

Climate Theory Questions Deserve Answers



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
ALAN
LESLEY**

In many minds, the effects of human industry on the environment are unquestionable: The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, that are causing the climate to change.

This view, popularized in the film “An Inconvenient Truth” and further strengthened by a Nobel Prize-winning report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has spurred a global wave of industry regulation and tax-subsidized investment in “green” technologies.

In this country, pending regulation of CO₂—either through action by the Environmental Protection Agency or Congress—could cause the cost of energy to climb sharply.

But some recent revelations appear to have cracked the bedrock certainty of the theory that mankind is affecting the Earth’s climate.

A February 15 story in The Washington Post says flaws in the IPCC report, “ranging from typos in key dates to sloppy sourcing, are undermining confidence not only in the panel’s work but also in projections about climate change.”

That story came just a day after one in the London Daily Mail quoting scientist Phil Jones, whose “hockey stick” graph made the case that the Earth was headed toward significant warming, saying that he could not locate crucial information he used to build his theory to share with critics. In addition, the paper quoted an interview with the BBC in which Jones said there had been no “statistically significant” warming in the past 15 years.

In this country, research led by a scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, published recently in the prestigious journal *Science*, concludes that as much as a third of the warming trend observed in the 1990s was due to water vapor in the stratosphere, not greenhouse gases, as was the assumption.

Reports such as these show what a messy business is science. Conclusions are made and revised all the time. There is still a scientific consensus that human activity drives climate change. But questions about these conclusions and the data that led to them deserve examination.

The U.S. is about to make a long-term and costly commitment about our energy future based on these theories. Shouldn’t we be sure they are a close interpretation of reality?

Please share your thoughts about U.S. energy policy with the people who are making the decisions. Call or write your elected representatives. Join with almost half a million fellow co-op members in the grassroots campaign Our Energy, Our Future that is having an effect on the debate in Washington. It’s easy. Just go to **www.ourenergy.coop** to demand a policy that is fair, affordable and achievable.



ACT NOW

Our Energy, Our Future®
A Dialogue With America

to keep your electric bills affordable.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps to regulate greenhouse gases using a law never designed for that purpose.

Even the Clean Air Act author* predicts the results will be...

“...a glorious MESS.”

**U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.)*

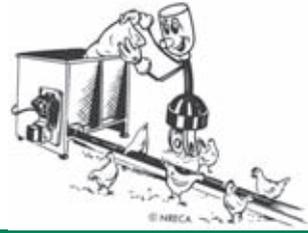
URGE your elected officials to co-sponsor legislation to prevent this from happening.

Go to **www.ourenergy.coop** to make your voice heard.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Conservation Matters



Farms Can Reap Benefits of Energy Efficiency

To get the biggest bang for their electricity dollars, more farmers are turning to energy efficiency to boost their bottom line and productivity.

Electricity on the farm powers heating, pumping, refrigeration, ventilation, lighting, fans and materials handling. In the area of motors and lighting alone, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates farmers could save \$88 million annually by implementing cutting-edge efficiency measures using available technology.

Take these steps to get the most out of your farm's energy dollar:

1. Analyze Energy Use. An analysis may reveal opportunities to reduce electricity use and could in some cases lead to increased productivity.

2. Conserve Electricity. Change behaviors such as unnecessarily leaving lights on or machines running to reduce your energy use. This step requires no additional investment.

3. Upgrade for Efficiency. Work smarter and save money by using more efficient equipment.

- Light work areas, not entire buildings, and use daylight when possible or install skylights.
- Installing dimmable ballasts can also help control light levels.

4. Maintain Your Equipment. Regular equipment maintenance is worth the effort.

- **Cleaning:** Remove dust, soot and debris from equipment to allow it to do more work with less effort, extend its life and reduce energy use.
- **Inspecting:** Equipment should be checked regularly. Replace parts that show excessive wear before they break and cause irreparable damage.
- **Plugging leaks:** Be it a pinprick hole in a hose or a drafty barn, leaks waste money, fuel and electricity. Plug

© LISA F. YOUNG / DREAMSTIME.COM



In addition to extending the useful life of farm equipment, proper maintenance can also help conserve energy.

