

Smart Solutions for Our Energy Future



**MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
RONNIE
ROBINSON**

We have new leadership in Washington, D.C., and with it, a new focus on energy policy. Barack Obama took office as the 44th president of the United States last month, and during his first months in the White House, the economic crisis will remain a major focus. But the new administration also promises increased attention to energy matters. As all of us paying electric bills every month can agree, the two go hand in hand. It is crucial that any energy policy discussed in Washington comes with a price tag that won't leave consumers in the dark.

Through the nationwide grassroots awareness campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future," co-op consumers have contacted their elected federal officials with three crucial energy policy questions focused on capacity, technology and affordability. With a new president and a new Congress, electric cooperatives will need to continue pressing for answers.

These answers won't be clear-cut.

Although demand for electricity is steadily climbing across the United States, relatively high costs for construction materials and uncertainty about climate-change goals have stalled the development of new base-load generation: the large, efficient stations that provide dependable and affordable electric power year-round.

So here's the important question: How can we keep power flowing and electric bills affordable? There's simply no single answer, and electric co-ops know from experience that it will take a variety of new generation resources and technologies, not to mention conservation efforts on the part of electricity users, to ensure reliable and affordable power in the coming years. We must invest in renewable energy, clean-coal technology, nuclear power, an updated transmission grid and improvements in energy efficiency across the board. You can help curb the growth in demand by making efficient use of electricity and conserving it when you can.

Of course, the investment in infrastructure on a large scale will require a massive investment of government resources and leadership—similar to putting a person on the moon. As consumer advocates and industry leaders, electric co-ops can provide lawmakers with expertise on what programs are affordable, sustainable and technologically feasible.

All of this must be grounded in goals and public policy that put consumers first. This is no time for policymakers to ignore our needs with a wink and a nod to special interest groups. Now, more than ever, Main Street must come before Wall Street.

You can help in this effort and make a real difference by telling members of Congress your story—why affordable electricity is important to you and your family. Tens of thousands of electric co-op members have done so already, and as a result we've sent more than 1.5 million messages to Congress, calling attention to our nation's impending electricity crisis.



**COMANCHE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

**(325) 356-2533
1-800-915-2533**

HEADQUARTERS
201 W. Wright St.
Comanche, TX 76442

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

Please visit WWW.ourenergy.coop today. Make your voice heard and help guide policymakers toward a smart, affordable energy future.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



It's Valentine's. Feeling Green?

Move over, red. Green is the new color of Valentine's Day.

Saving energy and the environment is newly romantic, and retailers are set to help you prove it this February 14.

Stores are stocking up with earth-friendly gifts. Still, it's not about what you give, but how you celebrate, that can make your Valentine's Day energy efficient.

Here are some tips for an energy-conscious lovefest:

