

# Cost of Service Study



**MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER RONNIE ROBINSON**

We are in the process of conducting a Cost of Service Study. Our rates have not been adjusted since 2001. With the evolving production and transmission issues being discussed in Congress, construction cost increases, the economic recession, and an industry moving toward conservation and energy efficiency, it is essential that our rates are competitive and reflective of bankers' requirements and meet our needs going forward. The price we pay for products, fuel, insurance, equipment, etc., have all increased during this eight-year period.

Below, I have summarized how the monies collected from our membership in 2008 are accounted for.

We are nonprofit; therefore, only what is necessary to meet our expense requirements is included in the Cost

of Service Study. Only the 15.6 percent variable cost and 2 percent margin are included in the study. These amounts represent the monies that are used to operate and maintain the day-to-day activities of Comanche Electric Cooperative. The 82.4 percent of your bill for fixed costs will only change if the cost of power we purchase on your behalf changes and is not included in the study.

The money you pay for power is collected and paid dollar for dollar to our power supplier, Brazos Electric Cooperative. We remain one of the lowest-cost power providers in the seven-county area we serve, and our reliability factor is over 99 percent.

The Cost of Service Study being conducted by our rate consultant, C.H. Guernsey, is designed to determine what rates are necessary by classification to meet our bankers' requirements and the objectives of our board of directors.

As soon as we have the details of the Cost of Service Study, we will begin the process of determining whether a change in rate is necessary. If an adjustment to rates is necessary, you will be informed as soon as possible.



**COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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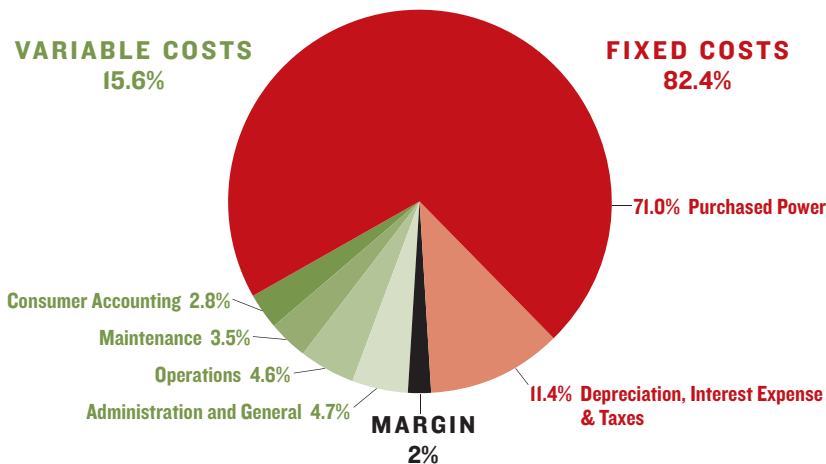
**YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"**  
 This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by Comanche EC each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or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

**COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2008 EXPENSES



AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Why We Encourage Energy Conservation

You may wonder why we encourage you to use your electricity more effectively through energy conservation. After all, we're in the business of selling kilowatt-hours. Why would we encourage our customers to use less electricity?

Your cooperative isn't in business to make a profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. Each co-op is collectively owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's good common sense. Although fossil

combined with others', can ensure that the cooperative's growth remains stable.

Here at Comanche Electric Cooperative, we are trying to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability and service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity. The cost of fuels such as natural gas and coal are increasing steadily, and many factors affect those prices. Do we need to conserve electricity? Of course. Will that alone solve the energy crunch? Absolutely not. Conservation of

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fuels are still relatively abundant, they are a fixed quantity. Depleting these natural resources means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy saves you money in two ways: (1) Your lowered usage saves on your monthly electric bill; and (2) When many consumers lower their usage, it saves your cooperative money as well. Electric co-ops must keep enough power (capacity) on hand to supply all members' highest usage (demand). If that demand can be managed effectively, new power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they would otherwise, and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed. As our electric system continues to grow, we must maintain an adequate supply of power; your conservation efforts, when

electricity is just one avenue for managing energy costs. We must all conserve energy in other ways.

Does this mean we should all get rid of our SUVs? Not necessarily, but we can save fuel by avoiding unnecessary trips, combining errands and sharing rides to work.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on Comanche Electric Cooperative to continue looking out for you. Just remember that we all need to conserve energy of all types—from gasoline to natural gas to propane. Many types of fuel make up our nation's energy picture and affect our pocketbooks. You can help us keep costs affordable by looking for ways to conserve all types of energy, not just electricity.

# Thanks! You Guys Are Great!



# COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Congratulations to all youths who participated in the 2009 County Stock Shows. It takes a special commitment and dedication of time and effort on the part of these young people to groom these animals and prepare them for show. We are proud of all of you. You are all winners in our eyes!



