

Finding Shelter from the Storm



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER RONNIE ROBINSON

As many people living along the Gulf Coast and in East Texas who were in the path of Hurricane Ike can attest firsthand, life without electricity is difficult at best. Electricity, once considered a luxury for wealthy urbanites, is an integral part of modern society.

These days, we are so dependent on electricity in almost every aspect of life that an outage leaves businesses hobbled, traffic snarled and families not only in the dark, but also at the mercy of the elements.

Electric cooperatives like Comanche Electric know how much communities depend on their power lifeline. That's why co-op crews, with the help of workers from across Texas and other states, leapt into action in September to help restore electricity to members left powerless by Hurricane Ike, which left one co-op completely without power and nine others with outages over parts of their systems.

Hard work and smart planning by those co-ops paid off, and less than two weeks later, the lights were back on for all but a few individual members. Some customers of investor-owned utilities, on the other hand, endured blackouts that stretched into October.

The co-ops' quick turnaround not only is a credit to hard-working linemen and others, but it also demonstrates one of the advantages of electric cooperatives, which follow the principle of Cooperation Among

Cooperatives. If disaster strikes, co-ops are there for one another just like a good neighbor would be.

Co-ops are also banding together to respond to another storm. This one is not one of Mother Nature's design, but a brewing one that could knock out our supply of reliable and affordable electricity.

Consider this: Few new generation plants are being built; demand for power, along with prices for fuel and materials, is rising; and uncertainty is growing about what pending rules to regulate so-called "greenhouse gas" emissions will mean for power producers. Although technology that makes renewable energy more cost-effective is being developed, wind and solar are still energy sources with only limited applications.

These factors combined put the long-term future of affordable power in question.

This is where you can help your cooperative and yourself. Contact the politicians making decisions that will affect your future and let them know how important it is that they keep you in mind when crafting energy policies.

We make it easy for you to do so with the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. Just go to WWW.CECA.COOP and click on the "Our Energy, Our Future" button or contact Comanche Electric Cooperative for help in starting a dialogue with your elected leaders and let them know your concerns. If you don't know which questions to ask to get the conversation started, the campaign offers some suggestions.

Comanche Electric Cooperative knows how important electricity is to our members. That's why when disaster strikes, we will work until the lights are back on. And that's also why we will continue to push for responsible growth in the electric system—so you won't be left in the dark.

GOING GREEN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

While the holiday season brings great joy, it can also be expensive. Shopping, entertaining, big meals and decorating can take a toll on our pocketbooks and the environment. Here are some tips to help make this holiday season a little bit greener for you and your family.

- Remember to turn holiday lights off before you go to bed or put them on a timer.

- Make your own wrapping paper and gift bags. Give new life to brown paper bags by decorating them with last year's Christmas cards. Or use the cards to make "to" and "from" tags.

- Use strings of LED lights, which look the same as conventional incandescent bulbs but last longer and use 80 to 90 percent less energy.

- Use shredded scrap paper for packing material for fragile gifts.

- It's hard to let go of the tradition of mailing holiday cards, but a personalized e-card lets you stay in touch while saving trees, gas and money.

- Use your microwave oven whenever possible; it cuts cooking time and saves energy.

- Instead of buying something new, think about recycling things that have value to the recipient. Compile a book of favorite recipes to share or create a box of dress-up clothes (from thrift stores and garage sales) for young kids on your list.

- Use metal flatware and real glasses and dishes rather than disposable options. They look better, your guests will appreciate it, and you're not creating any waste in the landfill.

- And, when the holidays are done, recycle your Christmas tree. Instead of tossing it out for the garbage service to take, find out where you can have it chipped up for mulch or compost. Or, you can purchase a living tree that can be planted outside after the holidays are over.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Is Your Home Bundled Up for Winter?

Proper Insulation Is Key to Efficiency

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs—and improve comfort—involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat-flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated areas and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your



Insulation with a high R-value provides more efficient performance.

heating system. Proper insulation decreases heat loss.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the

insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of multilayered insulation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

The effectiveness of insulation also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insu-

lation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

It's Time To Help Those in Need

It is that time of year again when our thoughts turn to our families and what we can do for them in the form of Christmas gifts, along with that all-time favorite: eating that wonderful and extravagant Christmas dinner. But it also brings to mind those less fortunate and has us wondering what we can do to make the day a little brighter for them.

Once again, Comanche Electric Cooperative will have a Christmas tree decorating the lobby of each of our offices. Under this tree will be placed toys, clothing, blankets, canned goods

and any other item you can think of that might make this a more enjoyable holiday for less fortunate families.

Comanche Electric Cooperative has three offices: one in Comanche, one in Early and one in Eastland. Anyone willing to make a donation to this worthwhile cause is invited to drop off items at any one of these offices. We realize that many of you live in communities where a trip to our offices is not convenient. If that is the case, you may also drop your items off at any Chamber of Commerce office in these towns: Cisco,

Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Gorman and at the Rising Star City Hall. All donations will be disbursed in the city where they are donated, keeping your gift in the community. Items dropped off at any of the Comanche Electric Cooperative offices will be matched by cooperative employees, staff and board members.

Comanche Electric Cooperative employees, staff and board members thank you in advance for your donation and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Government-in-Action

Youth Tour

June 11-18

Win a Trip to Washington, D.C.!

Students whose parents or guardians are members of Comanche Electric Co-op may enter the essay contest. Students must have begun their sophomore, junior or senior year in the fall of 2008 to qualify.



**2008 Comanche EC Youth Tour Winners
Lauren Svoboda and Lupe Esquivel**

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 31

**Essay Contest Topic:
“How Climate Change Legislation
Affects the Electric Industry”**

For additional information, contest rules and applications, contact:

Comanche Electric Cooperative

Attn: Shirley Dukes

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Comanche, TX 76442

Phone: 1-800-915-2533

E-mail: sdukes@ceca.coop





Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Hamilton Wright Mabie

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the directors and employees of
Comanche Electric Cooperative

Dora Ballard
Greg Beaty
Kay Branham
George Campbell
Aaron Carroll
Brenda Carroll
Guy Clawson
Jill Cleere
Adam Constancio
Brandon Cook
Jimmy Cuellar
Kellie Deters
Shirley Dukes
Doug Erwin
Tiffany Evans
Rachel Ford
Chad Foreman
Jennifer Hanson

Craig Hardy
Larry Hatley
Billy Henry
Josh Honea
Julia Hunter
Nancy Isham
Larry Jacobs
Mary Johnson
Kendall Keith
John Larkin
Alan Lesley
Jim Lester
RO Lopez
Pam Mc Clain
Larry Morgan
Chad Newman
Dale Ogle

Rose Ojeda
Tim Pallette
Tommy Patterson
Bobby Reed
Justin Riley
Ronnie Robinson
Scott Rutledge
Labin Scott
Kay Slavens
Keith Steward
Eddie Strube
Jerry Strube
Adam Tally
Kacey Terry
Shelley Thedford
Curtis Tippie
Shane Tucker
William Works



**COMANCHE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

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EASTLAND OFFICE
1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE
1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Eastland and Early offices
closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

**FIND US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CECA.COOP**

YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"
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.

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative