HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

Increased demand could test the state's supply



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

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 holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Informa-

NOW SOURCE AND ASSOCIATION OF THE PROPERTY OF

tion 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.

Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings for 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 modest home improvements and simple 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 the hot air outside where it belongs. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air conditioning system thermostat to 78 degrees and 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, Hamilton County 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 the tools you need to manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.

SAVE THE DATE

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

79TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 HAMILTON ISD, 611 S. COLLEGE ST., HAMILTON

Hamilton Junior High cafeteria and Hamilton High School commons area

4:30 p.m. Registration begins

5-6:15 p.m. Catfish and barbecue dinner catered by J&M's Hill Country BBQ

7 p.m. Business meeting in the Chandler Craig Auditorium

Entertainment and prize drawings after the business meeting

COME OUT TO HELP US CELEBRATE 79 YEARS OF SERVICE!

We look forward to seeing you. Look for additional meeting details in the next issue.

Power TID Keep from breaking a sweat this summer without breaking the bank! Replace your air conditioning system's filter every month—doing so can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption 5–15 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 Sam Campbell, Vice President, Goldthwaite Bob Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, Hamilton Dusty Duncan, Lometa Melvin Eilers Jr., Priddy Ervin Koerth, Gatesville Henry Langford, Lampasas



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. Highway 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.

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.





Co-op Careers Offer Paycheck and a Purpose

EACH DAY, MORE THAN 75,000 MEN AND

women go to work at America's electric cooperatives to keep the lights on for some 42 million energy consumers.

It's challenging work, but in addition to a paycheck, co-op employees go home each night knowing they've helped make their communities better places to live.

A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce, but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

Information technology and engineering are two rapidly growing career opportunities. Other career paths include finance, member services, communications, purchasing, administrative support and human resources.

Some people think the only time to start a career is fresh out of high school or college. While the industry offers rewarding careers to recent grads, it is also a great place to start a second or third career.

As not-for-profit, member-owned businesses, electric cooperatives offer careers that allow employees to make a difference in their communities.

Not All Air Filters Are Created Equal

THE AIR FILTER IN YOUR HOME'S HEATING,

ventilation and air conditioning system has an important job to do: improve the air quality in your home.

The air inside our homes is full of particles originating from inside and outside sources. This junk-laden air flows through a filter before encountering the HVAC equipment. Without a filter, the cooling coils would get clogged and the heating side would burn off whatever was in the air. Ah, the smell of burnt hair in the morning ...

Air filters trap a lot of debris that otherwise would end up back in the house, stuck in ductwork, clogging HVAC equipment—or in our lungs.

But enough with the HVAC and air quality primer. Let's tackle types of air filters.

There are more filter choices than vou can shake a stick at. Fortunately. they can be broken down into two nicely defined categories, making the selection process manageable. The two are:

- ▶ Permanent or disposable
- ► Flat or pleated (with a handy MERV rating)

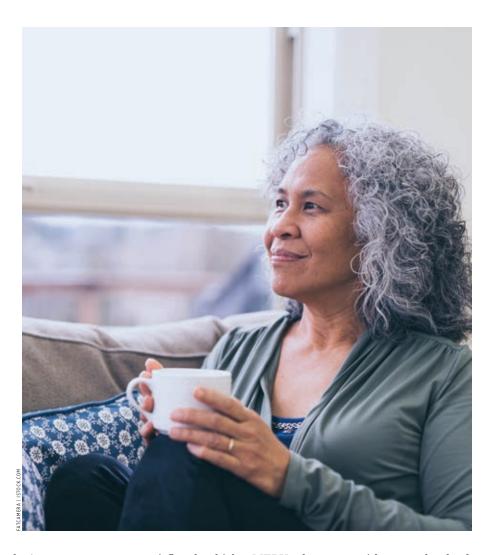
Disposable filters are the most prevalent. Some in the flat group look like they will stop only particles larger than a golf ball. They have flimsy cardboard frames and a thin, flat mesh you

easily can see through. They're cheap, but don't waste your money. Your HVAC system and lungs deserve better.

