

Electric Cooperatives' Policy Priorities



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

AT HAMILTON COUNTY Electric Cooperative, providing you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity is our top priority. Our members might be surprised to know just how much of the work we do in our communities is affected by what lawmakers do in Washington, D.C. That's why co-ops across the country join together in making sure our congressional representatives know what's important to co-ops and their members.

We do this, in part, through our membership in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization that works on Capitol Hill and before federal agencies to represent the interests of the nation's more than 900 electric cooperatives. Here are some policy priorities for NRECA and America's electric co-ops in the next few years.



Strengthening Rural America

Electric cooperatives built the infrastructure that brought electricity to rural Americans by securing federal loans through the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Today, co-ops provide power to 42 million Americans in 47 states. We know that growing a vibrant rural economy is essential to America's success and prosperity, and we continue to count on the federal government for support.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has long been a partner in helping co-ops fund a variety of activities, including electric

infrastructure improvements and expansion of rural economic opportunities. Co-ops will work to further strengthen our relationship with the USDA in 2017 and beyond.

Co-ops also are keenly aware that tens of millions of rural Americans continue to live without access to high-speed internet service. Bridging this digital divide continues to be a critical economic development issue for rural America, and it's a big priority for co-ops this year.

In 2018, Congress is scheduled to produce a new farm bill. Co-ops will track this closely to ensure that updates of our nation's agricultural and rural policies strengthen rural America.

Avoiding Regulatory Overreach

Electric cooperatives advocate for public policies that are driven by consumers' interests and needs—not a “Washington knows best” mentality. Overreaching federal regulations have a significant impact on rural America, so co-ops are asking policymakers to revisit federal rules that have hurt rural communities and threatened co-ops' mission of providing affordable and reliable electricity.

We're looking ahead to future actions under the Endangered Species and Clean Air acts to ensure that they consider the nation's environmental and economic goals without putting undue burdens on rural Americans.

Improving Infrastructure

One of the themes that ran through last year's presidential campaign is the need to improve the nation's infrastructure. Electric co-ops have been in the infrastructure development and improvement business for decades and hope to work with leaders in Washington to continue this important progress.

Co-ops continually improve the cyber- and physical security of our systems and have been leaders in developing and using smart-grid technologies. Here again, a strong public-private partnership remains essential, particularly in the area of cybersecurity.

Electric cooperatives also support a wide range of research activities to help improve our nation's energy infrastructure. The U.S. Department of Energy and other agencies remain key partners in advancing this research.

These are just a handful of examples of co-ops' major policy priorities over the next couple of years. America's electric cooperatives are working just as hard in Washington as we are here at home to keep the electricity flowing and enhance the quality of life for our members.

10 Simple Spring Energy Savers

FOLLOW THESE SPRINGTIME TIPS to help save energy and lower your electric bill:

1. Call a qualified technician to service your central air-conditioning system. HVAC equipment needs servicing every year to head off major problems and keep the system running smoothly all summer.
2. As long as the spring weather is mild, open a window instead of turning on the air conditioner. Draw soft spring breezes into the home by turning on your ceiling fans.
3. Cook outside on the grill as soon as the weather permits it. When you don't turn on the cooktop or oven, you don't heat up your house.



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Open the windows for some cool air this spring and keep bills low.

8. Likewise, caulk around windows and electrical outlets so cool air can't escape your house and hot air can't get in.
9. Keep your home's humidity levels low by running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans—but only until the smoke or steam clears. Running them for too long will suck more than humidity and odors from your home. Those fans can send your comfortable, conditioned air out of the house.
10. Change your AC filter. A clogged filter forces your system to work harder and use more energy. It also can send the dust and allergens it collects right back into your indoor air.

4. Close the shades. It's tempting to leave them open on beautiful, sunny spring days. If it's hot outside, that heat can find its way into your house through the windows and tempt you to crank up the AC unnecessarily.

