

Speak Up Now on Energy Policy



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Right now, politicians are working on plans that will directly affect the price you pay for electricity. A law is developing that would put limits on the carbon dioxide emitted by industry. Congress is making decisions that could drive up the price of electricity sharply by treating carbon output as a commodity.



If the American Clean Energy and Security Act, championed by U.S. Reps. Edward Markey and Henry Waxman, passes with a carbon cap-and-trade system, a cap, or limit, would be placed on the total amount of carbon-dioxide emissions that will be allowed in the United States. That amount of carbon would be divided up among industrial and commercial users, and more carbon allowances, or credits, could be auctioned off or traded.

In addition, the Markey-Waxman

bill would allow speculators to buy and sell the credits, not for any industrial production, but for the sole purpose of making money. This kind of speculative trading adds volatility to markets and can dramatically drive up prices. Speculators buying and selling electricity in some states is a large part of the reason the price of electricity has gone up in those states.

The electric industry, particularly co-ops, relies on price stability. That's because electric co-ops deliver electricity to your homes and businesses at a price as close to cost as possible. We have little room to maneuver should prices suddenly shoot up.

Lamar Electric would not be able to absorb much of a cost increase, and those costs would have to be passed along to our members, raising your electric bill dramatically. We have informed our elected officials in Washington about the real-world consequences, but the end result has yet to be seen.

While messages from electric co-op leaders carry a lot of weight on Capitol Hill, nothing compares to the voices of co-op members themselves: the 42 million hard-working people who will ultimately foot electric bills

affected by federal climate-change policy. Voters get their attention.

I would urge you to become a part of the conversation today and join the hundreds of thousands of electric co-op members such as yourself already involved in the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots campaign. Please visit WWW.ourenergy.coop. You will find a suggested message that you can personalize and e-mail to your senator or representative. It is easy, so please try it. You can help Lamar Electric by voicing your opinion.

Find the Filter that Fits the Bill

It costs less than \$5 a month to install a high-quality, pleated air-conditioner filter that can make the air your family breathes cleaner and healthier.

That's how much it costs to buy such an air-conditioner filter and to change it once a month during air-conditioning season.

If you buy a filter that's too cheap—like one of those \$1 blue filters—you could do more harm than good. Those filters don't do a good job of trapping small pollutants like dust and pet dander; in fact, they remove only about 10 percent of pollutants from the air. So those particles find their way into your air-conditioning system, where they clog up the works or blow back into your home.

It might surprise you to know that the really expensive, ultra-thick disposable filters—the ones that cost \$15 to \$20—aren't necessarily any better than the inexpensive ones. The same goes for reusable, washable electrostatic or "monofilament" filters.

Sure, they trap the tiniest bits of dust and dander. But they're so thick that they don't allow the air to flow through them freely, especially if you don't clean them every week. That makes your air conditioner work harder and will shorten its life.

Your best bet: a 1-inch, pleated air filter that costs \$4 to \$5.

It looks like cloth on the outside, but the pleats contain fibers that catch allergy-causing smoke, mold and dust before your air-conditioning system can suck them in. In addition, the pleated filter allows enough airflow so your system can operate properly.

Using a pleated filter and replacing it every month during the summer will keep your air cleaner and your air-conditioning system in tiptop shape for longer.

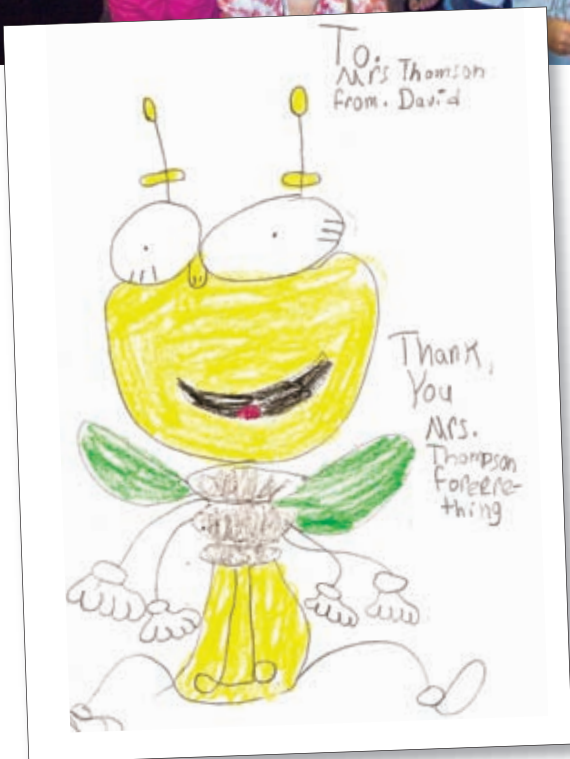
LEC Helps Teach Community Spirit

LEC Member Services Representative Marci Thompson recently taught a five-week Junior Achievement class to Mrs. Gillie's second-graders at Prairiland Elementary School. The Junior Achievement-Our Community® program is designed for second-graders to help prepare them for the future by exploring the interdependent roles of workers in a community, the work they perform and how communities work. "It was a great experience, and I hope to participate again next year," Thompson said.



ABOVE: Lamar EC Member Services Representative Marci Thompson is surrounded by the students in Mrs. Gillie's class at Prairiland Elementary School.

LEFT: Following the class, several students wrote to Thompson, thanking her for coming out to teach them. Here is a drawing from one of the students that features Louie the Lightning Bug®.



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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.

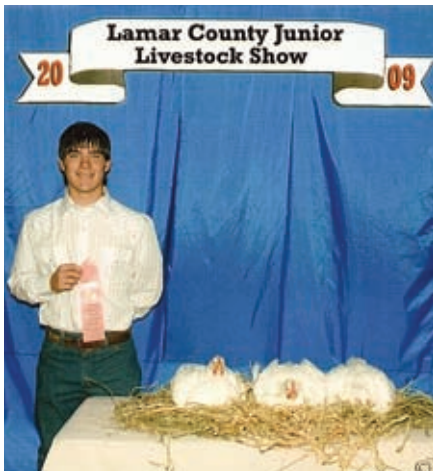
MEMBER BENEFITS:

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Lamar Electric Contributes to Ag Education



Jeff King, joined by Lamar Electric Member Services Representative Marci Thompson, is pictured with his winning Jersey cow.



CALEB DUNAGAN



MADELYN GOODING



ABIGAIL GOODING

Lamar Electric sponsored the Senior Dairy Showmanship belt buckle at the 2009 Lamar County Junior Livestock Show. **JEFF KING** was the deserving recipient of this year's award.

Lamar Electric also made a donation to the Junior Livestock Show that supplemented the purchase price of the animals raised by **MADELYN GOODING**, goat; **ABIGAIL GOODING**, lamb; and **CALEB DUNAGAN**, chickens.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPANTS!

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\$23,883.19 Saved

on prescriptions by members using their Co-op Connections® Card

In May, 249 prescriptions were filled and members saved \$1,918.76, averaging 21 percent off the retail price.

This valuable member benefit is absolutely free!

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