- **Removing clutter:** Hoses should be regularly flushed to clear them of debris. Ensure fan and motor intakes and exhausts remain clutter-free for maximum circulation and efficiency.

For more regional and/or crop-specific energy-efficiency options, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service provides farm energy calculators. From animal housing operations to irrigation estimates, the calculators assess how much energy your farm currently uses and provide insights on how to cut your energy costs. Learn more at <http://energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Comanche County Farm Finds Its Path

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

— JIMMY DEAN



1



2

I love this quote. It is inspirational and can speak to a person on so many levels. But for Ty Wolosin of Windy Hill Organics, it has a double meaning. I met Ty on his farm the first day of a cold and windy March, so it didn't take long to figure out where the farm gets its name. But that is not really where the quote ties into this story. It actually ties in with Ty's educational background.

Growing up in Northern New Mexico, Ty's family and neighbors had a community garden in which they all took turns working. Ty did his share, not for the rewards of a healthy meal or a job well done, but for the allowance money he earned. Little did he know that one day the winds of change would blow his way and his little growing-up chore would be the healthy seed planted in his mind that brought him back to this windy hill in southern Comanche County.

Ty graduated from Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in geography, with an emphasis on digital mapping. But while in college, Ty developed some health issues that made him think about the choices he would have to make to maintain a healthy lifestyle. It was during this time that he adjusted his sails to reach his current destination.

"I knew I would have to change my diet and look for healthy food options if I wanted to stay healthy," Ty said.

He headed to the University of Montana to earn a master's in geography and did his thesis on the "Political Ecology of Greenhouse Agriculture in Southeast Spain." Because Spain has the largest concentration of greenhouses in the world, he moved there for six months to do research. This research was the turning point in his health and his career. He left Spain knowing he wanted to take his life in a different direction. Upon graduation from the University of Montana in 2008, Ty returned home to Texas to run the family farm.

Ty's mom and dad, James and Janice Williams, were running a ranching operation of a small herd of cattle and goats. Starting in 2009, based on Ty's knowledge of organic farming and ranching, they began the process of shifting the entire goat feed supplements to either organic or non-GMO, and the cattle herd to grass-fed and finished. The 100-acre ranch currently has five head of grass-fed and finished Red Brangus cattle; 26 head of organic or non-GMO-fed, pasture-raised Boer goats and their offspring; and 27 pasture-raised, organic-fed chickens and a rooster.

The cattle will be harvested for their beef. The goats will be harvested for meat, sent to market, or will be milked. Ty's mom is taking classes in cheese making and will be trying her hand at making goat cheese. And, of course, there will be those good ol' free-range eggs available from the chickens. Ty has recently built a portable chicken coop of which he is very proud. This coop will be moved periodically to different sites on the farm. In doing so, the chickens will serve a



dual purpose. Along with egg laying, as the chickens scratch in the dirt seeking food, they will aerate the soil and spread manure, as well as seeds, thus improving the natural order of the soil and the ability for the natural grasses to grow. They will also help to control pests by consuming bugs, worms and fly larvae.

On the gardening side of the farm, Ty has claimed a 5,000-square-foot bed for his vegetables. Some of the produce you may expect to see over the course of the season are lettuces and greens of many types, peas, beans, cut herbs, beets, onions, summer squash, winter squash, melons, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, radishes, blackberries and more.

“If you have specific questions about what we grow, do not hesitate to contact us,” Ty said.

Along with his vegetables, Ty has also begun to plant fruit trees. Among those are pear, persimmon, peach, apricot, fig, plum, olive, almond and pomegranate.

Ty’s farm is “Certified Naturally Grown” (CNG), which in layman’s terms means that his farm has been inspected and approved by other CNG farmers and is required to keep accurate records and be inspected every 16 months. To be certified and remain certified, a farm must meet rigid requirements. But it is all worth it.

According to the website Healthy Eating Made Easy (www.healthy-eating-made-easy.com), “Perhaps one of the prime advantages of organic food is that it is pure food, nothing more, nothing less. Forget E-numbers, hydrogenated fats, artificial colors, flavors, sweeteners, preservatives—none of the additives lurking in processed and fast food are permitted in organic foods. There are no residual antibiotics, growth hormones or BSE in organic meat, no pesticides in organic milk, no hidden starches bulking out organic baby food. If you want a diet based on natural food that hasn’t been tampered with—think organic.”

