

Principles + Values = Cooperatives



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

ALL COOPERATIVE BUSINESSES around the world operate in accordance with the Seven

Cooperative Principles:

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership**
2. **Democratic Member Control**
3. **Members' Economic Participation**
4. **Autonomy and Independence**
5. **Education, Training and Information**
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
7. **Concern for Community**

Cooperatives have also adopted a set of values that helps put these principles into practice.

Co-ops are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of

their founders, co-op leaders believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Let's take a closer look at these values and the effects they have on us at Coleman County Electric Cooperative.

The co-op's founders created it to serve the members who use the electricity and other services we provide, and we continue to do that today. This embodies the values of self-help: recognizing a need, taking action and doing what needs to be done for the betterment of our own service, our members' lives and our community. We also know we must embrace the value of self-responsibility, holding ourselves accountable to you, the cooperative's members, for the benefits we offer and the impact we make.

In cooperative business proceedings, each member gets one vote, no matter how much electricity you use. This ensures that democracy is practiced the way it is intended—with equality for all members. This is a key difference between co-ops and investor-owned companies, where the number of votes you have depends on the number of shares you own.

For co-op members, equity has two meanings. On one hand, it means that we strive to treat all of our members fairly. On the other hand, equity also means that, as a member, you have an ownership stake in the co-op.

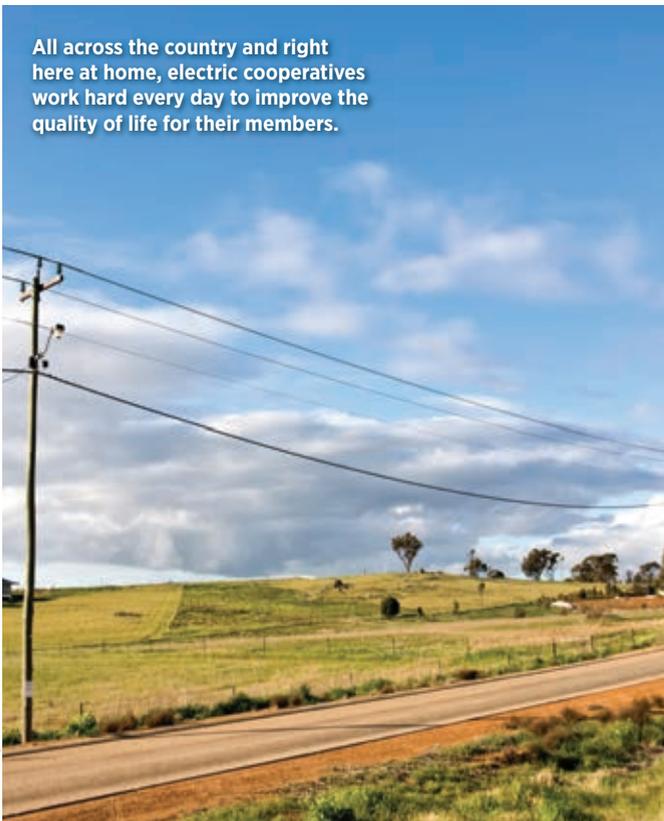
Although each co-op is autonomous, we do act in solidarity with other co-ops and our community. We know that we can do more for you by partnering with other co-ops and like-minded organizations, and we gladly join with other groups during festivals, fundraisers, emergencies, disasters and more—anytime help is needed.

As a co-op owner, you have the right to expect us to act with openness and in a transparent manner. We welcome your active participation in our co-op.

Cooperatives have been long and correctly identified as the original socially responsible business model, meaning that we care about the impact we have on the community while ensuring that we are economically viable.

We try to demonstrate our concern for the community by caring for others every single day. By using these values in support of cooperative principles since our founding, we have been able to serve you faithfully for the past 78 years, and will do so long into the future.

All across the country and right here at home, electric cooperatives work hard every day to improve the quality of life for their members.



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“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.” —Dwight D. Eisenhower



Save on your energy bill by planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

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Take Control of Summer Energy Bills

HERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS to minimize your energy use during the hot months:

Sun block. Half of all of the heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the summer sun. Save up to 15 percent on your cooling bill by shading west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

Quick change. A filter for your air-conditioning system costs only a few dollars (about \$5 for a high-quality, pleated model) but can save you much more if you change it every month during the summer. Dirty air-conditioning filters prevent airflow and make the system work harder. That means a higher bill.

One degree. For every degree warmer that you turn up your thermostat during air-conditioning season, you'll save up to 2 percent on your cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees, and turn on a ceiling fan to help circulate the air.

Wind chill. Fans don't cool the air, but they make the air feel cooler by moving it around the room and against your skin, which creates a sort of wind chill effect. When the fan is running, you can move your thermostat 3 to 4 degrees higher without noticing a difference in your comfort level.

Cool touch. Replace every incandescent lightbulb in your house with a compact fluorescent lightbulb or a light-emitting diode. The replacements cost more to buy than incandescents, but CFLs use 75 percent less energy, and LEDs use less than one-tenth. Both of these energy-efficient versions pay for themselves and then some over their lifetimes. Plus, they emit far less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they don't add heat to your home's air or make the air conditioner work harder.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

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Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Coke, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

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Clint Gardner

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Safety Tip

Do-it-yourself projects can be overwhelming, but knowing what's overhead can keep you from getting in over your head. Before starting a job, survey the area. If you discover a possible hazard, take steps to avoid it and make sure everyone else involved is aware, too.