



Your Money Stays at Home

Who owns your electricity provider?

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

STEVE YOUNG

IF YOU'RE A MEMBER of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, you can find a co-op owner by looking in the mirror.

At Hamilton County EC—like all cooperatives everywhere—you, the members, are the owners. That's the philosophy of Cooperative Principle No. 3: Members' Economic Participation.

Being an owner, however, doesn't mean that you can drive to your neighborhood substation and take home a transformer or chop down a pole carrying wires to your house. These assets are owned collectively by all of us. A portion of the bill you pay each month goes into building and maintaining the infrastructure—poles, wires, substations and more—that bring you a steady supply of electricity.

Your cooperative does business locally. The investments we make in infrastructure benefit people who live and work right here in our communities—not those in faraway places.

Your payments do more than build power lines, buy equipment and pay for wholesale electricity. They also pay the salaries of our hardworking employees, who also happen to be your neighbors, friends and family. They, in turn, spend their

salaries at local businesses, spreading that money around and helping our economy stay healthy.

And after the co-op's bills are paid, infrastructure is built and emergency funds are set aside, any money left over goes into each member's capital credits account. Then, when our board of directors deems it prudent, those capital credits are paid out to members.

Capital credits returns are to our members what dividends are to stockholders in for-profit companies, only we don't aim to make a profit. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. That way, more of your money stays in your pocket.

When you pay your Hamilton County EC electric bill, you are not filling the coffers of a big, profit-making company. You are simply paying for electricity, and you are getting it from a business where your friends and neighbors work to provide you with the highest level of service they can while keeping your costs as low as possible.

That's the cooperative difference. ■

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

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Save Loads on Laundry Day

CLOTHES WASHERS AND DRYERS are among the top energy-consuming appliances, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, but a few changes on laundry day can reduce energy use.

Older models use even more energy, so replacing outdated washers and dryers with new energy-efficient versions can pay off in the long term.

If purchasing new appliances is not an option, there are still ways to make doing laundry more cost-effective. Some of these steps might even extend the life of your clothes.

Wash clothes with cold water. Using cold water means your water heater doesn't have to work to heat gallons of water. Even using warm water instead of hot can cut a wash load's energy consumption by half.

Wash only full loads. The appliance uses the same amount of electricity to do a partial load as a full load.

Size dryer loads to the machine. If a dryer is too full or not full enough, it will take longer to dry the clothes.

Air-dry when possible. Skip the dryer altogether and opt to hang laundry outside or on a drying rack to save energy.

Clean the lint filter on the dryer. Cleaning the lint filter allows your dryer to run more efficiently. Remove the lint buildup after every load and scrub the screen monthly to remove dryer sheet buildup.

Switch out loads while the dryer is still warm. Not allowing the dryer to cool down between loads makes use of residual heat and means the dryer does not have to work as hard to heat up again.

Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, made of wool or rubber, bounce around in the dryer and help separate clothes so air can dry them faster. They also reduce static, helping reduce the need for dryer sheets.

Use lower temperatures and the cool-down setting on the dryer. Drying with a cooler temperature saves money even if the dryer runs longer. The cool-down setting allows clothes to continue drying with residual heat.

Dry heavy materials separately from lighter materials. Light material takes less time to dry so it's inefficient to combine it with items made of heavy materials such as jeans or towels.

Use the moisture sensor option on the dryer if yours has one. The sensor shuts off the machine as soon as the clothes are dry. ■

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

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

Local (254) 386-3123

Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401

Web hamiltonelectric.coop

General Manager/CEO

Steve Young

Board of Directors

Sam Campbell, President, District 6

Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5

Bob Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

Jack Caldwell, District 1

Melvin Eilers Jr., District 7

Ervin Koerth, District 3

Robert Straley, District 4

24/7

**Outage
Hotline
Numbers**

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(254) 386-3123

TOLL-FREE

1-800-595-3401

ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at hamiltonelectric.coop

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

Bank draft can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

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

VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



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September Holidays

LABOR DAY

Monday,

September 7

Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Sunday,

September 13

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Tuesday,

September 22

NRECA

Use Ladders Safely Outdoors

ANYONE WHO USES a ladder should take extra precautions when working outdoors around electrical hazards—to prevent shock or electrocution.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has recommendations for work sites that can be applied to anyone using a ladder—whether for personal use or on the job.

