

We Need an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

Electric cooperatives are disappointed—but not surprised—that in September the Obama administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal and natural gas plants. The trouble is that the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years, cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn't make financial sense. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

Electric cooperative consumers are banding together through the Cooperative Action Network to send the message that America needs a diverse fuel mix for electricity. Find out how your voice can be heard at action.coop.

Budget Office report, engineers estimated it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The administration's revised energy approach would limit Americans' access to a plentiful and affordable energy resource. I don't think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many of CECA's members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal has remained affordable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports that the United States has more than 200 years worth of recoverable coal reserves, and coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity—our biggest energy source by far.

It seems that the administration is ready to let history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few financially sound options in the late 1970s and early 1980s, co-ops invested heavily in coal-based generation. Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at action.coop. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.



Inspect light strings for cracks and missing bulbs. Toss out any damaged ones.

Safely Light the Holidays

Don't allow the distractions of the holiday season to compromise your family's safety this year. Follow these tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International to keep electrical decorations from ruining your holiday.

- ▶ Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers.
- ▶ Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL.
- ▶ Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.
- ▶ Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- ▶ Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- ▶ Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- ▶ Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices.
- ▶ Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

See more holiday safety tips at esfi.org.



Conservation **MATTERS**

Prepare Your Home for a Holiday Trip

So you're not going to be home for the holidays? Make sure that high winter electricity bills take a hike, too. Here are some recommendations to save energy and keep your home safe if you go away for more than a few days:

HEATING/COOLING: Set your thermostat to 50 degrees. Your home may be chilly when you return, but not cold enough to freeze pipes or damage plants. As a precaution, turn off water at the meter and drip your faucets in case of a cold snap. NEVER leave portable heaters plugged in.

WATER HEATING: There's no need to heat water if no one is home. Turn off your water heater at the breaker, or set it on the lowest temperature setting possible.

WASHER AND DRYER: Unplug these when you leave. They have been known to short out and cause fires when, because of a storm or accident, they become surrounded by water. Also, disconnect the hoses leading to the automatic washer to avoid freezing.

OTHER APPLIANCES/ELECTRONICS: Unplug them all! Many still draw power while plugged in, even if turned off. Besides, an appliance that's left connected can be a fire hazard.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER: Set to the warmest possible temperature without spoiling food items, and make sure both are fully packed with space between items. This will help the cold air circulate easily, and fridges and freezers won't have to work as hard.

Besides making your home safer from electrical dangers and helping keep your electric bill smaller, make sure your belongings are safe, too. Here are some steps to help you avoid putting out the welcome mat for would-be burglars:

DON'T ANNOUNCE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. There's no need to let all of the Internet know that you are three states away and your home is deserted. Instead, share your vacation details and photos when you return home.

SKIP LEAVING (PREDICTABLE) TIMERS ON FOR APPLIANCES. Setting a timer for your lights and sprinklers is a great idea—just make sure that it's not obvious. If the lights go on at 6:30 a.m. and off at 10 p.m., like clockwork, and sprinklers turn on and off even if it's raining, anyone closely watching your home will know you're gone. Instead, try using several timers with multiple time zones, which can create the effect that someone is moving through the house.

CLOSE BLINDS AND CURTAINS. Don't let burglars do a little window shopping with your belongings. If they see something they like, they might come back while you're away.

DON'T PREMATURELY PUT OUT TRASH. This is especially true if your recycling includes boxes for all those new gadgets you got for Christmas. Instead, ask a friend or trusted neighbor to put out your bins on trash day, and if that's not possible, just skip the trash pickup altogether.

DON'T LEAVE A NOTE. Putting a hold on your mail and newspaper deliveries is a good idea, but leaving a note for a delivery person that you're gone is the same as leaving a note for anyone at your door. Instead, let a trusted neighbor know when you are expecting packages and have them pick them up for you.

CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed from noon to 1:15 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA 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.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop



▲ Kids get face paint, balloons and goodies from the Comanche Cheerleaders.



Children see what it's like in the basket of a bucket truck.