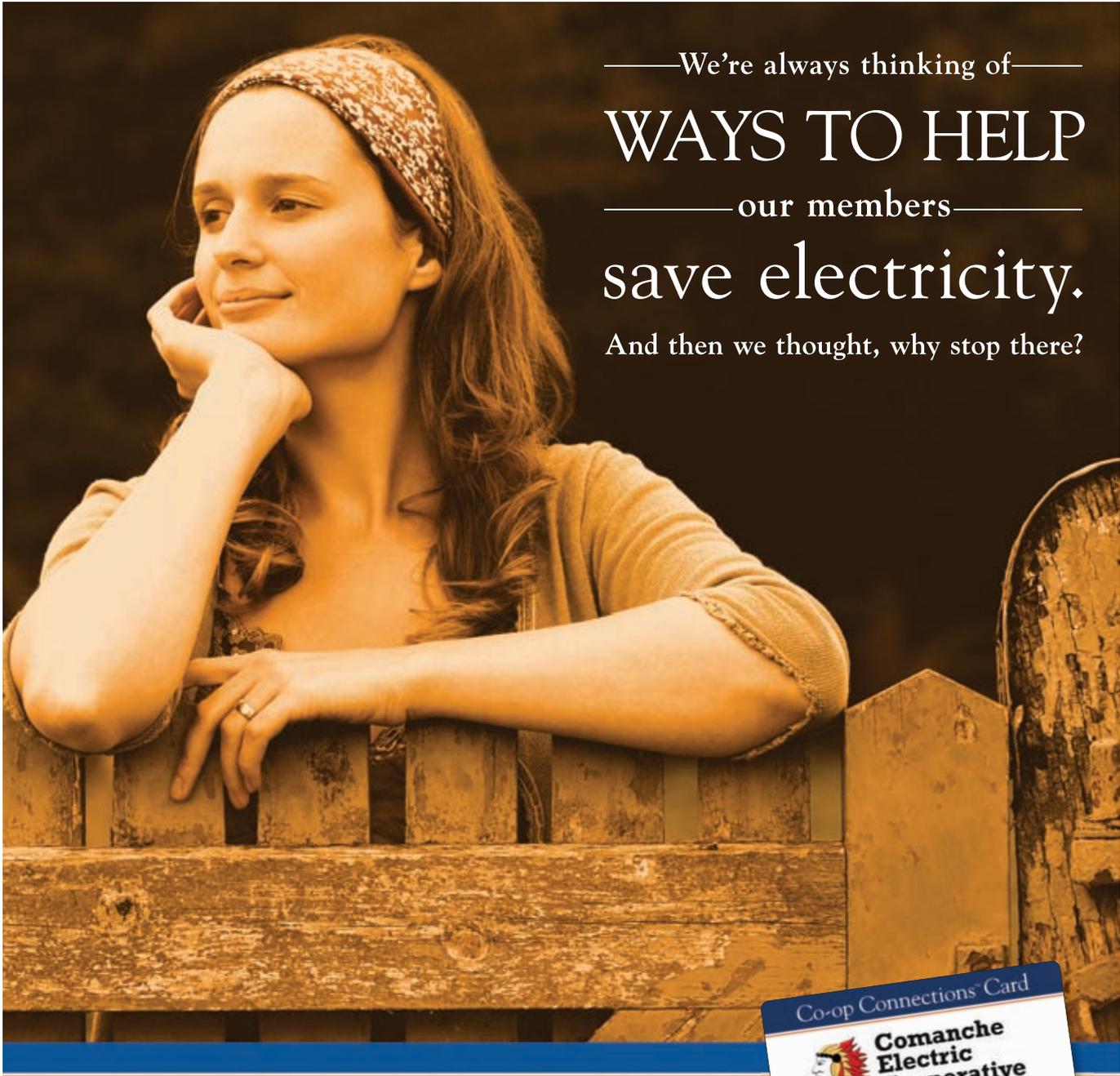
So where, you may be wondering, can I purchase this wonderfully organic fare for my kitchen table? Ty or one of his counterparts can be found on Saturdays at the Abilene Farmers Market and in Dallas at the Downtown Farmers Market. On Wednesday evenings, you may find them on the southeast side of the square at the Comanche County Courthouse. Or better yet, become a part of their 2010 CSA Program. CSA members receive weekly deliveries of farm-fresh produce.

