

How To Contact Your Elected Representatives



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER RONNIE ROBINSON

For the past several months, Comanche Electric Cooperative

has been encouraging you to contact your elected officials, urging them to work with electric cooperatives to meet both federal public-policy goals and your need for affordable, reliable electricity. It recently has been brought to my attention that some of our members may not know how to contact their elected officials. Therefore, we are providing the following listing of representatives and senators, along with their contact infor-

mation. We urge you to write them and voice your opinion. You may also contact representatives through the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. Ask the tough questions and begin a dialogue with your legislators by logging onto the website at **WWW.ourenergy.coop**.

As always, Comanche Electric Cooperative strives to keep your rates as low as possible while providing the best service.

U.S. SENATORS

JOHN CORNYN

Chase Tower
 221 West Sixth St.
 Suite 1530
 Austin, TX 78701
 (512) 469-6034
 (512) 469-6020 Fax

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

500 Chestnut St.
 Suite 1570
 Abilene, TX 79602
 (325) 676-2839
 (325) 676-2937 Fax

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Brown, Comanche and Mills counties:

MIKE CONAWAY
 Brownwood City Hall
 501 Center Ave.
 Brownwood, TX 76801
 (325) 646-1950
 (325) 646-2979 Fax

Callahan, Eastland, Shackelford and Stephens counties:

RANDY NEUGEBAUER
 500 Chestnut St.
 Suite 819
 Abilene, TX 79602
 (325) 675-9779
 (325) 675-5038

TEXAS SENATORS

Shackelford and Stephens counties:

CRAIG ESTES
 2716 Commerce St.
 Suite 101
 Wichita Falls, TX 76301
 (940) 689-0191
 (940) 689-0194 Fax

Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland and Mills counties:

TROY FRASER
 500 Chestnut St.
 Suite 810
 Abilene, TX 79602
 (325) 676-7404
 (325) 676-8060 Fax

TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES

Callahan County:

HARVEY HILDERBRAN
 125 Lehmann Drive
 Kerrville, TX 78028
 (830) 257-2333
 (830) 792-4289 Fax

Comanche and Mills counties:

SID MILLER
 6407 South U.S. Hwy. 377
 Stephenville, TX 76401
 (254) 968-3535
 (254) 968-6903 Fax

Brown, Eastland, Shackelford and Stephens counties:

JIM KEFFER
 P.O. Box 857
 Eastland, TX 76448
 1-800-586-4515
 (512) 478-8805 Fax



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AT **WWW.CECA.COOP**



TREVOR BURLESON



KYLER CARAWAY

TREVOR BURLESON AND KYLER CARAWAY WIN YOUTH TOUR CONTEST

Trevor Burleson and Kyler Caraway have been chosen as the recipients of Comanche Electric Cooperative's all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. These two students will join approximately 1,500 other students from electric cooperatives across the nation as they tour our nation's capital.

In order to qualify for the trip, the student must attend one of the 25 schools within Comanche Electric Cooperative's service area and must be a sophomore, junior or senior. This year's participants were first required to write an essay on the topic, "How Climate-Change Legislation Affects the Electric Industry." The writers of the top 10 essays were invited to present their essay in the form of a speech in front of a panel of judges. The top two participants from the speech contest were then chosen to represent Comanche Electric Cooperative in Washington for the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Trevor is an Early High School junior and is the son of Angela and William Burleson. "I'm so fortunate to have received this amazing opportunity," he said. "I look forward to seeing our nation's capital and learning more about the history and culture of our great country."

Kyler is a De Leon sophomore and is

the daughter of Kyle and Jennifer Caraway. "I am ecstatic about having won this opportunity. I know the Youth Tour will be a great learning experience, and I am looking forward to it," she said.

Trevor and Kyler will arrive in Irving on June 11. There they will meet with approximately 100 other students from Texas. They will depart Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and arrive in Washington, D.C., on June 12. While there, students will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They will participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate and explore the sights around Washington, D.C. A few of the many sites the students will see are: the National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, Union Station, the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Institution museums. They will also be afforded downtime to shop, dance and go on a boat cruise.