▲ CECA was proud to have at the annual meeting, from left: State Rep. J.D. Sheffield, Boy Scouts Lance Shipman, Robert Stephens, Aubrey Millwee and Yancy Perkins, and District Director Gary Kafer.



▲ The little ones weren't the only ones visiting the children's area. Comanche ISD cheerleaders and adult members stopped by as well.

Members Help CECA Celebrate 75 Years

Despite the threat of rain, 355 members braved the weather to attend Comanche Electric Cooperative's 75th Annual Meeting of the Membership at Comanche City Park. The event featured a Health Fair, music by The Class of '57, rides in a bucket truck for the kids and a mixed squad of Comanche ISD cheerleaders on hand with face painting, balloons and goodies.

Members present were given attendance gifts of an energy-efficiency kit, a CECA cap and—the most coveted gift of all—an iron skillet with the CECA 75th anniversary logo engraved into the bottom.

Once they registered, members either joined the band under the big tent to hear a medley of music, including a little Elvis and Buddy Holly, or attended the Health Fair.

Vendors for the 2013 CECA Health Fair included: Air Evac Lifeteam, CMS Healthcare, Care Inc., CARR (City and Rural Rides), Comanche Hospital and Clinic, Comanche EMS, Comanche Community Healthcare Hospice and Home Health, Goldthwaite Health and Rehab, Heart of TX EMS, Cross Timbers Health Clinic, Guardian Health Care, Oak Ridge Manor, Heart Lovers, Juice Plus, Department of Family and Protective Services, and Western Hills Nursing Home.



▲ Jimmy Cuellar and Chad Foreman register some of the 355 members and give out attendance gifts.



▲ General Manager Alan Lesley addresses the membership and discusses the past 75 years, as well as the present and future of the cooperative.



▲ CECA Safety Coordinator Shorty Hatley dishes up some tasty popcorn.

During the business portion of the meeting, General Manager Alan Lesley spoke about CECA's 75th anniversary. He related the great strides the co-op has made over the years and how important it was to our forefathers that we continue their legacy.

Lesley also spoke about technology advancements and how the building of multiple towers and substations will continue CECA's advancement in the near future. Further, he gave credit to all employees and their loyalty to the members.

As is tradition, cooperative employees who have reached five-year milestones in their careers were presented with service pins. Those receiving recognition were: **AARON CARROLL**, five years; **KEITH STEWARD**, 10 years; **MARY JOHNSON**, **JILL SADBERRY**, **TIM PALLETTE** and **ALAN LESLEY**, 15 years; and **LARRY MORGAN**, **BOBBY REED** and **NANCY ISHAM**, 30 years. Morgan, Reed and Isham also received meter lamps for their 30 years

of dedication to the cooperative.

Director elections were held, and **RUBY SOLOMON**, District 3; **TROY STEWART**, District 5; and **LOREN STROBEL**, District 6, were elected by acclamation.

At the close of the meeting, door prizes were awarded followed by a fish and chicken luncheon catered by Cook's Fish Barn, which served 680 people.

As 2013 comes to a close and 2014 is ushered in, so Comanche Electric Cooperative ushers out its first 75 years and opens the book to write a new chapter in its history.

The 75 years between 1938 and 2013 had their share of hardships, just as we know the next 75 will. But rest assured, Comanche Electric Cooperative stands ready and prepared to meet any challenges that the future holds and will do so with the dedication to excellence that we have exhibited over the past 75.



▲ Bobby Reed, Michael Tiemann, George Campbell, Brandon Cook and Jake Schwartz prepare to demonstrate a bucket truck's operation for CECA's youngest members.