Ty says he is not in this for the money, but for a healthier, more sustainable way of life. His hope is that through his farm, he may be able to educate and encourage others to enjoy a better quality of life through the choices they make in their personal diets. He also hopes to influence and encourage other farmers in the extended area to do the same thing.

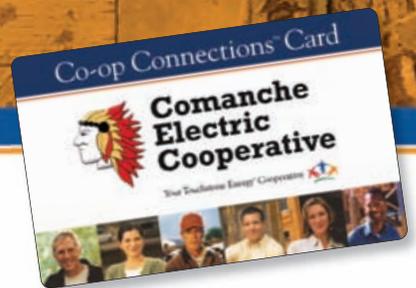
Ty offers volunteer services to those who might be interested in learning organic farming as a way of life. For information, call him at (325) 885-2676, e-mail him at tywolosin@gmail.com, or log onto his website at www.windyhillorganics.com.



1. Ty Wolosin of Windy Hill Organics.
2. A beautiful display of Windy Hill produce at the Abilene Farmers Market.
3. Squash blossoms are beautiful and edible.
4. Red and green cabbages are not only a healthy choice, but are pretty as well!
5. Eggplant helps to block the formation of free radicals and is also a source of folic acid and potassium.



—We're always thinking of—
WAYS TO HELP
—our members—
save electricity.
And then we thought, why stop there?



To help our members save money on goods and services of all kinds, we started the Co-op Connections program. Just take your Co-op Connections Card 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 Comanche Electric Cooperative, 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.

Caulk Your Windows In Eight Easy Steps

Every article about saving energy tells you that caulking around windows and doors is the simplest way to keep air from leaking into and out of your home.

That's only true, of course, if you know how to do it correctly. Here are some simple instructions for using caulk around your home to keep your expensive air-conditioned or heated air indoors where it belongs—and the outdoor weather outside.

1. Choose the caulk.

Caulk is a flexible sealer made from silicone or paintable acrylic latex that you can work into cracks and gaps around your house to fill them in and prevent air from leaking through them into or out of the building. You'll find it at the hardware store in a plastic or cardboard tube or cartridge. If you want to paint the caulk to match your window frames, buy a type that's paintable. If you want to caulk less often, silicone might be a better choice, as it's less prone to cracking. It's not paintable, but it comes in a variety of colors. You'll use about a half cartridge on a typical-sized window.

2. Use a caulking gun.

Applying caulk directly from the tube is a headache unless you're just filling in a tiny area. You can buy a caulking gun at a hardware or paint store for less than \$15.

3. Decide where you will caulk.

Any hole, gap, crack or opening on the inside or outside of your house needs caulking. The biggest gaps often are around windows and doors. Seal gaps and cracks around exterior light fixtures, outdoor taps and open-

ings for exhaust fans and places where cable and phone lines pierce the wall.

4. Prepare the surface.

Clean and dry the area you will caulk. You will apply the caulk between the window frame and the stucco or siding on the outside of your house or at the joint between the frame and the drywall indoors. Scrape away any old caulk and loose paint, and scrub off dirt from that area. Allow the surface to dry thoroughly before caulking.

5. Load your caulking gun.

Slide the tube of caulk into the caulking gun. Snip the tip off of the tube, making as small a hole as possible so you can control the amount of caulk that squeezes out of it. Secure the tube snugly into the gun.

6. Apply the caulk.

Hold the gun at a 45-degree angle and squeeze a small bead of caulk into the tiny line that separates the window frame from the stucco, brick or siding. Use your finger (you may want to wear thin rubber gloves) to carefully smooth the caulk into that tiny opening. Repeat the process until you have caulked all the way around the window frame.

7. Let it dry.

Allow the caulk to set for 24 hours before painting it to match your window frame.

8. Don't stop now.

Repeat the process on any gap or crack that exposes your home to the outdoor weather. You'll save more on your energy bill than you spent on the caulk and caulking gun.



COMANCHE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wright St.
Comanche, TX 76442
(325) 356-2533
1-800-915-2533

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 closed from 12 to 1 p.m.
Early 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.