Congratulations to Trevor and Kyler. We look forward to hearing about your trip when you return!

To read Trevor and Kyler's winning essays, log onto our website at www.ceca.coop.



**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



Meghan Flanagan and Mariza Gutierrez (front row) led this group of students and administrators in Gustine's first-ever 'Project Angel Tree.'

SANTA'S ANGELS

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

There are people in Gustine who still believe in angels—and in Santa Claus. And don't try and convince them otherwise because it probably won't work. They've seen them firsthand. Well, maybe not the angels or Santa Claus, but the works of both.

It all began in November, when two students, Meghan Flanagan and Mariza Gutierrez, and teacher Laura Hamilton from Gustine High School, attended the System of Service Leadership Forum hosted by Comanche Electric Cooperative. At the forum, the students were challenged to formulate a community service action plan. With Christmas just around the corner, the thoughts and hearts of this small team immediately turned to those who were struggling to make ends meet in an economy that had been steadily spiraling downward. Their plan? "Project Angel Tree," which provides aid to families who need assistance providing Christmas gifts for their children.

One of the goals of the leadership forum is to teach students to not only follow through with a plan, but also to be leaders of others as well. Meghan and Mariza apparently paid close attention and learned their lesson well. They recruited other students, teachers and administrators, as well as local businesses, to help with the project. The stu-

dents placed a Christmas tree in their school's lobby and decorated it with ornaments they created which contained information needed to purchase the required gifts.

The students then advertised the project by distributing fliers to each classroom and to local businesses. Within a two- to three-week period, all decorations had been removed, and each student had been sponsored. Meghan and Mariza developed a gift collection process and set a gift-wrapping day. On the appointed day, students and administrators gathered for a day of wrapping, bagging and tagging gifts and preparing them for delivery.

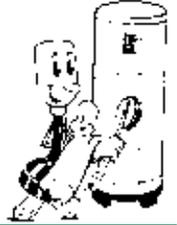
In order to keep student identity and information confidential, administrators developed the list of students and gained permission from parents wanting to participate in the program for their children. They then continued that confidentiality by having administrators deliver the gifts to the appropriate families.

Congratulations to these students for taking the initiative to follow through on a very worthwhile and heartfelt project. In order to raise caring youth, there must be good examples set, both at home and within the community. Congratulations also to the families and citizens of this small town for being that example.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Investments in Efficiency Deliver Strong Returns

By Megan McKoy

In today's troubled economic climate, people are searching for places to sock away money that offer the promise of a healthy return. While no one can predict when, or if, the stock market will fully recover, crunching a few numbers does show one safe investment alternative: energy efficiency.

Even in good financial times, the annual Wall Street return on stocks averages 14 percent, followed by 4.2 percent for 30-year bonds. In comparison, incorporating 10 home-efficiency measures carries a 16 percent rate of return, according to the U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver program. For the typical American, that translates to a savings of more than \$500 annually.

The first two energy-efficiency

areas to invest in—those with the highest rates of return—are lighting and sealing ducts. Upgrading to compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and fixtures in a typical home costs about \$200, but with an annual savings of \$80, the initial investment pays for itself in 2.5 years with a 41 percent rate of return. Proper duct sealing, which can cost up to \$250, pays for itself in 2.6 years and matches lighting's high rate of return.

Your next purchase should be an Energy Star front-loading clothes washer. Even though one costs an average of \$194 more than a non-efficient model, you reap a 37 percent rate of return—allowing you to recoup the extra expense in less than three years.

A programmable thermostat provides another boost to your bottom

line. With a 30 percent return, it pays for itself through energy savings in 3.7 years.

A water heater tank wrap with an R-12 insulation rating should be your next step; the initial cost of \$85 saves you \$23 every year, offering a 28 percent return on your investment. An Energy Star refrigerator, heat pump and dishwasher follow with rates of return ranging from 18 to 27 percent. Finally, adequate air sealing and increasing wall and attic insulation offer between an 8 and 9 percent return.