- ▶ Before using a ladder, identify nearby overhead power lines. Note their distance from work areas and always assume power lines are energized.
- ▶ Consider the length of the ladder you're using, allowing room for raising and lowering the ladder.
- ▶ Contact Hamilton County Electric Cooperative if work needs to be done near overhead power lines.
- ▶ Don't use metal ladders near power lines.
- ▶ Ensure conductive objects are kept at least 10 feet away from lines.
- ▶ Make sure that ladders are stable, level and supported to prevent movement into a power line.
- ▶ Carry ladders horizontally, not vertically, and have someone help carry and set up large ladders.
- ▶ For every 4 feet between the ground and the upper point on which the ladder rests, set the feet of the ladder out 1 foot horizontally.
- ▶ Never touch a person or ladder that has made contact with an overhead power line. Call 911 and Hamilton County EC immediately.

Falls are always a possibility when using ladders. Follow these guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to avoid a spill.

- ▶ Inspect ladders for damage before use.
- ▶ Only use ladders on stable, level surfaces.
- ▶ Always face the ladder and maintain three points of contact when climbing it.
- ▶ Do not use a ladder while it's in a closed position.
- ▶ Do not use the top step of a ladder unless it was designed for that specific purpose.
- ▶ Do not move a ladder while a person or piece of equipment is on it.
- ▶ Observe the maximum load rating of the ladder and be aware of the user's weight combined with any equipment.
- ▶ Place nonfolding ladders so that they extend at least 3 feet beyond the point of support. ■



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10 Tips To Avoid High Winter Bills

SEPTEMBER MIGHT SEEM too early to begin thinking about saving money on winter electric bills, but implementing these 10 tips can help you prepare for the colder months ahead.

1. Seal air leaks and add insulation to prevent heated air from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
2. Reduce wasted heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
3. Turn off lights when not in use.
4. Lower your water heater temperature to the recommended 120-degree setting.
5. Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when not in use.
6. Close blinds and curtains at night to help keep cold, drafty air out.
7. Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow the sun's rays to warm your home.
8. Use power strips for multiple appliances and turn off the strip when those appliances are not in use.
9. Wash clothes in cold water with a cold-water laundry detergent to maximize cleaning efficiency.
10. Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs to improve efficiency by at least 75%. ■

Get Ready for Labor Day

PLAY BALL, EAT OUTDOORS, go swimming, take pictures of the kids. In other words, have fun and celebrate the day safely.

To help keep your day safe, here are some reminders:



