

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Co-ops work continually to improve members' quality of life



MESSAGE FROM CEO/GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

DRAMATIC CHANGES ARE TRANSFORMING ALL ASPECTS OF THE energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smartphone apps and smart home technology is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There's no denying that electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends and evolving preferences.

Luckily, Coleman County Electric Cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these challenges because we are a member-owned co-op.

Co-ops Are Community Led

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to adapt quickly to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people we serve.

Co-ops Are a Catalyst for Good

Electric co-ops such as Coleman County EC are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members with services that might otherwise be unobtainable, such as more than 80 years ago, when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible to offer service. Today, it means supporting community outreach efforts and offering multiple payment, service and communications options for our members.

Electric cooperatives were formed and exist to meet a need in the community, and they strive continually to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their member-consumers.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their communities. It is this facilitative role that is often a co-op's most valuable strength. Here in our service territory, we partner with community officials and leaders, schools, and civic and economic development entities to improve quality of life for all.

The co-op business model is unique. It's pragmatic and mission-oriented and puts people first as it has for 80 years and will continue to do. Co-ops work to be a trusted voice in their communities.

We are thankful to have earned your trust. While we're not perfect, we and other co-ops always have our members' best interests at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those who live and work in the communities we serve—now and in the future.



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Meter Tampering Can Kill

TAMPERING WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail and definitely slapped with fines of about triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion and even electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who reads or maintains it.

Plus, you're driving up electric costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force stores to inflate the price of their products to cover losses from theft.

The cooperative does not have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the authorities. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

If you're aware of a meter on our lines that you suspect has been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life.

Deadline for CCEC Scholarship Applications Is April 3

THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL graduates who will be attending a college, technical school or university as a first-year student are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from Coleman County Electric Cooperative. Applicants must reside full time within Coleman County EC's service area and must apply by April 3.



Powerful Facts

What is a power surge?

A POWER SURGE, OR TRANSIENT VOLTAGE, IS A SUDDEN AND UNWANTED INCREASE IN voltage that can damage, degrade and destroy the sensitive electronic equipment in your home or business.

Causes

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association estimates that 60%–80% of surges are created when large appliances, like air conditioners, turn on or off. The most powerful surges are caused by lightning.



Impact

A spike in voltage can be harmful to electrical devices in your home if the increase is above the device's intended operating voltage. This creates heat that can damage electrical components.

Protection

To protect your electrical equipment from power surges, install outlet surge suppressors throughout your home and a surge protector at your main circuit panel.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

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

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

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CALL US AT

(325) 625-2128 local

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

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colemanelectric.org



Time To Spring Forward

Remember to set your clock forward one hour March 8 for daylight saving time.