To find out how you can start investing in your home's efficiency, visit Home Energy Saver at <http://hes.lbl.gov>. You can learn about local promotions for Energy Star appliances—and save even more—by using the rebate finder at www.energystar.gov.

Lighten Your Cooking Load

You'll lighten the load on your electric bill if you conserve energy while cooking. Here are several quick and easy steps you can take to reduce energy use when cooking:

- Leave the oven and burners off when not in use.
- Cook oven items simultaneously when possible.
- Leave the oven door closed as much as possible while cooking.
- Use self-cleaning features after you cook—when the oven is already hot.

- Thaw frozen foods before cooking.
- Foods cooked in pots and pans with tight-fitting lids cook faster, using less energy.
 - Double your recipe—and freeze half for later.
 - Match the pan size to the burner.
 - Cook with less water—you'll save energy and keep nutrients in food.
 - Once water reaches a boil, lower the burner setting.
 - Don't preheat the oven any sooner than necessary.

- When possible, preheat food in a microwave—then finish in a conventional oven.
 - Dust off the Crock-Pot. Slow cooking in a Crock-Pot uses a lot less energy than simmering on the stove.
 - Keep the reflector pans under your range-top heating elements bright and clean.
 - Don't line your oven with aluminum foil. It can reduce your oven's efficiency by interfering with heat circulation.

Spring Has Sprung

Warmer Weather Ushers in Storm Season

Spring storms in Texas often pack a wicked punch and can leave your house without electricity. Are you prepared?

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Keep this number—1-800-915-2533—handy. It is Comanche Electric Cooperative’s outage number. If the lights go off during a storm, or anytime, call us to report the outage.
- If you have a special medical condition that requires electrically powered equipment, it is essential that you inform your cooperative so we can add you to our registry. We will make every effort to restore your power quickly.
- Remember, if you have cordless telephones, they will not work without power. Have at least one phone that does not require electricity so you can call for help.
- Turn off all electrical appliances

except a porch light. That way, when the power is restored, a power surge won’t trip your breakers or damage your items. The porch light is an easy signal for co-op linemen that your power is back on.

- Use caution if using candles or lanterns for light. You don’t want to start a fire. Your best bet is to have a flashlight or electric lamp and a supply of fresh batteries handy.
- If you have a portable generator and feel the need to use it, please be careful. Only use the generator outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Never hook the generator directly to your home’s wiring. Doing so could cause a “backfeed” onto power lines that could injure or even kill a line worker.
- Stash away emergency supplies including a flashlight and batteries, a supply of drinking water and canned food, a battery-operated portable radio



and a first-aid kit.

- If your power goes out, do not open your refrigerator or freezer. Food in a packed freezer can remain good for at least a day without electricity if the door is not opened; refrigerated foods can last four to six hours. If there is a long outage and you are in doubt, cook food immediately or throw it away.

Things To Know Before You Plant

April 24 is Arbor Day in Texas. We at Comanche Electric Cooperative encourage you to plant a tree—or an entire grove. Trees add beauty to your yard, help clean the air and provide welcome shade in the summer.

If you decide to celebrate the day by planting a tree, make sure you keep a few things in mind:

- Think about the mature height of the tree. That sapling you are putting in the ground today will become taller and broader before you know it. Make sure its limbs, trunk or roots will not interfere with roofs or damage foundations.
- Look up before you plant. If you see electric lines overhead, think about another planting spot. Trees that grow close to power lines can lead to outages and line loss, which costs your co-op—and you by extension—money.



Remember to allow for at least 10 feet of clearance around power lines.

- Call before you dig. Don’t stick a shovel into the ground until you dial 811, the national clearinghouse for underground utility lines. Even a simple digging job such as tree planting can damage utility lines, disrupt vital services to an entire neighborhood or cause

injuries. Not to mention, if your digging damages underground utility lines, it could result in expensive fines and repair costs that you would have to bear. There is no charge for the 811 service.

- Plant deciduous trees (ones that lose their leaves in the fall) on the south and west sides of your home. That will let in the winter sunlight that helps warm your house on cold days and block the sun in the summer that can make your cooling system work overtime.
- If you have a mature tree that has grown too close to power lines, don’t try to trim it yourself. Please call us at 1-800-915-2533 and let us know. Our tree experts know how to work safely around electric lines, and they have the specialized equipment that will help keep them safe.

