



## NRECA, Comanche EC to Sponsor Science Fair

Each year, the National Rural Education Association awards grants to 10 schools in the nation to help promote and encourage student participation in the science of energy or electricity.

This grant is sponsored and funded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It is open to any school whose students are served by an electric cooperative. Priddy School has been chosen as one of the recipients of the 2007-08 award and will also get a matching grant from Comanche Electric Cooperative. The grant will allow Priddy to purchase hands-on electricity or energy-science experiment kits and use the remaining money to host a science fair in the spring.

About 100 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade are expected to participate in the science fair. The

purpose of the project is to motivate the students to learn about electricity and energy and to create exciting exhibits based on their lessons. The greatest benefit of this project will be the student learning and involvement.

Cindy Hurst, the project coordinator and a teacher at Priddy School, adds that “another advantage of this proposal is the cooperation that it will promote between the school and the community. The collaboration between students, teachers, parents, community members and Comanche Electric Cooperative Association will bring positive results for our children, teaching them the value of teamwork and showing them the support that our community has for their education.”

Congratulations, Priddy ISD, on receiving this prestigious award.



## CO-OP EMPLOYEE SHORTY HATLEY RECEIVES SAFETY CERTIFICATION

Safety is a main priority here at Comanche Electric Cooperative. To provide the best safety possible for both employees and members, Comanche Electric Cooperative’s safety coordinator, Larry “Shorty” Hatley, has recently received his certification as a Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP).

Each year, workplace safety requirements grow more complex, leaving the safety professional with increased responsibility for managing work-environment issues such as disaster recovery, emergency procedures and workplace violence. The CLCP program consists of a four-part Loss Control Internship offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in cooperation with the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

To receive accreditation, Hatley was required to attend four one-week seminars, complete a 30-hour OSHA course and complete a comprehensive written project. In addition, he will be required to complete at least eight hours of continuing education in safety and loss control topics each successive year.

Congratulations, Shorty, on a job well done.



Cindy Hurst, science fair coordinator for Priddy ISD, receives a Discovery-Get Charged learning kit from Comanche Electric Cooperative representative Shirley Dukes.

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This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by Comanche EC each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).

**COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**



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*continued from page 19*

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For details, contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or at [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).



# Now Is the Time To Think Conservation

The U.S. Congress has passed a stripped-down version of the energy bill that would, by 2020, raise fuel efficiency standards for automobiles to 35 miles per gallon. The original draft included a requirement that 15 percent of all electricity be produced from renewable sources, but that was taken out under a veto threat from President Bush. As consumers of energy, we need to try and adhere to the core tenets of this plan: Conservation and Independence. Conservation of our precious natural resources and independence from foreign nations as fuel sources.

Is this bill a good one or bad one? Just as anything else, the answer is entirely dependent upon each individual and how they think and feel. But regardless of the legislation, or any future mandates, as consumers of our natural resources, we all know that we as individuals have little choice but to actively pursue conservation in our personal lives. Our natural resources are dwindling, and we cannot continue to leave it to the government to control those resources. You and I are ultimately the ones who will have to be held responsible. Fuel for our vehicles, electricity and water are the main resources at risk. There are things we can do in all these areas to conserve.

This month, we will concentrate on simple, inexpensive ways to conserve electricity in our daily lives. Most of us know that if we conserve energy, we save money on our electricity bill. The less we use, the less we buy. But it is very easy to forget to take action toward saving power. Or maybe you're just not sure where to start.

That is where we come in. Comanche Electric Cooperative is here to help you by providing you with the following easy, inexpensive fixes to help lower your bill and conserve our natural resources. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of the energy use in a typical

home. This month, we will be examining the measures that can be taken to conserve energy through our heating and cooling systems. The following are energy-saving recommendations made on the DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website.

## Heating and Cooling Tips

- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- Clean warm-air registers, base-

- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

- During the cooling season, keep the window coverings closed during the day to prevent solar gain.

- Long-Term Savings Tip: Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Your contractor should be able to give you energy fact sheets for different types, models and designs to help you



**Leave shades and curtains open during winter days to let the sun help warm your home. In the summer, keep window coverings closed during the day to prevent solar gain.**

board heaters and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.

- Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.

- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.

- Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

compare energy usage. For furnaces, look for high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings. The national minimum is 78 percent AFUE, but there are Energy Star models on the market that exceed 90 percent AFUE.

- Long-Term Savings Tip: For air conditioners, look for a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The current minimum is 13 SEER for central air conditioners. Energy Star models are 13 SEER or more.

For more energy saving information from the DOE, you can access its website at [www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips).

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