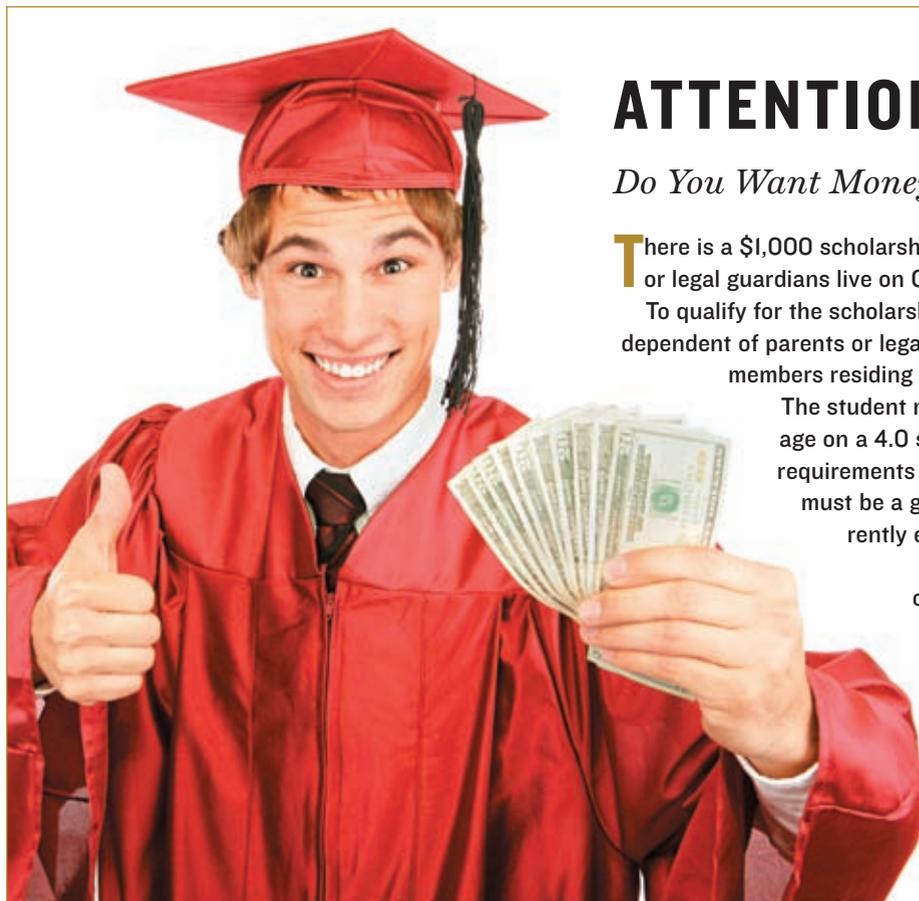
- Save on gasoline and reduce emis-

sions by staying home and cooking a meal for your sweetie on Valentine's Day.

- To save electricity and time, prepare your romantic dinner in a Crock-Pot. A slow-cooked meal makes a warm and delicious Valentine's treat, and the smaller appliance uses less energy than an oven.
- Experiment with dishes you can cook in the microwave or toaster oven.
- If you opt to use the stovetop, choose pans to fit the burners, keep the lids on and turn the burners off

shortly before the food is finished cooking.

- Dim the lights and eat by candlelight. A light that's dimmed by 75 percent will use about 20 percent less energy than one burning at full brightness. And it will last about four times longer.
- Give sustainable gifts, such as greeting cards printed on recycled paper or long-lasting potted plants rather than fresh-cut flowers. Also consider giving organic gifts.



ATTENTION, STUDENTS!

Do You Want Money for College?

There is a \$1,000 scholarship available to students whose parents or legal guardians live on Comanche Electric Cooperative lines.

To qualify for the scholarship, the student must be claimed as a dependent of parents or legal guardians who are active CECA members residing within the cooperative's service area.

The student must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and must meet general entrance requirements at an accredited school. The applicant must be a graduating senior or a student currently enrolled in a college or university.

This year's essay topic is "The Future of Renewable Resources." **The deadline for entries is March 20, 2009.**

Applications and guidelines can be found on our website at www.ceca.coop. Click on the "Programs" category and then click on "Scholarship." Or call our office at 1-800-915-2533.

Special Savings Just for You!

USE YOUR NEW CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD AT THESE LOCAL MERCHANTS AND FIND MORE GREAT LOCAL AND NATIONAL DEALS, JUST FOR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARDHOLDERS, AT WWW.CECA.COOP



LINDA BINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC ART. 1102 E. Milton, Comanche, (325) 356-2849; Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; www.lindabinghamphotography.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on art; 10% discount on session fee.

CJ'S DINER. 135 W. Grand Ave., Comanche, (325) 356-5330; Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-9 p.m. **Offer:** 10% off on Monday and Wednesday from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

CARSTENS MOTOR CO, INC 601 W. Walker, Breckenridge, (254) 559-2266; Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-noon; e-mail: wes_king@att.net. **Offer:** \$250 additional discount on any new/used vehicle purchase.

COOL CLEAR WATER LLC. 900 Conrad Hilton, Cisco; (254) 442-3131; Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-noon; e-mail: h2ocisco@yahoo.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on any bottle and/or crock.

DOLLINS PECAN COMPANY, INC. DBA DURHAM PECAN COMPANY. 111 N. Houston, Comanche; 7200 Hwy. 377, Comanche; 804 Fisher, Goldthwaite; 6964 Green Oaks Road, Fort Worth; (325) 356-5291; Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; www.durhams.com; e-mail: sales@durhams.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on all retail purchases.

EASTLAND COUNTY NEWSPAPERS. *Eastland Telegram, Cisco Press, Ranger Times, The Rising Star* and the *Baird Star*. **Offer:** Half price on new local (in-county) subscriptions to any of the Eastland County Newspaper publications.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS WINDOW CLEANING. Comanche, (325) 356-3480; Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; e-mail: lindabinghamphotography@gmail.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on residential window cleaning or power washing.