Made of stronger, opaque fibers, pleated filters perform better. While they look impervious, air can move through under pressure, leaving airborne cargo trapped as it should be.

Remember MERV? Minimum efficiency reporting value is a rating system that tells you how effective a filter is at trapping particles—a measure of efficiency. The scale runs 1–16 (higher is more efficient) and is based on trapping particles 3-10 microns in diameter. Research shows that residential filters with a MERV rating of 7-13 are likely to be as effective as true high-efficiency particulate air, or HEPA, filters. This class of filter is used in cleanroom manufacturing and, at the extreme end, can trap particles much finer than the diameter of a human hair, as small as 1 micron.

So, should you run out and grab a supply of high-MERV filters? Not without some research. All filters increase resistance



to airflow, but higher MERV values come with greater levels of resistance—making the system work harder. A system working too hard loses efficiency and increases wear on operating components. HVAC systems are designed to operate at a particular pressure and all should support MERV ratings of 1-4.

How do you decide which level of filter to use? If you have your system's operating manual or can find it online, check for recommendations. Otherwise, go with a decent (MERV 3-5) pleated filter, either disposable or permanent, and check it once a month to see how it is performing. Change or clean it whenever it looks dirty. Factors such as pets that shed, the amount of carpeted versus hardwood floors and the presence of cigarette smoke in your home will affect how often filters need to be changed.

Invest a little more and breathe a lot easier with a quality air filter and regular replacement—a simple change that pays big dividends.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Hamilton County EC director election ballots will be counted August 3 at 1 p.m.

The Hamilton County EC Annual Membership Meeting will be August 3 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton ISD Chandler Craig Auditorium.

Comanche

Jams in June Free Concert—June 1, 8, 22, 29; downtown historic square.

Comanche Roping Club Rodeo—June 15-16, 6 p.m., Cowboy Park Arena, 6490 Highway 36 W. Dance Saturday night.

Rodeo Parade—June 16, 10 a.m., downtown.

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

De Leon Peach and Melon Festival, August 7-11, De Leon Community Park

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

Copperas Cove

Summer Run to Fun—June 16, 8–11 a.m., South Park, 2602 Dennis Drive.

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

Evant

281 Trade Days; June 2, July 7, August 4; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; 203 West Brooks St. Antiques, plants, vintage finds, food trucks and hand-made items. Vendor spots available. Call (254) 404-5487 or (254) 471-3698.

The Potter is Back, June 6, 1–3 p.m. Rachel Norris will be at the First United Methodist Church to deliver her inspirational message.

Evant Rodeo Association Play Day Series— June 23, 9 a.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Evant Rodeo Association Junior Rodeo, Tom Green Rodeo Co.—June 23–24, 8 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Evant Rodeo Association Iron Man Series— June 30, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Evant Music Festival and Independence Day Celebration, July 7, Evant City Park, 7–11 p.m. Live music featuring the Gordon Collier Band and fireworks.

For information about Evant events, contact Mary Ann Davison at evantchamber@ gmail.com or (254) 404-5487.

Gatesville

Chamber Market Days, second Saturday of each month in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise and farm fresh foods. Visit gatesvilletx.info for more information.

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 Vierse at (254) 547-6834.

Ed Leonard Band, every Thursday, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Junction on Route 36, 1216 Texas 36.

Run to Remember, every Saturday, 8-9 a.m., Faunt Le Roy Park.

Gatesville Shivaree, June 1–2, downtown. Arts and crafts vendors, IBCA-sanctioned barbecue cook-off, old time fiddlers, Jeep show, Miss Shivaree Pageant, weenie dog races, Kiddie Land, food vendors, live music, games, contests. Visit gatesvilleshivaree.com for more information.

Fire Ant Tour, June 9, 8 a.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Dr. Bike routes are approximately 10, 32, 50 and 62.5 miles on paved county roads. Sponsored by the Gatesville Exchange Club.

