.95/month equipment lease fee applies.

Speeds are "up to" and not guaranteed. Actual speeds will vary.

Call Now

Local (830) 992-2240 or Toll Free (888) 297-1340

Service is not available in all Central Texas Electric Co-op areas. Installation requires a clear view of the southern sky and proper electrical ground bounding. Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.

Residential Safety Checklist

10 quick reviews to help make your home's electricity use safer

Outlets

Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets within reach of children.

Cords

Make sure cords are in good condition—not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are out of traffic areas where people could trip over them. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to walls, baseboards or any other objects. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest furniture on them.

Extension Cords

Check to see that extension cords are not overloaded. Extension cords should be used only on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help safeguard young children from shock hazards and burn injuries.

Plugs

Make sure your plugs fit your outlets. Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. Plugs should fit securely into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances.

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters

GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.

Lightbulbs

Check all lightbulbs to make sure they are the correct wattage for the fixture. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer of the fixture. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs can overheat.

Circuit Breakers and Fuses

Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size and current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct



Help ensure your family's safety by replacing broken and missing wall plates.

size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same correct size fuse.

Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might come into contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, never reach in to pull it out—even if it's turned off. Unplug it first. If you have an appliance that has become wet, don't use it until it's been checked by a qualified service technician.

Appliances

If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker, or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

Entertainment and Computer Equipment

Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly; look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors. Use a surge protector bearing the seal of a nationally recognized safety certification agency.