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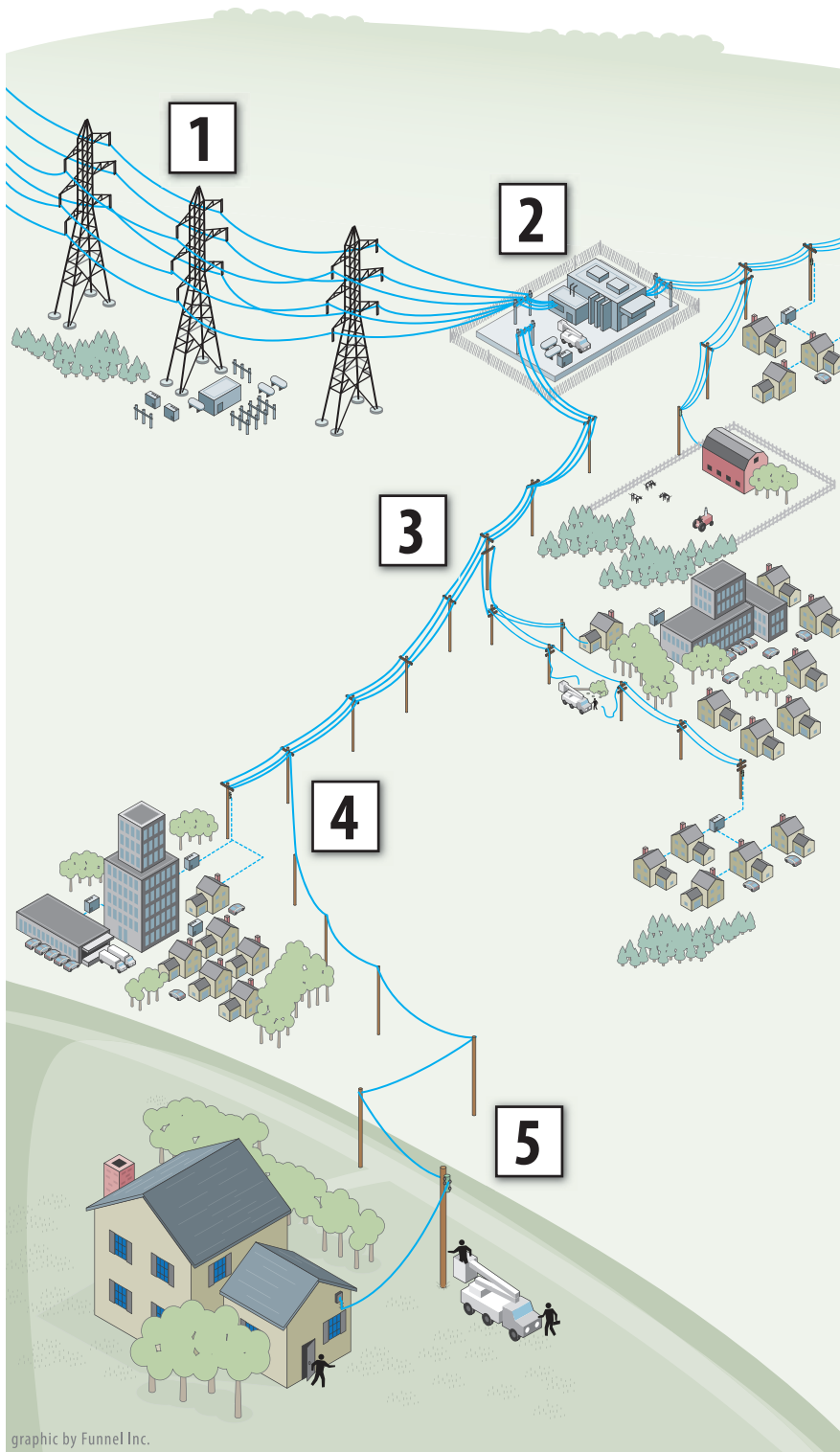
- ▶ When you cook outdoors, keep away from bushes and dry grass and be extra careful if it's windy.
- ▶ Make sure someone is always in charge of the grill, barbecue or campfire.
- ▶ Appoint an adult or responsible teenager to oversee the kids' fun and games, especially swimming.
- ▶ Don't drink and drive.

Reflect for a moment on the meaning of this special day and enjoy it—safely and happily—with your family and friends. ■

Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.



1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substations

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or complications down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers—either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service—outside businesses, schools and homes.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

graphic by Funnel Inc.



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Landscape With Energy Efficiency in Mind

THOUGHTFUL LANDSCAPE DESIGN can help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter—a boon for your electric bill. The smart placement and selection of trees enhances not only the appearance of your property but also its energy efficiency.

A well-placed tree can save up to 25% on a home's air conditioning bill, and a shady, grassy yard can be much cooler than a sunny, paved yard. Plus, mindful landscaping can provide erosion control and clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Plant deciduous trees on the south and southwest sides of the house to provide shade from the sun in the summer. After deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter, the sunshine will help heat your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs on the north and northwest sides of your home to provide shade year-round.

Evergreens also provide a windbreak, so plant them where they will protect the home from cold wind in winter and hot wind in summer. For maximum protection, plant windbreaks at a distance from your home of two to three times the expected height of the mature tree. Windbreaks have the added benefit of reducing noise, sights and smells and creating wildlife habitat.

In more temperate areas, consider arranging landscaping features to direct summer breezes through the house.

