

Get To Know Your Co-op Network

The power behind your power



**MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER**

EVERY DAY, COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is hard at work making sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. Behind the scenes, we work with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Along with 15 other distribution co-ops, we are a part of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, which generates the power that we and our fellow co-ops receive. We cooperated in creating this second-tier co-op so that we'd have more control over power supply and pricing.



UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Working with other electric cooperatives, we gain better pricing for key materials.

Running an electric co-op requires a lot of money, so when we need to borrow capital, we often turn to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is collectively owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

Operating an electric co-op also takes a lot of equipment, such as poles, wires, transformers and other items that our members might never see. This is why we take advantage of the products and services offered by Texas Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association,

which offers a shared inventory of products to ensure that its 75 member organizations have quick access to all the materials needed at the best possible price. They also help us produce this magazine each month to provide information about Coleman County EC.

Although you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to a host of others. Connecting to this cooperative network helps us ensure that your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



STEPAN POPOV | ISTOCK.COM

Cheesecake With Dark Chocolate

CRUST

- 1 cup crushed nuts (macadamias or walnuts work best)
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter (1 stick), softened

1. Combine all ingredients and press into 9-by-9-inch baking dish. Bake 30 minutes at 325 degrees, then cool.

FILLING

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 package cream cheese (8 ounces)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 squares dark baking chocolate

1. With an electric mixer, whip the heavy cream until it thickens.
2. In a separate bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture.
3. Grate dark chocolate into mixture, reserving some for topping.
4. Spoon mixture over crust, smooth with back of spoon and top with reserved grated chocolate.
5. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



If you feel a temperature change around a window or door, seal the perimeter with caulk.

Save With a DIY Home Energy Audit

WHETHER YOUR HOME IS OLD OR NEW, it's likely that you're spending more on energy than necessary.

You can conduct a baseline energy audit of your home to identify where you are losing energy (and money). Use a checklist and take notes on problems you find as you walk through your home. Here are some ways to get started:

Insulation and air leaks/drafts: Improving your home's insulation and sealing air leaks are the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Is there sufficient insulation in the attic? Are the openings that contain piping, ductwork and the chimney sealed? Are there changes in temperature where walls meet ceilings or floors, or around windows and outlets?

Electronic devices: Take an inventory of the electronic devices you have and how often you use them. Computers, printers, DVD players, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users; they drain energy even when not in use. If items can be turned off without requiring a lengthy reboot, plug them into a power strip that can be turned off.

Lighting: Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs or light-emitting diodes. Install motion-sensor lights in any low-use area such as a closet, porch or garage. Consider replacing night-lights with LEDs.

Thermostat/indoor temperature: Do you have a programmable thermostat? When was the last time it was programmed? Is it set so the temperature is lower during times when no one is home, and at night when people are sleeping? Consider lowering the temperature a few degrees.

Appliances, timing and maintenance: If your appliances are more than 10 years old, they are likely not as energy efficient as today's options. How and when you use them also makes a difference. Do you wash clothes in hot water, or can you use cold instead? Consider running your washer, dryer or dishwasher at night, during off-peak times. Does your water heater have a blanket? If not, consider insulating it. Make sure the dryer vent isn't blocked; this will save energy and also could prevent a fire.

Evaluation: Once you have completed the audit, take a look at your findings. Prioritize actions you can take based on your time and budget, weighing where you can get the most impact for your investment.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

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

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Clint Gardner

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CALL US AT

(325) 625-2128 local

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

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colemanelectric.org

Power Tip

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.