Co-op Connections®

AIR TEMP REFRIGERATION in Brownwood. \$20 off any heating, air conditioning, electrical or plumbing service call. (325) 643-4292.

C J'S DINER in Comanche. 10% discount on Monday and Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. (325) 356-5330.

CARSTENS MOTORS in Breckenridge. \$250 additional discount on any new/used vehicle purchase. (254) 559-2266.

COOL CLEAR WATER in Cisco. 10% discount on any bottle and/or crock. (254) 442-3131.

DOLLINS PECAN CO., INC. dba Durham Pecan Co. in Comanche. 10% discount on all retail purchases. (325) 356-5291.

EASTLAND COUNTY NEWSPAPERS. 1/2 price on new local (in county) subscriptions to the *Eastland Telegram*, *Cisco Press*, *Ranger Times*, *Rising Star* and *Baird Star*. (254) 629-1707.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS WINDOW CLEANING in Comanche. 10% discount on residential window cleaning or power washing. (325) 356-3480.

FRAMES AND THINGS in Brownwood. 10% discount on custom framing. (325) 646-8811.

FRANKLIN INC. in May. 5% discount on hay. (254) 259-3911.

FURNITURE DEPOT in Dublin. Barnwood bedroom suite (bed, dresser/mirror, chest, two night stands) only \$799.99 with card. (254) 445-2134.

H & H HANDCRAFTS in Comanche. 20% discount on furniture; 15% discount on yard art and custom orders. (325) 356-3616.

HARDINS BBQ in Eastland. Buy one plate, get 50% discount on 2nd. (254) 629-1227.

HENDRICK MEDICAL SUPPLY in Abilene. 15% discount on all retail purchases. (254) 629-8338.

JACK 'N JILL DONUTS in Comanche. 2 free glazed donuts with purchase of large drink. (325) 356-5376.

LEMONS' BAR-B-Q in Brownwood. 10% discount on any dine-in ticket. (325) 646-9655.

LINDA BINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC ART in Comanche. 10% discount on art; 10% discount on session fee. (325) 356-2849.

LONE STAR SCREEN PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY in Early. 10% discount on regular priced orders of screen printing or embroidery. (325) 646-8244.

SCREENS & MORE in De Leon. 10% discount. (254) 893-7703.

SENSATIONS BY BEVERLY in Early. 10% discount at Heartland Mall location. (325) 647-2648.

SEAL-TITE INSULATION in Comanche. 5% discount on gross total of job. (254) 879-3300, (254) 967-5891.

SPECIAL SPIRITUAL DESIGNS in Rising Star. 10% discount on all purchases. (254) 725-7235.

SPRING CREST CARPET AND DRAPERY CENTER in Brownwood. Free installation on 5 or more blinds or 10% discount on whole house of installed carpet. (325) 646-6793.

THE TURTLE RESTAURANT in Brownwood. 10% discount on lunch Tuesday-Friday; 10% discount on dinner entree Tuesday-Thursday. (325) 646-8200.

UNDERWOOD'S BAR-B-Q in Brownwood. \$2 off any purchase of \$15 or more. Dine in only. (325) 646-1776.

WISHES in Breckenridge. Free gift with purchase. (254) 559-9700.

FOR FULL DETAILS ON THESE OFFERS—AND LOTS MORE—VISIT WWW.CECA.COOP

\$2,594.46 Saved

On prescriptions by members using their Co-op Connections® Cards

From the program's launch in November 2008 through the end of January 2009, Comanche Electric Cooperative members have saved \$2,594.46 on prescriptions using their Co-op Connections Cards.

And, this valuable member benefit is absolutely free!

Want to do some price checking on your prescriptions? Visit www.rxpricequotes.com to see the discounted price from our local pharmacies.



Even if you have medical coverage, compare your coverage to the discounts. Sometimes the Co-op Connections discount is better than your medical insurance!

The pharmacy will need the group and member numbers on the back of the card to process the discount.