FRAMES AND THINGS INC. 408 Center Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-8811; Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; www.framesandthingsbrownwoodtx.com; e-mail: framesandthingsbrownwood2@verizon.net. **Offer:** 10% discount on custom framing. Not valid with another discount offer.

FRANKLIN INC. Brownwood. **Offer:** 5 percent off total purchase of Coastal hay, round or

square bales.

H&H HANDCRAFTS. 407 E. Duncan Ave., Comanche, (325) 356-3616; Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; e-mail: rhawkins7@verizon.net. **Offer:** 20% discount on all furniture; 15% discount on all yard art and custom orders.

HARDINS BBQ. 3300 E. I-20, Eastland, (254) 629-1227; Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. **Offer:** Buy any plate, get 50% discount on 2nd.

HENDRICK MEDICAL SUPPLY. 969 E. Main, Eastland; (254) 629-8338, 1-800-588-8338; Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closed noon-1); e-mail: tslavens@ehedrick.org. **Offer:** 15% discount on all retail purchases.

JACK 'N JILL DONUTS. 1007 E. Central, Comanche, (325) 356-5376; Monday-Saturday 5 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Offer:** 2 free glazed doughnuts with purchase of large drink.

LEMONS' BAR B Q. 3702 Coggin Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-9655; Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. **Offer:** 10% discount on any dine-in ticket. Not valid with any other specials.

LONE STAR SCREEN PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY. 413B Early Blvd., Early, (325) 646-8244 or 1-877-894-2972; Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; www.lonestarscreenprinting.com; e-mail: kim@lonestarscreenprinting.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on regular priced orders of screen printing or embroidery.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG. 1604 Fisk, Brownwood, (325) 646-6131; Thursday-Saturday noon-5 p.m. **Offer:** 10% off entire purchase

SEAL TITE INSULATION. Comanche. **Offer:** 5 percent off gross total of job.

SILVER SENSATIONS BY BEVERLY. Heartland Mall, Early, (325) 647-2468; Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.; e-mail: bkr6000@aol.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on custom-designed jewelry. (At Heartland Mall location only. Does not include fashion jewelry, purses or gifts.)

SPRING CREST CARPET AND DRAPERY CENTER. 609 S. Main St., Brownwood, (325) 646-6793; Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat-

urdays by appointment only; e-mail: troybruce@netzero.net. **Offer:** Free installation on five or more blinds OR 10% discount on whole house of installed carpet.

SWEET STUFF AND COFFEE. 100 E. Williams St., Breckenridge, (254) 559-7050 or 1-888-527-9338; Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sundays; www.sweetstuffcandy.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on all purchases over \$25.

THE TURTLE RESTAURANT. 514 Center Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-8200; Lunch: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Brunch: Saturday-Sunday 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner: Tuesday-Thursday 5 p.m.-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; www.theturtlerestaurant.com; e-mail: service@theturtlerestaurant.com. **Offer:** 10% discount on lunch Tuesday-Friday, 10% discount on dinner entrée Tuesday-Thursday, with the exception of holidays.

UNDERWOOD'S BAR-B-Q. 404 W. Commerce, Brownwood; (325) 646-1776; Thursday-Tuesday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (Closed Wednesday); www.underwoodsbbq.com. **Offer:** \$2 off any purchase of \$15 or more. Dine-in only.

WISHES. 203 W. Walker, Breckenridge, (254) 559-9700; Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; e-mail: wishesgifts@yahoo.com. **Offer:** Free gift with purchase