5. If it's sunny but not hot outdoors, throw those curtains open and let the natural daylight illuminate your home. Then, turn off any lights. You won't need them.

6. Don't have a programmable thermostat yet? It's time. Sometimes spring weather calls for heat, and sometimes you need the AC. A programmable thermostat will help you limit how much energy you use for either by automatically turning the temperature up or down as needed.

7. Seal the ducts in your central air-conditioning system. Leaky ducts can push your cooling costs up by as much as 30 percent.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

420 N. Rice St. • P.O. Box 753
Hamilton, TX 76531

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Steve Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.M. Gerald Jr., President, *Hamilton*
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Contact Us

*For general information
or to report an outage*

CALL US

(254) 386-3123 local or
1-800-595-3401 toll-free

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Hamilton County EC Office

420 N. Rice St., Hamilton

Brown & Wesson Insurance

915 Third St., Goldthwaite

Fort Gates Water Corporation

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Hwy. 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

Online

hamiltonelectric.coop

Telephone

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bill payments can be set up to be bank drafted or charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Notice of Director Election

THE MEMBERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

will elect directors by mail ballot Friday, August 4, 2017.

In accordance with the cooperative bylaws, a Nominating Committee was appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting April 27. The Nominating Committee will meet June 8 at 2 p.m., at the cooperative’s main office at 420 N. Rice St. in Hamilton, to make nominations for directors to serve in Area/Place No. 4, Area/Place No. 6 and Area/Place No. 7. Terms of the incumbents in these places expire this year.

Ballots will be mailed to members July 12 and should be returned to the cooperative no later than 1 p.m. Friday, August 4, at which time the ballots will be counted. The results of the directors’ election will be announced during the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, August 4.

Following are excerpts from the bylaws of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association, which explain the nomination and election procedure.

ARTICLE III - DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of seven (7) directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative or by these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure. In order to become or remain a Director, the person must be a Member of the Cooperative and must be a bona fide resident in the area which he/she is to represent. (See section 2a of Article III). A person shall not hold office as a Director who is an incumbent or candidate for public office for which a salary or wage is paid. No Member may become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who has a conflict of interest with the Cooperative as determined by other Members of the Board. A person who is currently employed, or who has been employed by the Cooperative within the previous twenty (20) years, is not eligible to become or remain a Director. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one may serve as a Director, but not simultaneously. However, neither may serve unless both meet the qualifications herein above set forth.

Directors shall serve a term of three (3) years, or until their suc-

cessors have been elected or appointed. Whether elected or appointed, Directors shall have qualified subject to the provisions of these by-laws with respect to the removal or resignation of Directors. The Member receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be elected a Director.

Nothing set forth in this section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 2a. Directors shall be nominated from the following areas served by the Cooperative:

(a) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 1”.

(b) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 2”.

(c) The area in Coryell County and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 3”.

(d) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 4”.

(e) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County and including all area in San Saba and Llano Counties and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 5”.

(f) The area South of U.S. Highway 84 in Mills County and West to the Cooperative boundary line and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 6”.

(g) The area North of U.S. Highway 84 bounded on East by Hamilton County line and on West by Cooperative boundary line and which area is hereby designated as “Place No. 7”.

Section 2b. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days before the date on which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) Members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the election a list of nominations for Directors. But any one hundred-fifty (150) or more Members may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the election and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of election a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The Members may, at any meeting at which a Director or Directors shall be removed, as herein before provide, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Directors.



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Are You Safety Savvy?

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH. Take this quiz from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to find out how much you know about electrical safety in your home.

- 1. True or False:** Using a corded telephone during a lightning storm is safe.
a. True b. False
- 2. Why do some outlets have three holes?**
a. To provide more voltage
b. The third prong is the “ground.”
c. To accommodate foreign appliances
d. It keeps the plug from falling out.
- 3. When using a portable generator during a power outage, you should _____ .**
a. connect generators directly to the household wiring only when an appropriate transfer switch is installed to prevent “backfeeding” along power lines, which can pose a risk to utility lineworkers making repairs
b. position the generator outside the house and away from doors, windows or vents that could allow carbon monoxide to enter the home
c. make sure the generator is properly grounded
d. plug it into a ground-fault circuit interrupter
e. All of the above
- 4. The most common scenario for electrocutions while using power tools is _____ .**
a. the equipment coming into contact with water
b. the equipment coming into contact with electrical wires
c. the equipment malfunctioning
d. exposure to bare wires by grabbing a cord with cracked or broken insulation
- 5. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed every:**
a. month b. 6 months
c. year d. 2 years
- 6. You shouldn't swim near docks or marinas because:**
a. Boats may not see you and run you over.
b. There could be lost fishing equipment in the water such as hooks or tangled line.
c. The water might be electrified by docks or boats that leak electricity into the water.
d. All of the above
- 7. In a study conducted by Temple University's Biokinetics Laboratory, what percentage of children 2–4 years old were**



- able to remove the plastic outlet covers from sockets in less than 10 seconds?
- a. 25 percent
 - b. 50 percent
 - c. 75 percent
 - d. 100 percent
- 8. The proper way to safely move away from a downed power line is to _____ until you are 35 feet away.**
a. take small hops with your feet together
b. keep your feet together and on the ground at all times
c. skip so that only one foot is on the ground at a time
d. crawl on all fours
 - 9. True or False:** You can be electrocuted using a tree trimmer near a power line even if you don't touch the wires.
a. True b. False
 - 10. True or False:** Swallowing a button-cell battery can be fatal.
a. True b. False
 - 11. What age group has the highest risk of death from fire?**
a. 15 years and under b. 21–35 years
c. 50–64 years d. Adults over 65
 - 12. Birds are able to perch on power lines without risk of injury because:**
a. Those power lines do not have power running through them at that time.
b. The unique skin on the feet of birds protects them.
c. Sitting on one wire does not provide a ground or connect a circuit, so the current doesn't leave the wire and continues on its path.
d. Birds' bones are hollow, allowing the current to pass through them without harm.

Answers:

(1) b; (2) b; (3) e; (4) b; (5) c; (6) d; (7) d; (8) a; (9) a; (10) a; (11) d; (12) c

Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC will be closed:

Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day and

Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day

Comanche

4th Annual Pioneer Day Celebration and Fundraiser Luncheon, May 14, Comanche Community Center. For more information, contact the Comanche County Historical Museum at (325) 356-5115.

Gustine Homecoming and Rodeo, May 27, Gustine Rodeo Grounds, Main Street

Jams in June Free Concert, June 8, 15, 22 and 29, downtown historic square

76th Annual Rodeo Parade, June 16, historic downtown

Rodeo Shoppers Day, Comanche Rodeo and Dance, June 17, historic downtown and rodeo grounds

Veterans Lighted and Patriotic Display, June 30–July 5, historic downtown

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or email comanchetxchamber@gmail.com.

Copperas Cove

Jackrabbit Run 4 Hope, May 13, 8 a.m., Ogletree Gap Park, 1878 Post Office Road. 5K and 10K races through the scenic hill country. Proceeds will be contributed to the Hope Pregnancy Center.

Rabbit Fest, May 18–21, Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. This four-day festival offers food and craft vendors, carnival rides, a

rabbit show, live entertainment, Rabbit Fest Pageant, softball tournament, car show and more. For information, visit rabbitfest.com.

Rabbit Fest Parade, May 20, 10 a.m., downtown, Avenue D

Summer Fun Run 5K Run/Walk, June 17, 8 a.m.–noon, South Park, 2602 Dennis Drive

For more information about Copperas Cove events, call the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Gatesville

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree, Third Friday of each month, 7–8 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St.

A family-friendly event. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted for the performers. For more information, visit gatesvillecountrymusichalloffame.com or call Roger Vierge at (254) 547-6834.

