

What Would Life Be Like Without Electric Co-ops?



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

FOLKS OFTEN TAKE STOCK OF BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES at the beginning of each year, thinking about the impact their lives have made on the world and envisioning the effect they'd like to have on the future. At Coleman County Electric Cooperative, we approach the new year with this spirit of contemplation.

In the classic movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, lead character George Bailey wishes he had never been born because he is in financial trouble. With the help of an angel, he sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn't exist. Bailey comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if community leaders had not founded Coleman County Electric Cooperative all those years ago?

Living in the United States in 2016, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. So many of our modern conveniences that improve the quality of our lives

depend on electricity as the "fuel" to make them work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up, to the refrigerator that keeps our morning milk cold and fresh. From the air-conditioning and heating units that keep us cool in summer and warm in winter, to the vacuum that lets us clean more efficiently and all those kitchen appliances that save us time and effort. So much of our

entertainment, whether from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that your electric co-op provides. Just think: There would be no smartphones or cellphones if there were no electricity.

As you consider the new year, remind yourself to be thankful for all that you have. It also is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world who still live without reliable electric service—a number equal to about four times the U.S. population.

Many of the things we take for granted living in the U.S. are much harder and more time-consuming for people in developing countries around the world. We are proud members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which works through its affiliates, NRECA International and the NRECA International Foundation, to help empower people in developing countries such as Haiti and Liberia.

We are thankful that our community ancestors had the vision and foresight to do for themselves what needed to be done, gathering friends and neighbors to form our electric co-op. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on Coleman County EC to meet all of your electric energy needs. More important, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.

Americans are blessed to have ready access to electricity. In some countries, as few as 5 percent of the residents share that privilege.

SERGEY NIVENS | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB



Topsy Turvy Day

FOR RED RIBBON WEEK'S Topsy Turvy Day, Leah Sage honors her dad, Coleman County EC Staking Technician Sage Brooks.

Did You Know

Every year, the energy equivalent of all the oil flowing through the Alaskan pipeline escapes through U.S. doors, windows and other leaks. Weatherstripping, caulk and energy-efficient glass can help stop those leaks and save Americans money.

—U.S. Energy Information Administration

Prepare for Winter Storms

WHEN WINTER TEMPERATURES DROP and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Texans are affected by extreme winter weather at some point. Coleman County Electric Cooperative cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. If there is a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

Stay warm. Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using them, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

Stay fed. The CDC recommends keeping handy several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal and canned goods are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.



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Although fascinating to see, ice-laden branches on power lines can cause power outages, so it's important to be prepared.

Stay safe. When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers if possible by calling 1-800-560-2128.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Coleman County EC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.



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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colemanelectric.org

Power Tip

Dry two or more loads of laundry in a row to take advantage of an already warm dryer. Remove clothes from the dryer when they're still warm to prevent wrinkling, and clean the lint filter before every load.