

Cool Off Electric Bills With TogetherWeSave.com



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

SCORCHING TEMPERATURES AND HIGH ELECTRIC BILLS don't need to arrive hand-in-hand this summer. At Central Texas Electric Cooperative, we are committed to providing you with not only safe and reliable electric service, but also with the information you need to save energy and keep electric bills affordable when the temperature is up.

One of the most powerful tools in CTEC's energy-saving arsenal is the website TogetherWeSave.com. It offers nine applications focusing on different actions that, once completed, show an actual savings calculation.

Take the Virtual Home Tour on TogetherWeSave.com to find ways to cut costs on electricity. Through the website, you "walk" through a home's family room, kitchen, laundry room, bedroom, basement and attic. Each area reveals at least two actions you can take to improve your home's energy efficiency. As you move through the room and complete the suggested changes, you will see a running tally of potential energy dollar savings.

For example, in the "Lower Your Water Heater Temperature" application, you can virtually adjust the temperature setting on the water heater dial to see a projection of how much money you could save by doing just that in your own home.

The website also provides access to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives TV web portal, where you can view short videos about energy efficiency. You can also connect with other energy-conscious members by sharing your story about what you are doing to be more energy efficient. Co-op members just like you from across the country have already visited TogetherWeSave.com and collectively saved more than \$40 million by making small energy-related changes at home.

We at CTEC want to help you reach your energy-saving goals. So go ahead: Flip a switch, lower the blinds, raise the temperature on your thermostat, and visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes can cool off your electric bill.



SAVE THE DATE!



CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, August 16 | 7 p.m.
Fredericksburg High School

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING of co-op members will be held Tuesday, August 16, at the Fredericksburg High School auditorium. Mark your calendar. Don't miss it!

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and includes the election of four co-op members to the board of directors.

Come early and visit with co-op neighbors, and relax and see a video update on your co-op. Listen to the co-op manager report on the current happenings at your co-op.

As always, the meeting will conclude with a drawing for attendance prizes. Official registration and proxy information will be included in the August issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. Plan today to attend your cooperative's annual membership meeting!

Sign Up for Operation Round-Up, Get a Chance at \$100 Bill Credit

INTERESTED IN HELPING friends and neighbors in need? Want \$100 off your next electric bill?

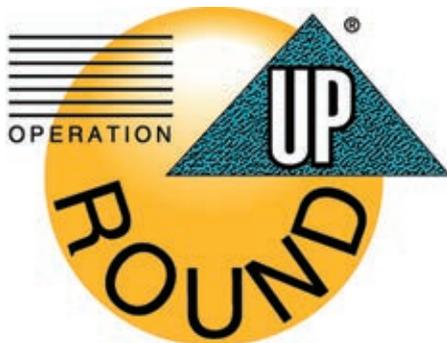
Central Texas Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up program collects funds to help area individuals and families in times of crisis, as well as local nonprofit organizations.

Operation Round-Up participants agree to have their electricity bill rounded up to the next whole dollar each month. The average contribution comes to 50 cents per month, or just \$6 for an entire year.

As part of a sign-up effort, CTEC will hold a drawing later this year for \$100 bill credits to a few first-time enrollees in the Operation Round-Up program. CTEC members who haven't signed up for Operation Round-Up yet can do so simply by picking up the phone and calling the nearest CTEC office to enroll one or all of their accounts.

One-time monetary contributions to Operation Round-Up are also accepted. Just call any of the member service representatives at a nearby CTEC office and tell them your preference. All donations are tax-deductible.

CTEC serves more than 36,000 meters. For less than the cost of a soda pop per month, co-op members can have their account "rounded up," too. It's an easy, inexpensive way to become part of a great community program through your co-op membership.



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. State Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

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

Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James Low, Vice President, *San Saba County*
Jack Asbill, Secretary, *Mason County*
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Charles E. Pearson, *Gillespie County*
W.C. "Dub" Stewart, *Llano County*

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



Summer Conservation Tips

IN THE HEAT OF A TEXAS SUMMER, we all want to keep cool in the air conditioning and grab a cold drink from the fridge. But remember that summer is the peak season of demand for electricity, and the appliances that help make summer bearable can also drive up your electric bill.

Keep Your Refrigerator Cool

Summer especially puts pressure on your refrigerator. In the season's high temperatures, you're more likely to open the door frequently for cool drinks. Here are some tips to keep refrigerator energy use to a minimum:

- ▶ Locate the refrigerator away from heat sources—the oven, the dishwasher and direct sunlight.
- ▶ Keep at least a 1-inch space all around the outside to allow air circulation.
- ▶ Clean the condenser coils at least once a year.
- ▶ Check the tightness of the door seals.
- ▶ Keep the fridge's power on the energy-saving setting.
- ▶ Use a thermometer to set the inside temperatures: Set the fridge at 36–38 degrees and the freezer at 0–5 degrees.

Make Friends With Your Freezer

- ▶ Keep the freezer as full as possible.
- ▶ Mark items for quicker identification to reduce door-opening time.
- ▶ Clean the condenser coils and check the seals.

Allow Your AC To Work Optimally

Your air conditioner works hard all summer long. Follow these tips to keep it from heating up your electric bill:

- ▶ You save 3–5 percent for each degree you raise the thermostat. Try setting the thermostat at 78 degrees.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans in conjunction with the AC to increase your comfort level.
- ▶ Don't cool unused rooms in summer. If the kids are off at summer camp, close off the vents to their rooms until they return.
- ▶ When you set your system to bring in fresh, outside air, you use much more electricity. Unless you need to bring fresh air into your home, set your HVAC system to recirculate (already cooled) air within your home.
- ▶ Keep humidity levels as low as possible by always using an exhaust fan, if you have one, when taking a shower.
- ▶ Maintenance is important. Clean or change AC filters regularly, and have units professionally cleaned, inspected and tuned every season to keep them running at peak efficiency.

For more information and ideas on how to lower your summer electric bill, please contact us at Central Texas Electric Cooperative. We will be happy to provide you with more energy-saving tips that make the summer days even brighter.



Check the tightness of your refrigerator's seals by closing a dollar bill in the door. If the bill slides out easily, you may need to replace the seals.



ROSEMARIE GEARHART | ISTOCK.COM

Recipe for Electrical Appliance Safety

Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Ingredients: Cords, hair dryers, curling irons, plugs, radios, toasters, microwaves, fuses and circuit breakers

Directions:

1. Check all power cords and plugs for cracks, breaks, exposed wires or damaged insulation.
2. Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition. Plugs that were made with a grounding pin (the "third prong" on a grounded plug) should still have the prong attached.
3. Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. Do not mix electricity and water!
4. If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses keep blowing, first check to see if you have too many appliances on the circuit. Inspect cords and outlets for any signs of damage including bends or cracks, brown or burnt spots from overheating, or loose wires.
5. If you see overloaded plugs and power strips, redistribute the appliances plugged into them. If the problem persists, have the circuits inspected by a qualified electrician.
6. Mix ingredients together, follow the directions closely and cook up a recipe to save lives.

Serves: Everyone.



Central Texas Electric Co-op

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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.