Run for Your Life 5K and 10K, May 20, 8 a.m. This chip-timed race will start and end on the campus of Coryell Memorial Healthcare System at 1507 W. Main St. Post-race, there will be a health fair. Families can enjoy the inflatable rock wall, obstacle course and photo booth. Sign up at runsignup.com/runforyourlife.

Coryell Senior Expo and RSVP Luncheon, May 30, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veteran's Memorial Drive. A day for senior citizens and their families and caregivers to visit local businesses and organizations that specialize in fall prevention, Medicare/Medicaid, legal services, retirement communities, volunteer options, nursing, rehab and free health screenings. Optional lunch: \$6. For information, contact David Myers at (254) 248-6330 or Sue Farrell at (254) 770-2341.

Fire Ant Tour Bicycle Ride, June 10. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and ride starts at 8 a.m. Riders can choose to ride 11, 24, 50 or 62 miles (approximate). Registration is \$25 in advance or \$30 on-site. Online registration will be available at gatesvilleexchangeclub.org. For more information, contact Clark Burns at (254) 223-2718.

4th of July Parade, July 4, 10 a.m.

4th of July Fireworks Show, July 4, 10 p.m.

80th Annual Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo, July 27–29, 8 p.m., Gatesville Rodeo Arena, Veterans Memorial Loop. This year's event to include TBRA/Ride TV Ladies Ranch Bronc Riding Tour.

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Cheri Shepherd, Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 499-0102.

WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

HCEC welcomes your local event submissions. If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar will be published monthly and will contain events scheduled in the month of publication and the following two months. Hamilton County Electric Cooperative reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email donna.harris@hamilton.electric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

Goldthwaite

9th Annual Fun in the Park Car Show, May 13, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Goldthwaite City Park, U.S. Highway 183. Judged show with more than 30 awards. No entry fees. Oldies music all day, compliments of ShoCo Street Sounds and James Evett. For more information, contact President Jerry Rountree at (325) 451-7740 or jroundtree@centex.net. See us on Facebook: The Fellowship Cruisers.

Full Meal Deal BBQ Brisket and Trimmings, June 11, 11 a.m. Goldthwaite Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser. Donations only.

Goldthwaite Summer Fest, June 17. Vendors wanted for 60 spaces. If you make or sell anything that has to do with summer in Texas, we would like you to join us. Farmers market vendors are welcome at a discounted price. Submit applications by May 18. This venue sponsored by Mills County Artisan Guild. For application, call (325) 948-3214 or (254) 372-3075, or email millscountyartisanguild@centex.net.

Patriot Celebration, July 1, Goldthwaite City Park. The Mills County Chamber of Commerce serves \$1 hot dogs and drinks, as well as free ice cream. There is a children's parade at 6 p.m. and a fireworks show at dark.

For more information about Mills County events, call the Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 451-4334 or visit millscounty-chamber.com.

Hamilton

Pop-Up Shops, May 4, June 1, July 6, 5:30–8:30 p.m., Studio on the Square, 109 N. Rice St. For more information, visit studioonthesquarehamilton.com.

Annual Cemetery Walk, May 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Old I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Highway 281 north of square in Hamilton, first cemetery on right. Tickets \$10 per person, children under 6 free. Tickets sold at Lanfranco's on the north side of square, or at the event. Historic re-enactment of notable Hamilton citizens. Sponsored by Hamilton County Historical Museum. For tickets and information, call (254) 386-5578 or (979) 595-8351.

Slide Into Summer 1-Mile and 5K Fun Run, May 27, downtown on the square. Come celebrate the start of summer break with some family fun! Participate in the 1-mile or 5K, and take a slide down a couple of HUGE water slides! For registration information, call (254) 386-3216.

For more information about Hamilton events, contact the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at (254) 386-3216 or hamiltonchamber@texas.com.