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZEWINNERS

WINNER

Billy Branch
Ruby Hatton
Alicia Carter
Harold Easley
Delbert Justice
Joseph Wade
Fabiian Morales

PRIZE

One-year membership
 \$50 electric service
 Gift bag
 \$50 electric service
 Huge box of cheese
 Skill saw
 \$50 Tractor Supply gift card

DONOR

Air Evac
 Chatfield Assisted Living
 American Cancer Society
 CECA
 Cabot, Inc.
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Insurance Network—Patty Brown
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Techline—Michael Stone
 Cain—Josh Wooten
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 HD Supply—Jason Leake
 Schneider Engineering
 HD Supply—Jason Leake
 CECA
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Techline—Michael Stone
 Insurance Network—Patty Brown

Alvie Jones
J.C. Johnson
Carolyn Helgren
Viann Melot
Donald Welch
Jay Dover
Bryan Kenyon
Thomas Williams
Kenneth Cunningham
W.C. Rumfield
Robin Simpson
Carl Poe

Leaf blower
 \$50 Wal-Mart gift card
 Clamp meter
 500-watt work light
 Safety heater
 \$100 Wal-Mart gift card
 Crock-Pot
 \$50 electric service
 Lasko Room Heater
 Blower/vacuum
 \$50 Wal-Mart gift card
 \$50 Tractor Supply gift card

WINNER

Alvin Blake Welch
Lavon Stark
Fred Daniel
Mary Lou Hall

Harold Perkins
Jon Coan
David Shaw
Tommy Lee
Kenneth Holubec

Justin Weirshausen
Jerry Pittman
Donald Graves
Randle Browne
Dixie Mayer
Hilda Foster
Jule Richmond

Thomas Hoskins

PRIZE

TheraPure-Air filtration
 Single-cup coffeemaker
 \$100 electric service
 \$50 Tractor Supply gift card

 \$100 electric service
 600-watt work light
 Quartz heater
 Ceramic heater
 \$50 Tractor Supply gift card

 \$100 electric service
 Electric griddle
 Ceiling fan
 \$100 Cabela's gift card
 Dorm-size refrigerator
 19-inch TV
 Brazos lamp

 39-inch TV

DONOR

Texas Electric Cooperatives
 HD Supply—Jason Leake
 CECA
 Insurance Network—Patty Brown
 CECA
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 HD Supply—Jason Leake
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Insurance Network—Patty Brown
 CECA
 HD Supply—Jason Leake
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Schneider Engineering
 WESCO—Bob Tate
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Brazos Electric
 Cooperative—Clifton Karnei
 CECA



Even if you are not worried about home security, keeping your windows locked can make your home more energy efficient by making windows fit more snugly into their frames. Other tips:

- ▶ Install tight-fitting, insulating window shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.
- ▶ Close your curtains and shades at night to protect against cold drafts; open them during the day to let in warming sunlight.
- ▶ If your home has single-pane windows, consider replacing them with double-pane windows with high-performance glass—low-e or spectrally selective coatings.



CECA will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25, for Christmas and Wednesday, January 1, for New Year's Day.

We wish you and yours the most joyous of holiday seasons and a peaceful and prosperous 2014.



Featured Businesses

Frames and Things, Inc.

Frames and Things was established in 1947 and serves the Central Texas area. We will ship prints and framed art to you via UPS. Select your favorite artist or publisher to find your new print choices. Our gallery has many framed and unframed prints for your viewing pleasure. There are samples of various framing techniques in our store to help you with ideas. At Frames and Things, we do framing right the first time.

- LOCATED:** 408 Center Ave., downtown Brownwood
- PHONE:** (325) 646-8811
- HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- WEBSITE:** framesandthingsbrownwoodtx.com
- EMAIL:** framesandthingsbrownwood2@verizon.net
- OFFER:** 10 percent discount on custom framing (not valid with another discount offer)

H&H Handcrafts

Looking for unique items to decorate your home or yard? Don't want to fight the traffic and crowds, or wait in long lines? Whether you are looking for items for your home or yard or for unique gifts, H&H Handcrafts is the place to be! Our specialty is handmade yard and patio furniture, handmade yard art and fine art. We also make custom art and furniture pieces. If you can dream it, we can build it. Give us a call or stop by to see us.

- LOCATED:** 407 E. Duncan Ave., Comanche
- PHONE:** (325) 356-6292
- HOURS:** Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- EMAIL:** rhawkins7@verizon.net
- OFFER:** 20 percent discount on all furniture