Before planting trees or other plants, consider their proximity to the house and power lines.

Avoid planting any trees too close to the home if they require frequent watering.

If there are overhead power lines in the neighborhood, plan to leave plenty of space between what will be the tree's mature size and the lines.

To identify the location of underground power lines and other utilities, call 811 before you dig. ■



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Baked Pepper-Cheese Squash

- 2 pounds summer squash, sliced**
- 8 slices bacon**
- 1 large onion**
- 8 ounces shredded jalapeño or pepper jack cheese**
- ½–1 cup dried breadcrumbs**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Boil squash until tender.
3. Fry bacon until crisp and remove from pan.
4. Peel onion and slice into rings. Brown onion in the bacon drippings.
5. Crumble bacon.
6. In a 9-by-9-inch baking pan, layer half of squash, then half of bacon, onion and cheese. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients and top with breadcrumbs. Bake 40 minutes.

SERVES 10

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

Community Calendar



39th Annual Pow Wow
September 26–27
COMANCHE

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Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. The following community event information was gathered in late July with sincere hopes that these events will be held. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

39th Annual Pow Wow, September 26–27, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Comanche City Park. **Barrie McBee BBQ cook-off**, photography

and art contests, TMRA Motorcycle Show, Comanche County Car Club Car Show, food, vendors, free kid games and fun family entertainment.

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

Copperas Cove

Virtual Gallop or Trot 5k Run On Your Own Time, September 12–20, City Park,

1206 W. Ave. B. This will be a virtual 5K that winds through the city park and gentle rolling hills in Copperas Cove's residential area. Medals will be awarded to the top three winners in each age category (male and female). There will also be an award for the overall male and female winners. Register at runsignup.com/race/tx/copperascove/hebplusgalloportrot.

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

Evant

For information about Evant events, contact Charlotte Looney at cben1115@hotmail.com or (512) 750-9870.

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. For more information visit gatesvilletx.info.

Spurfest, September 19, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Coryell Museum and Historical Center, 718 Main St. Free admission. A celebration of our frontier and cowboy heritage featuring old-time demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, music, and more than 6,000 spurs in the Lloyd Mitchell Collection. Come help us celebrate Gatesville's 150th birthday! For information or availability of booth space rental, contact Ervin Adams at (254) 865-5007 or coryellmuseum@yahoo.com or visit coryellmuseum.org.

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

Goldthwaite

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit goldthwaiteareachamber.com or call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619.

Hamilton

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

Hamilton County Heritage Days, September 4–5, Hamilton Fair Park. Jake Hooker and Tejas Brothers, 8 p.m. September 4, and Bellamy Brothers with Hayden Haddock Band and Presley Haile, September 5. Visit

Spurfest
September 19
GATESVILLE



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facebook.com/hamiltonheritagedays for more information.

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

Hico

For information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com or [facebook/hicochamberofcommerce](https://facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce), call (254) 434-1249, or email chamberhicotx@gmail.com.

Kempner

For more information about Kempner events, call (512) 932-2180.

Lampasas

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

or lampasasinfo@sbcglobal.net, or visit lampasaschamber.org.

Lometa

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

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass First Saturday Jam and Stage Show, September 12, Pearl Community Center. Free stage shows 12:30–5 p.m. Open jamming all day Thursday–Saturday. RV hookups \$15/\$20 per night. Bluegrass Café is 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday. Family-friendly event that bluegrass and old-time music lovers of all ages will enjoy. For more information visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage, September 12, 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, third Thursday of each

month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183. Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

Pidcoke

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 300-6342 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

San Saba County Historical Museum, each Saturday through October, 1:30–4 p.m., housed within Mill Pond Park, 110 Thomas Stewart Drive. To schedule a tour during the week, email info@sansabamuseum.org. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration, September 12, Risien Park. For more information call (325) 372-5200.

Golf Tournament, One-Person Scramble, September 19, San Saba River Golf Course, CR 102. For information visit golfsansaba.com or call (325) 372-3212.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber of commerce at (325) 372-5141, or visit sansasabatexas.com/calendar or sansasabachamber.org.

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.