HAMILTON
Slide Into Summer
May 27

Hico

Texas Steak Cook-Off and Wine Festival, May 20, downtown. Backyard chefs come to Hico from all over the Southwest to see who can cook the best steak in Texas. For information on competing, dinner tickets and sponsorships, go to texassteakcookoff.com or call (817) 875-5059.

Cody Oh's Chute-Out, May 20–21, 3652 CR 208. Event includes bullriding, mutton busting and other activities, and is topped off with a Saturday night concert featuring a well-known musical artist.

Old Settlers Reunion, July 17–22. This week-long event is sponsored by the Hico Civic Club and features a parade through downtown Hico. A carnival and concerts will be held at Hico City Park. For info, call (254) 796-4221.

Horseshoe Tournament, July 21, 5:30 p.m., Hico City Park. Sponsored by the Hico Chamber of Commerce. For information, call Kenney Giessner at (254) 796-4727.

For more information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com or email hicochamber@mail.com.

Killeen

1st Cavalry Division Association 70th Annual Reunion, June 7–11. For more information, visit 1cda.org or call (254) 547-6537.

Lampasas

Riata Roundup Festival, May 12–13, Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m., Bar 17 Arena, 2384 CR 2315. Arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, pony rides, mechanical bull, Billy the Bull. Friday kids' events: mutton bustin', junior bulls, mini broncs, buckin' ponies. Saturday events: bullriding, mutton bustin' short round, bullfighting, live music concert.

Lampasas Trade Days, May 27, June 24, July 29, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Hwy, 190. Free admission and free parking. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

31st Annual Sulphur Creek Car Cruise, June 10, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., W.M. Brook Park. For information, contact Mike White at Advanced Window Tint (512) 556-3745.

The Spring Ho Festival, July 3–9. Activities and festivities all week long. For information, contact the Spring Ho Committee at (512) 556-5301 or visit springho.com.

Spring Ho Hot as Hell BBQ Cook-Off, July 7–8, Cooper Springs Nature Park on Hackberry and Avenue A

Toughest 10K in Texas, 5K and 1-Mile Run, July 8, 7–10 a.m., Hancock Park Pavilion

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or visit lampasas-chamber.org.

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Lometa

Lions Club Mop and Broom Sale, June 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Highway 183 south of the light

Fireworks, July 4, dark:30, Regional Park

Pearl

Bluegrass Festival, May 6, June 3, July 1, 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage, May 6, June 3, July 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation. All donations go to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Pidcoke

The Big Feed Texas BBQ and Fish Fry, May 6, 5:30 p.m. Pidcoke United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116 N. Donation proceeds go to support community area food banks. Contact Lori Maples at (254) 415-5620 or (512) 768-3356.

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 760-2288 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

San Saba County Farmers Market, Every Wednesday May 3-August, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St.



SAN SABA
San Saba County
Farmers Market
Wednesdays
May 3-August

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The market features the best of produce grown in San Saba County. For more information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

Pecan Capital Trade Day, May 6, June 3, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse, 500 E. Wallace St. For more information, contact JoAnne Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

Junk in the Trunk Garage Sale, May 13, July 8, 8 a.m.-noon, Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Items can only be sold from your trunk or bed of your truck; nothing can be set on the ground. For information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

Sounds of Shopping, May 19, 4-11 p.m., and May 20, noon-midnight, downtown. A musical shopping experience. Free food, drinks, sales, giveaways, 13 performers. For information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

San Saba River Golf Course Tournaments, San Saba River Golf Course, 723 CR 102. **3-Person Scramble**, May 20-21 **Guys and Dolls**, June 3-4 **2-Person Scramble**, July 22-23. For registration details and tee times, please visit golf-sansaba.com or call the Pro Shop at (325) 372-3212.

Splash Day at Mills Pond Park, May 27, all day, Mill Pond Park, U.S. Highway 190. Free to the public. Cardboard races, kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, tube rentals. Concert and fireworks display. For information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

Cow Camp Cook-Off, June 9-10, Risien Park, 300 U.S. Highway 190. For information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

San Saba Pro Rodeo Days June 9-10, Rodeo Grounds on Highway 16 N. This year's rodeo features legendary bullfighter and funny man Leon Coffey. For information, contact Rodeo Association at (325) 372-5416.