Marty Haggard Concert—A Tribute to My Dad, Merle Haggard, June 9, 6 p.m., Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. Tickets at the door \$30. Tickets \$25 in advance, online at martyhaggardtickets.com, 1-800-838-3006 or at Leon River Mercantile in Gatesville, (254) 865-1372

WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative 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 it will contain events scheduled in the month of publication and the following two months. HCEC 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@hamiltonelectric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

Gatesville Gun Show, a Whipp Farm Productions event, June 23-24, Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. For information, call Charles at (817) 929-1816 or email whipp.events@gmail.com.

4th of July Celebration-July 4, 6-9 p.m., Gatesville Intermediate School parking lot. Booths, games, activities, bounce houses, obstacle course and giveaways, all free for kids! Concessions available. Celebration lasts until city fireworks show begins. Hosted by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

Gatesville Riding Club Youth Rodeo, July 13-14, 7 p.m., Gatesville Riding Club Arena, Veterans Memorial Drive. For more information, call Cody Archie at (254) 493-3659 or Becky Coward at (254) 223-0359.

81st Annual Gatesville Rodeo, August 2-4, 7:30 nightly, Gatesville Riding Club Arena, Veterans Memorial Drive.

For more information about Gatesville events, go to visitgatesvilletx.com or call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 865-8951.

Goldthwaite

Full Meal Deal Barbecue Brisket and Trimmings, June 10, 11 a.m., Goldthwaite Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser. Donations

Third Saturday Flea/Craft Market; June 16, July 21, August 18; 8 a.m.; the Artisan Guild, south side of the square and Highway 183. Flea market and craft items, farmers market and freshly baked goods. Vendors welcome. For more information, call (325) 948-3214.

Patriot Celebration—July 3, Goldthwaite City Park. Children's parade at 6 p.m. and fireworks show at dark. The Mills County Chamber of Commerce serves \$1 hot dogs and drinks, as well as free ice cream.

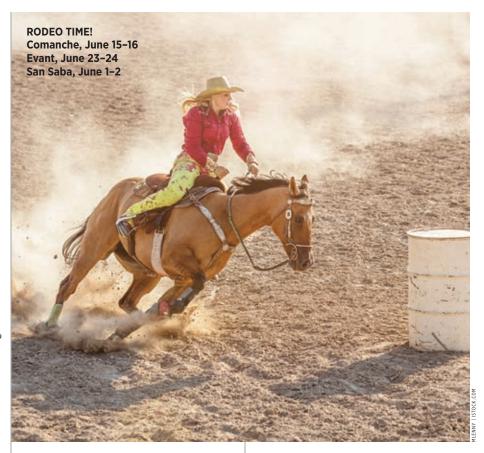
For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit millscountychamber.com or call Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 451-4334.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circle tarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

281 Trade Days/Junk in the Trunk; June 2, July 7, August 4; 9 a.m.-4 pm.; downtown square.

Jeep Show, June 2, 3-11:59 p.m., Fair Park. Benefit for Sunday James.



Bikers Welcome Weekend-June 7-10.

Bikers from all over will travel to Austin for their yearly biker rally. Participating Hamilton businesses will be welcoming the bikers traveling south and introduce them to the local hospitality.

Fish Fry, June 16, Fair Park. Benefit for Rick Maunev.

15th Annual Band Boosters Barbecue Cook-Off, August 3-4, Fair Park.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Summer Musical, August 4, 6 p.m., and August 5, 3 p.m., Hamilton Junior High Stage.

2018 Hamilton County Dove Festival Pageant, August 25, 6 p.m., Chandler Craig Auditorium.

Hamilton County Heritage Days, August 30-September 2. Concerts, matched horse races, goat roping, rodeo and vendors. For details, visit hamiltonheritage.com.

For more information about Hamilton events. visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216 or email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

Old Settlers Reunion—July 16-21. This weeklong 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 information, call (254) 796-4221.

Six Man Super Saturday, August 25, Tiger Stadium. Six-man high school football teams from across the state travel to Hico to compete in this invitation-only event.

For more information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com.