# S.O.S. Program Draws Record Participation

A record number of area students attended the John Ben Shepperd System of Service (S.O.S.) Program for the 2008-09 school year. The S.O.S. Program is a joint effort between Comanche Electric Cooperative and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The purpose of the forum is to draw on the experience of current Texas leaders in order to develop leaders of the future.

John Ben Shepperd, namesake of the Shepperd Public Leadership Institute, devoted countless hours and energy to the people of Texas during his 50-year career as a public servant and private citizen. He served as secretary of state and as Texas attorney general. Over the course of his lifetime, he received numerous honors and awards, yet he emphasized that the awards were not the goal; service to one's community, state and country were what mattered. His legacy of public service continues through the Shepperd Leadership Institute's programs and the lives of individuals who have been influenced by his ethics, morals, values and his truly effective style of leadership.



In September, Comanche Electric Cooperative sent out invitations to all 25 schools within our service district to send their top 10 leaders from their junior class. Thirteen schools responded, sending a record-breaking number of 94 students to the one-day leadership training. Students from these schools attended: Albany, Baird,

Bangs, Comanche, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Gorman, Gustine, Mullin, Ranger, Sidney and Zephyr.

The program model teaches practical information and skills to students with leadership potential. It is interactive, entertaining and educational. The experiences, skills and techniques of successful business, political and civic leaders are combined with the ambition and idealism of students for a sound System of Service. Students with diverse backgrounds are not only introduced to current and future leaders, but also are given a networking opportunity with students of similar backgrounds.

Students began the day by getting to know one another, followed by exercises designed to help them develop creative solutions to problems. During the morning session, they were encouraged to "think differently" to develop unique and workable solutions to problems presented to them. Through a series of exercises developed by UTPB and led by local community leaders, the students had the opportunity to brainstorm individually and as a team to develop workable solutions to problems presented to them. They learned leadership, problem-solving, ethics and how to effectively communicate and listen.

After lunch, the students were grouped back with their respective schools to develop a plan of action for



their individual school or community. The projects they came up with were worthy and "doable" projects. The attending schools and their community action projects are:

**ALBANY:** "Project Stop": To clean graffiti off the street signs and trim tree limbs back so signs can be read. The goal is to improve the safety and eye appeal of their community with the hopes that it will instill pride in the citizens and encourage more of the same.

**BAIRD:** "Project Holiday": To promote safe driving during the holidays by educating the community about the dangers of drinking and driving.

**BANGS:** "Project Welcome": To develop a new "Welcome To Bangs" sign on the outskirts of town and place it where it can be seen as visitors enter the town.

**COMANCHE:** "Project Code Green": To landscape the Texas planters at the entrance of the city park. Funds will be raised by recycling soft drink cans at the school. The tabs from the cans will be removed and sent to the cancer society to provide cancer treatments to those who cannot afford them.

**DELEON:** "Project Clean-Up": To clean up areas of the community and



reward the workers with a luncheon.

**EARLY:** "Project Youth": To mentor younger students on the dangers of drug abuse and encourage them to say "no."

**EASTLAND:** "Project Ladder": To assist in raising additional funds for the Eastland Volunteer Fire Department to procure a much-needed ladder truck for the community.

**GORMAN:** "Project Park": To repair and clean up the city park to make it more enjoyable for local children as well as to improve the outlook of the community.

**GUSTINE:** "Project Angel Tree": To assist Santa's Helpers by using an Angel Tree; also, possibly donate a bench to the downtown pavilion and/or donate soccer goals to the community center by having a fundraiser later.

**MULLIN:** "Project Archway": To construct an arched entryway to the school. The entry is currently hard to

see, and visitors frequently pass by and must look for the school.

**RANGER:** "Project 'Scared Straight' ": A program put on by the students and for the students to discourage drug and alcohol abuse.

**SIDNEY:** "Project Awareness": To produce a drug-awareness program for the school and community by having influential people speak to the assembly, as well as having the Comanche Police Department on hand to pass out drug-awareness materials.

**ZEPHYR:** "Project School Pride": To improve the appearance of the school by cleaning up the grounds, painting walls and repairing lockers.

Comanche Electric Cooperative is proud of these students and the projects they have chosen. We look forward to seeing the finished projects and encourage our membership to compliment the school officials in

these communities for their willingness to promote leadership and community involvement by sending their students to the S.O.S. Program. Look for great things to happen in these schools, and don't forget to give credit to the students when they have accomplished their goals.



## Farm Safety Around Power Lines

Every year, an average of 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States. You don't want to be one of them.

Imagine that you are driving a piece of farm equipment to the field through a back gate when things come to a screeching halt. You look back to see what's stopping you only to discover that you're tangled in an overhead power line! What do you do?

First, here's what you DON'T do: Don't climb out. Unless you're in immediate danger, stay where you are and call for help.

Most utility lines are uninsulated, bare wires. Do not let your body become a direct link between the power line and the ground. If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away as you can, making sure that no part of your body touches the machine and the ground at the same time.

Once you're off the machine, do not go back until your local electric co-op disconnects the power line.

