

An Opportunity To Get Some Stimulus Money



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17. This act is supposed to provide stimulus money for a variety of projects and create jobs. One part of the act is supposed to provide the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs with \$297 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The WAP has been around for some time, but in the past, it had very little funding.

This new federal money has been slow in coming, but we are told it should provide a substantial boost to the WAP program this fall. That's not far off, so you need to get your name on the list.

In the past, only households that earned up to 150 percent of the national poverty level were eligible to participate in the existing WAP funded through the Department of Energy. The stimulus bill extends eligibility to those with incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level. For a family of four, that's an income limit of \$44,100.

The state is using community

action agencies and other nonprofits across the state to administer this program. These agencies sign contracts with construction companies who perform the actual weatherization work for qualified recipients. Contractors who specialize in weatherizing homes can complete a house in as little as two days, at no cost to you or little cost to the landlord.

Often, the people who visit with me about the difficulty of paying their electric bill will relate how their home needs a lot of help, but just trying to make ends meet doesn't leave any money for improving the house. The WAP is designed to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential expenditure, and improve their health and safety, especially for low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with young children, high residential energy users and households with a high energy burden.

Typical weatherization work includes the installation of attic and wall insulation, caulking, weatherstripping, repair or replacement of inefficient appliances, doors and windows and minor energy-related repairs. There aren't many programs that will actually replace an old refrigerator or air conditioner with one that is more efficient. The type of weatherization that a household may receive is contingent upon a house-

hold's income eligibility, a comprehensive assessment of the household's energy use and the availability of weatherization funds.

Reducing the cost of heating and cooling your home can have a major effect on your electric and gas bills. Some homes can expect to see savings as much as 75 percent.

The Texoma Council of Governments covers Lamar, Red River and Delta counties, and it is receiving applications now. The agency will mail you an application upon request. Once the application is filled out, it can determine your eligibility and you will be placed on a waiting list. You can contact the agency at:

TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

1117 Gallagher Drive, Suite 300
Sherman, TX 75090
1-800-677-8264, ext. 3526, toll-free
(903) 813-3526

Lamar Electric Cooperative also has blank applications available, and we will mail you an application. Call Lamar Electric Member Services Representative Marci Thompson at (903) 783-4911.

The key to this program is patience. It looks as if it will happen. A bunch of folks in Texas will have homes that are less expensive to heat and cool, but it will take time. It could take up to a year or longer, but it is worth the wait.



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT
WWW.LAMARELECTRIC.COOP



LEC Hosting Blood Drive

Lamar Electric Cooperative will be teaming with Carter Blood Care for a blood drive between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Thursday, October 22, at the cooperative headquarters at 1485 N. Main in Paris.

Donors will receive a free T-shirt.

Our goal is 18 units of blood. Please come out and help us reach our goal! If you have any questions, call Marci Thompson at (903) 783-4911.



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

Area Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3—Red River Valley Fair. Fairgrounds in Paris. Call (903) 785-7971 for more information.

OCTOBER 2—Cruisin' Nights on the Plaza. Downtown Plaza in Paris. Bring your lawn chairs, visit, and enjoy the music. Downtown merchants open late.

OCTOBER 3—Fall Bazaar. On the grounds of the Historic County Courthouse, Clarksville. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts, crafts, food and live entertainment. Free admission.

OCTOBER 9-11 AND OCTOBER 15-18—Paris Community Theater presents "Moon Over Buffalo." The Plaza Theater, downtown Paris.

OCTOBER 16-17—Delta County Chigger Festival and 5K Run/Walk. Cooper Historic Square. For more information, call (903) 395-4314.

OCTOBER 17—Paris Bluegrass Show hosted by Texas Acoustic Music Society. 18 West Hearne in Paris. Matinee 4-5:30 p.m., evening session 7-9 p.m. For information, call (903) 785-3958.

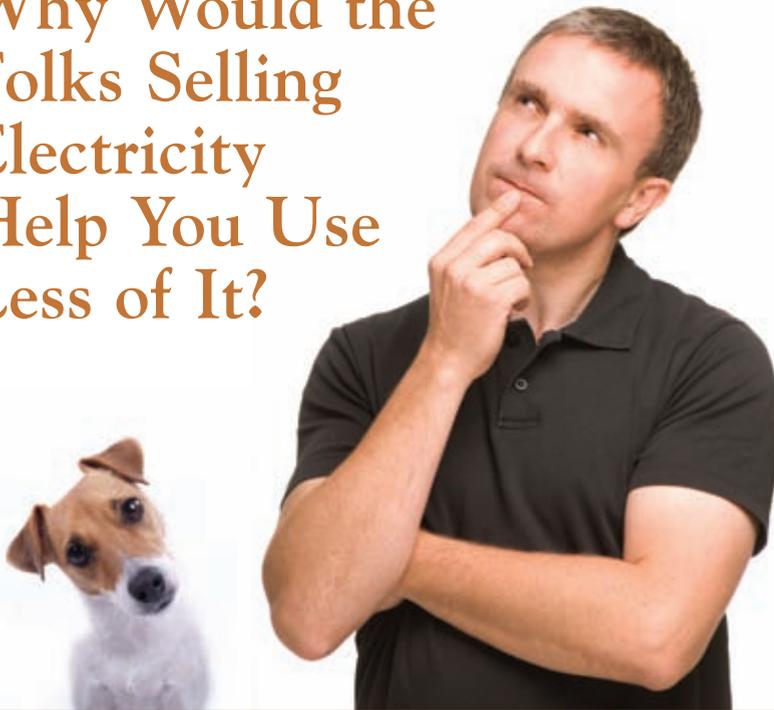
OCTOBER 22—Paris Pregnancy Care Center Fundraiser Banquet. Love Civic Center in Paris at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are free, but you must RSVP—donations appreciated. There will be a guest speaker, music and great food. Call (903) 784-1555 for more information.