Lampasas

Free Guided Tours of the historic Lampasas County Courthouse—Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., historic downtown courthouse square. The 30-minute tours visit each floor of the courthouse, including the stately second-floor courtroom as well as the third floor, which houses the tower clockworks. The Lampasas County Courthouse is the third-oldest courthouse in continuous use in Texas. For more information, contact Jim Rutland at (512) 556-5302 during regular business hours.



Lampasas County Museum—Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 303 South Western, between Second and Third streets. Learn about the history of Lampasas County through permanent displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

Lampasas Trade Days; June 2, July 7, August 4; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190. For information, contact Barbara Postel (512) 734-1294.

Spring Ho Festival—July 9–15. Theme "Let the Good Times Roll." For information, visit springho.com, call (512) 556-5301 or email info@springho.com

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

Lometa

For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.

Pearl

Bluegrass Festival; June 2, July 7, August 4; 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage; June 2, July 7, August 4; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Community Meal—The third Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183. Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

Pidcoke

Pidcoke Baptist and Methodist Church Combined Vacation Bible School—June 11–15, 6–8 p.m., Methodist Church (halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove on FM 116). Contact Betty Miller at (254) 421-1823 for the Methodist Church or Petra Heitman at (254) 893-0590 at the Baptist Church. Sandwiches and snacks will be served to participants.

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

San Saba

San Saba Farmers Market, every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon, Courthouse Square, Highway 190 East. San Saba-grown produce and other food items will be sold. No vendor fees.

San Saba County Historical Museum, every Saturday and Sunday, 1:30–4:30 p.m. Tour this unique museum for a look at life when San Saba first began. An original wood stable is enclosed within the museum walls along with many nostalgic items from years past.

Fun in the Sun at Mill Pond Park, May 28– September 3. Visit the sunny beach at Mill Pond Park for paddle boating, tube rentals, bouncy pad, waterfalls, picnics and good family fun.

San Saba Pro Rodeo Days and Parade, June 1-2, 6:30-10:30 p.m., San Saba Rodeo Arena. For information, contact Rodeo Association at (325) 372-5416.

San Saba River Golf Course Tournament, Guys and Dolls Scramble, June 2-3; 5th Annual Tournament of Hope in Memory of Larry McNeely, June 23, noon-7 p.m.; Two-Person Scramble, July 21-22; Three-Person Shamble, August 11-12; Club Championship, August 25-26. For information, call (325) 372-3212 or visit golfsansaba.com.

Cow Camp Barbecue Cook-Off, June 8-9, Risien Park. For information on this Lonestar Barbecue Society event and FREE concert, call Cole at (325) 372-7363.

San Saba Music Series—Jason Eady with Aaron McDonnell, June 9, 8–11:45 p.m., Official Cow Camp After-party at Digg's Restaurant, 1035 U.S. Highway 190. Music Series. Cost \$15. Benefiting San Saba Youth Sports.

San Saba Music Series—Dirty River Boys with Copper Chief, June 23, 8–11:45 p.m., Digg's Restaurant, 1035 U.S. Highway 190. Cost \$15. Benefiting the Larry McNeely Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Fourth of July Celebration in the Park, Celebrate July 4th with a picnic and swim in Mill Pond Park, South Thomas Stewart Drive.

San Saba Music Series—Rift Music Group Showcase featuring Shea Abshier and the Nighthowlers, Giovannie and the Hired Guns, Ryan Wilcox & the Sunday Shakes and Dillan Poe, July 21, 8-11:45 p.m., Diggs Restaurant, 1035 U.S. Highway 190. Cost \$15. Benefiting the Never Surrender Cancer Foundation of San Saba County.

San Saba Music Series—Randall King with Cameron Nelson, August 11, 8-11:45 p.m., Diggs Restaurant, 1035 U.S. Highway 190. Cost \$15. Benefiting the Texas Hunters for Heroes San Saba Chapter.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or visit sansabatexas.com/calendar or sansabachamber.com.



WHAT IS



SMARTHUB IS HAMILTON COUNTY

EC's 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, the previous months' bills or even previous years' bills 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

swim with shocks!

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.