

## Technology Is Key To Keeping the Lights On



**MESSAGE  
FROM  
MANAGER  
BILLY  
KULWICKI**

**R**ight now, there are a lot of “what-ifs” surrounding electric power. As a nation, we need to add generating resources to meet growing electric consumption.

As your provider of safe, affordable and reliable power, it's our job to make prudent, long-term energy decisions that will benefit you and the communities we serve for decades to come. But today, those decisions are mixed up with politics as never before. Every question of supplying power is being affected by the debate surrounding how best to meet climate-change goals. Policies limiting carbon dioxide emissions are becoming more likely, although specifics are still up in the air.

Massive investments in new technology will be required—and soon—to find a balance in meeting both our energy and climate-change goals. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates it will take a research invest-

ment of \$1.4 billion a year from now until 2030 to develop new technology such as carbon capture and storage for our power plants.

Once we add this advanced technology to the equation, we can develop power plants that burn coal and isolate carbon dioxide emissions. The gas can then be compressed and pumped for permanent storage deep underground. Many experts believe that with the right financial commitment from the federal government, cost-effective carbon capture and storage technology could become commercially available around 2020.

But this is just one potential piece of the puzzle, and until our elected officials agree to increase the necessary funding to develop energy technologies, uncertainty remains.

At Lamar Electric Cooperative, we are dedicated to keeping you supplied with reliable and affordable electricity. We are, with electric cooperatives across the country, engaged in a grassroots campaign called “Our Energy, Our Future” to start a dialogue with lawmakers about critical questions such as technology's role in our energy future.

Please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to contact your elected officials and add your voice to the campaign.

## NO-COST WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

- Turn off everything not in use: lights, TVs, computers, etc.
- Check the air-conditioner filter each month and clean or replace it as needed. Dirty filters block air flow through your heating and cooling systems, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life.
- During hot months, keep window coverings closed on the south, east and west windows. In winter, let the sun in.
- Glass fireplace doors help stop heat from being lost up the chimney. Also, close the fireplace damper when not burning a fire.
- Activate “sleep” features on computers and office equipment that power down when not in use for a while.
- Turn off equipment during longer periods of non-use to cut energy costs and improve longevity.
- When cooking, keep the lids on pots. Better yet, use a microwave oven instead.
- Dress appropriately for the weather, and set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting in winter and the highest comfortable setting in summer.
- On winter nights, put an extra blanket on the bed and turn down your thermostat more.
- In summer, use fans whenever possible to reduce AC usage. Inexpensive fans allow you to raise the thermostat temperature and still remain comfortable.
- To save hot water, take five-minute showers instead of baths.
- Do only full loads when using the clothes washer or dishwasher.
- Use cold water for laundry and save—detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater. It should be set at “warm,” so that a thermometer held under running water reads 120 degrees.



**Financing research is only part of the puzzle to make sure we have the power we need while respecting environmental concerns. Visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to find out how you can help.**

# NOTICE OF CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS

Capital credits were recently allocated to the accounts of members of Lamar Electric Cooperative for the year 2007.

After the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to members' accounts. Your cooperative's margin is any money left after all its operating costs have been paid. Since members are part-owners of the cooperative, part of that money will be allocated to their capital credit accounts.

These capital credits will be returned to members in the future when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative. In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant, cred-

ited to each member's capital credits account, even though the member may move away from Lamar Electric's lines.

It is very important that departing members keep the co-op informed of their current mailing address in the future so they can receive capital credit refunds when they are paid.

Capital credits for each member in 2007 were calculated by multiplying each member's bill by .0531359367. For example, if your total annual bill from the cooperative (consisting of energy billing and power cost adjustment) was \$2,000, simply multiply that amount by .0531359367. The product is \$106.27.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge, but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please contact the co-op office.

(This article is intended to serve as official notice of allocation of capital credits for 2007.)



**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

1485 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 580 • Paris, TX 75461  
Phone (903) 784-4303

For general information and outages after hours, call (903) 784-4303 local or 1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River, Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at [www.lamarelectric.coop](http://www.lamarelectric.coop)

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**YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"**

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

**MEMBER BENEFITS:**

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- Visa, Discover and MasterCard accepted

## WHAT'S THE PCRFB I SEE ON MY ELECTRIC BILL EACH MONTH?



**PCRFB stands for POWER COST RECOVERY FACTOR.**

Your monthly electric bill includes a base rate for the purchase of wholesale power. As actual wholesale power costs fluctuate, the increase or decrease is passed through to you as the PCRFB. The PCRFB is a direct pass-through, dollar for dollar, based on the number of kilowatt-hours you use.

Currently, the PCRFB is a direct reflection of the increasing cost of natural gas required to fuel an electric generation plant. The cost of natural gas has tripled in the past several years, causing the cost of wholesale power to go up accordingly. When natural gas prices rise, it costs more to produce electricity, which results in an increase to you through the PCRFB. If gas prices go down, the PCRFB will go down as well.



**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** will be closed  
 Monday, September 1,  
 for Labor Day.  
 We hope you  
 have a safe and  
 restful holiday.

# NORTHEAST TEXAS CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Swap Meet•••Car Corral •••Arts/Crafts  
 Food•••Family Fun

7057 U.S. Hwy. 82 E., Reno, Texas  
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**September 12 & 13, 2008**

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Registration  
 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
 Judging Ends 1:30 p.m.  
 Awards Presentation  
 2:30 p.m.

Registration Fee \$15  
 SwpM/Craft Space \$15

50/50 Drawing. . Raffle

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When you show your  
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 (903) 785-2760



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 business in the Co-op  
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check website, [www.rrvfair.org](http://www.rrvfair.org), for

- ★ Livestock Show Rules
- ★ Home and Garden Showcase Rules
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**For Additional Information, Call 903-785-7971**