OCTOBER 24—Festival of Pumpkins. Downtown Plaza in Paris, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 31—Halloween on the Square. Cooper Historic Square. For more information, call (903) 395-4314.

If you would like your event listed in the local pages of *Texas Co-op Power*, e-mail laura@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4907. Submissions must be made two months in advance to be included in the calendar.

Why Would the Folks Selling Electricity Help You Use Less of It?



It's because we are a cooperative and our priority is delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost—not to make a profit. Lamar Electric Cooperative is focused on improving the quality of life for our members, not on making money.

And your cooperative is here to help! Use our free, do-it-yourself online Home Energy Saver Audit tool. The easy-to-use program is designed to help you identify the best ways to save energy in your home. Go to www.lamar-electric.coop and click on the Touchstone Energy Savers link to learn more about conserving energy in your home.

Lamar Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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!

\$4,000

in prizes!

\$1,500

to the grand-prize winner.

\$250

to each of six runners-up.

TEACHERS

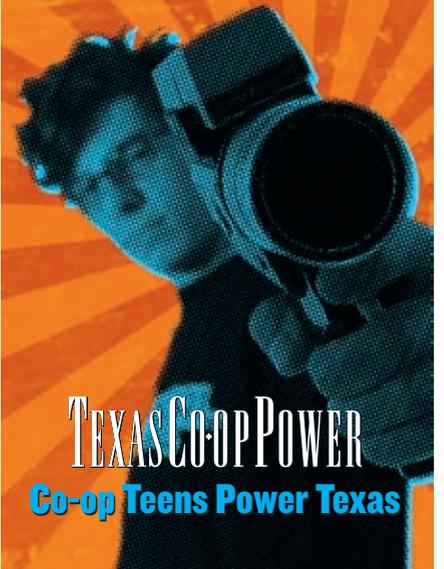
You could win **\$1,000** for your school by sponsoring the grand-prize winner.

Go to

www.texascooppower.com

for full details!

For more information, contact **Marci Thompson**, Member Services Representative, at (903) 783-4911 or marci@lamarelectric.coop.



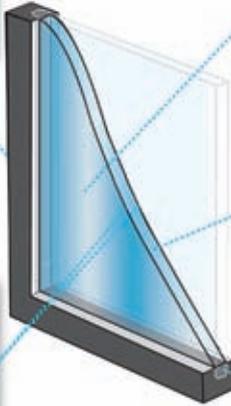
Get the Jump on Drafty Windows

What makes a **window** energy efficient?



IMPROVED FRAME

Wood composites, vinyl and fiberglass frames reduce heat transfer and insulate better.



LOW-E GLASS

Special coatings reflect infrared light, keeping heat inside in winter and out in summer. They also reflect damaging ultraviolet light, protecting interior furnishings.

GAS FILLS

Some windows have argon, krypton or other gases between the panes. These odorless, colorless, nontoxic gases insulate better than regular air.

WARM EDGE SPACERS

A spacer keeps a window's glass panes the correct distance apart. "Warm edge" spacers made of steel, foam, fiberglass or vinyl reduce heat flow and prevent condensation.

MULTIPLE PANES

Two panes of glass, with an air- or gas-filled space between them, insulate much better than a single pane. Some include three or more panes for greater efficiency, impact resistance and sound insulation.

Source: ENERGY STAR

in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Interior storm window panels are another low-cost fix (available at most hardware stores) and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing windowpanes. Installation is fairly simple, and panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips or snap-in seals. Put them up in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat loss by up to 50 percent.

If you're in the market for new windows altogether, be sure to choose energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling and lighting costs year-round.

Energy Star® has established a set of energy performance ratings, tailored to four climate zones across the United States, to guide you in selecting windows perfect for your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

In simple terms, U-Factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window.

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth and ventilation. But when winter sets in, they can have a downside.

Placing your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning proves the point: If the pane feels cold, it's a good bet you can reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. And they're just as helpful

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight the window can absorb. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting heat during winter. A low number provides greater shading ability and may be best for southern climates.

Here in Lamar EC's service territory, windows for the south/central climate zone are best. Look for a U-Factor and a SHGC that are both less than or equal to 0.40. You can also visit www.energystar.gov for more details on climate zones and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.

\$27,952.94 Saved

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

In July, 210 prescriptions were filled and members saved \$1,641.56, averaging 24 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.