WOW Summertime Road Trip and Cook-Off, June 23-25 and June 30-July 2, Wedding Oak Winery, 316 E. Wallace St. Ticket price is \$30. You get the customary tasting glass, food pairing and, in this case, a vote as to which of the 12 wineries has the best entrée. For information, contact Wedding Oak Winery at (325) 372-4050.

Fourth of July Celebration in the Park, July 4, Mill Pond Park, Thomas Stewart Drive. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m. Sponsored by the City of San Saba and Impact 2000 Plus. For more information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

For more information about San Saba County events, contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit sansaba-chamber.com.



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Hamilton County EC thanks all our veterans and wishes everyone a peaceful

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29



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Happy
Mother's Day
from Hamilton County EC
Sunday, May 14

Ease Into Green

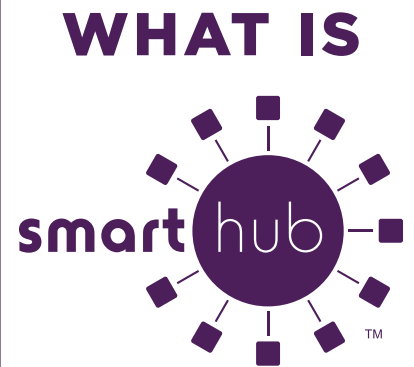
Easy changes add up to earth-friendly savings

IF YOU WANT TO DO YOUR PART for the environment by using less energy, but you're worried about making your home uncomfortable, make changes that nobody will notice.

Here are a few ways to conserve energy and reduce your carbon footprint that you might not have considered.

- 1. When you use your printer—at home or at work—print on both sides of the paper.**
- 2. Invest in a single power strip to tuck behind your entertainment center.** Plug your TV, DVD player, speakers and other electronics into it. Then, switch the power strip off every night before bedtime so none of those devices draws any electricity when not in use.
- 3. Wait until your dishwasher is full before running it.** Also, stop washing dishes by hand: That uses up to twice the water and energy as the dishwasher.
- 4. Wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot.** This could save you up to \$40 a year.
- 5. Lower your water heater's temperature by just 2 degrees.** You won't notice the difference when you shower, but you will notice it on your energy bill.
- 6. Keep your freezer full.** It takes more energy to cool an empty space than a full one.
- 7. Hang an outdoor clothesline.** Pull clothes that are nearly dry out of the washer and hang them; they don't need to go into the dryer. That will cut the number of dryer cycles you use.
- 8. Slide your refrigerator a couple of inches away from the wall.** Pressing it up against a wall limits air circulation behind it and makes the appliance work harder, which uses more energy.
- 9. Skip the hair dryer.** You'll save energy by air-drying rather than blow-drying—and your hair will be healthier, too.
- 10. Turn things off when you're not using them:** lights, ceiling fans, space heaters, the TV, your computer—anything that's electric.

Skip the dryer and hang clothes outside on the line this spring.



SMARTHUB IS Hamilton County EC's new, innovative tool for account management. SmartHub can help you take control of your electricity and your account like never before!

► Register with SmartHub and you will be able to view your current bill or previous month or even previous year to compare costs. You can also view your daily or monthly electricity usage. You can see how your use is trending over time and take steps to reduce your consumption.

► Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. You can store your payment information for future payments or set up automatic payments. SmartHub provides a safe and secure environment for transactions between HCEC and your financial institution.

► Go paperless and manage your account via SmartHub! By registering with SmartHub, you can receive bill notifications by email or text.

► Register now at hamiltonelectric.coop! Click the Pay Online button to begin registration. You may also download the app, SmartHub, for free with your smartphone or tablet.

WHAT IS SMARTHUB?



Be in the Know Secure Customer Support Pay Bill Check Usage