

Join the Fight for Fair, Affordable Climate-Change Policy



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Climate-change legislation is quickly moving forward in Congress, and electric cooperatives across the country find themselves in the national spotlight.

During the spring and early summer, congressional energy policy debate focused on a cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants—a system that could affect all levels of the economy. If enacted, cap-and-trade regulations would be directly responsible for raising your electric bill.

The price hike would be felt especially strongly in Texas, where natural gas and coal are burned to produce the vast majority of the electricity used

in the state. This means members of Lamar Electric Cooperative and other Texas electricity consumers could be disproportionately affected by the proposed cap-and-trade system.

Right now, your participation in the “Our Energy, Our Future”™ grassroots campaign is crucial. Lamar EC and others across the country need your help to minimize these costs to you.

Electric co-ops stepped up early in the debate to fight for fairness and affordability as this legislation was considered in the U.S. House of Representatives. Backed by more than 375,000 consumers taking part in the campaign, electric co-ops had a major effect, securing more than \$3 billion in rate relief from initial U.S. House proposals.

But that victory marks just the first inning in a long ballgame. The debate has moved to the U.S. Senate, where another version of the bill is being drafted. Here we have another opportunity to make even more improvements—and you can affect the outcome.

We must urge members of the Senate to keep climate-change legislation:

■ **FAIR:** Climate-change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced.

■ **AFFORDABLE:** Any climate-change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans.

■ **ACHIEVABLE:** Climate-change legislation must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

It is time we all step up to the plate and make a stand for climate-change legislation that protects the interests of consumers. Your senators as well as members of the U.S. House need to hear from you, their voting constituents, for direction.

Getting your voice heard in Washington is easy through the “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign. Visit WWW.ourenergy.coop to send a message to your elected officials about the need for fair, affordable and achievable climate-change legislation. We must ensure that when they vote on a bill, it's done with America's best interests in mind.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Climate-Change Legislation Should Be:

**Fair. Affordable.
And Achievable.**



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

▶ **Senators are drafting climate-change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Go to www.ourenergy.coop to make your voice heard.**



◀ Before they're trimmed, unruly brush and trees along co-op lines on Highway 37 North in Clarksville seem to swallow up poles. Keeping limbs away from power lines is important in enhancing reliability and reducing costs.

▶ This is what the right-of-way around co-op lines looks like after trees and brush are trimmed.



Right-of-Way Clearing Strategy Shifted

Contractors working for Lamar Electric Cooperative will maintain electric line rights-of-way in Red River County north of Clarksville.

Trees, Inc., headquartered in Houston, won the contract for clearing a main three-phase line along Highway 37, starting three miles north of the Clarksville bypass to Caddo Crest Fish Farms.

Whitmire Line Clearance from Pilot Point won the contract for clearing line in the Kiomatia area, primarily along CR 2368, CR 2356 and FM 410 North. Work already has begun, and both companies hope to be finished in these areas by November.

In the past, the co-op has waited until tree limbs got near electric lines and trimmed only the longest limbs. This resulted in the same trees being trimmed every two to three years, according to co-op Operations Manager Barry Murchison, and this has proven to be very costly in the long run.

Rather than bypass trees until they get taller, the co-op plans to cut brush while it is small. The right-of-way easements allow the removal of all brush and trees in an area 20 feet wide, as well as leaning or dangerous trees.

"It is imperative the co-op do everything possible to keep electric rates from increasing," co-op General Manager Jerry Williams said. "Bidding out specific sections of right-of-way clearing will help ensure we get the biggest bang for the buck."

People passing by the work area may notice a green or blue color on the ground. The color is a harmless tracking dye used as the contractors treat the stumps and the cut stems to prevent future growth.



**LAMAR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

1485 North Main St.
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

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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



YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

Kent Kirby and Laney Jackson recently returned from their trip to Washington, D.C., where they participated in the the 2009 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Each June, Lamar Electric Cooperative sends two students to our nation's capital, where they see the sights and visit with elected representatives.



HAPPY LABOR DAY!

Lamar EC will be closed Monday, September 7,
in observance of Labor Day.

We wish you and your family a restful and safe holiday.

SHOOT A VIDEO AND WIN \$1,500!

High school students:
Got a great energy tip?

Make your own YouTube video
and you could win a cash prize!

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in prizes!

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to the grand-prize winner.

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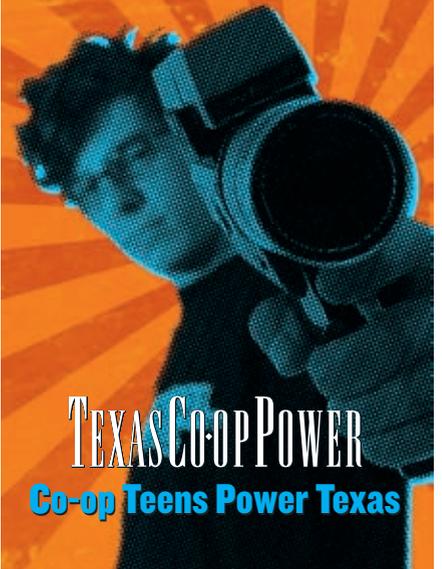
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Go to

www.texascoopower.com

for full details!

For more information, contact
Marci Thompson, Member Services
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\$26,311.38 Saved

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

In June, 231 prescriptions were filled and members saved \$2,428.19, averaging 25 percent off the retail price.

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.