SPECIAL PHARMACY DISCOUNTS ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

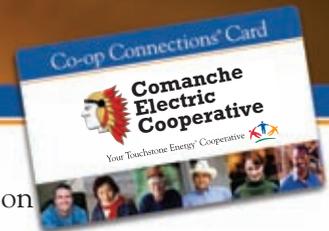
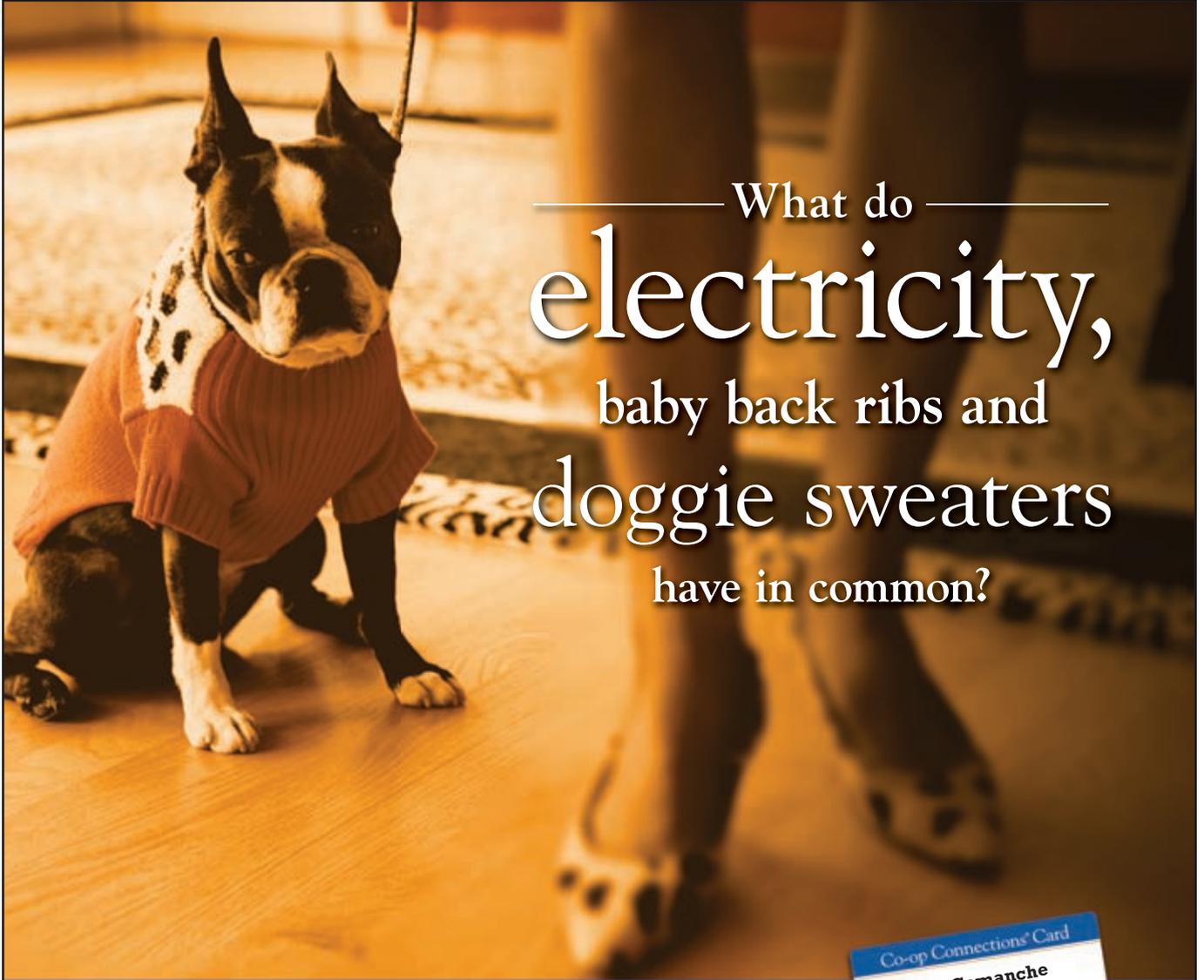
- The Co-op Connections card is accepted at over 48,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more.
- To find the lowest prices in your area for your prescription drugs: www.rxpricequotes.com.
- To find pharmacies in the area that honor your member card: www.locateproviders.com.

Want to Grow Your Business?

SIGN UP TO OFFER DISCOUNTS TO CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARDHOLDERS LOCALLY AND NATIONWIDE

- Contact Shirley Dukes, Comanche EC, PO Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442; (325) 356-2533.

What do
electricity,
baby back ribs and
doggie sweaters
have in common?



Your Co-op Connections® Card. Because this card can save you money on great things like family dinners, a night of entertainment, delicious baby back ribs and the epitome of canine couture, the doggie sweater. Just take your card with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. And we're always looking out for you. To learn more, visit www.ceca.coop.

Comanche Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking out for you.