

More Efficiency Is a Green Choice



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

The concept of “going green” has gained a lot of popularity in the last few years. Making the “green choice” or “going green” most likely has a different meaning, depending on who you ask. What would your answer be? When asked what those words mean, most will likely respond with something like, “save the planet” or “clean up the environment.”

While I believe God wants us to be good stewards with what he has given us; the end of this world as we know it, is really out of our hands. Regardless of what the EPA decrees, I still think God knew what he was doing when he designed Man to breathe out carbon dioxide and trees to need carbon dioxide. If you want to drive some of those avid environmentalists crazy, ask them to explain what caused the “ice age” to end that they are so fond of discussing. I would venture to guess that if an ice age did exist, the same person that ended it is in charge of the weather now. With that said, there are still some easy things we can do to make our world a little nicer place to live while we still reside here.

Some Co-op members think the way to “go green” is install solar panels or a wind turbine. Others will debate if it is cleaner to generate electricity with Coal, Natural Gas or Nuclear. The truth is the cleanest electric generating plant is the one that is not built because it is not needed!

You have likely heard, the wind is a free source of power and all you have to do is put up a generator and start

making your own electricity. No doubt, there is a lot of wind, but the facts are a little more complicated. Those machines are expensive, need maintenance and generate very little in our area. The wind is free; the machine is not. For more information about wind generation, visit the Lamar Electric website at www.LamarElectric.Coop and click on a picture of this magazine at the bottom of the page—look for the July 2011 issue.

I would encourage homeowners and businesses who are interested in reducing their impact on the environment and cutting their electric bills to start small. There are many easily managed and less expensive energy-efficiency measures that will result in less energy use and lower electric bills.

A simple start is buying a tube or two of caulk. By spending a few dollars and a couple of hours sealing air leaks, an air conditioning or heating system won't have to work as hard. Since it's one of a building's biggest electricity users, the impact on energy use can be immediate. Replace the foam rubber around the large copper pipe between the outside unit and the house. Dogs and other animals love to chew on the foam, and a replacement is less than \$2 at most hardware stores.

Another relatively inexpensive investment that could improve comfort levels and reduce bills is to install solar screens or window films. Those products limit the amount of heat that the sun beams inside, reducing air conditioner run times in the summer. Solar screens are removable, which allows homeowners to take advantage of the sun's heat in the winter, reducing heater run times. Window film comes in rolls and is easy to install, if you are patient. If you want to impress your neighbors, use aluminum foil. It is not quite as attractive, but it is usually available and will help.

For just a few dollars, replacing

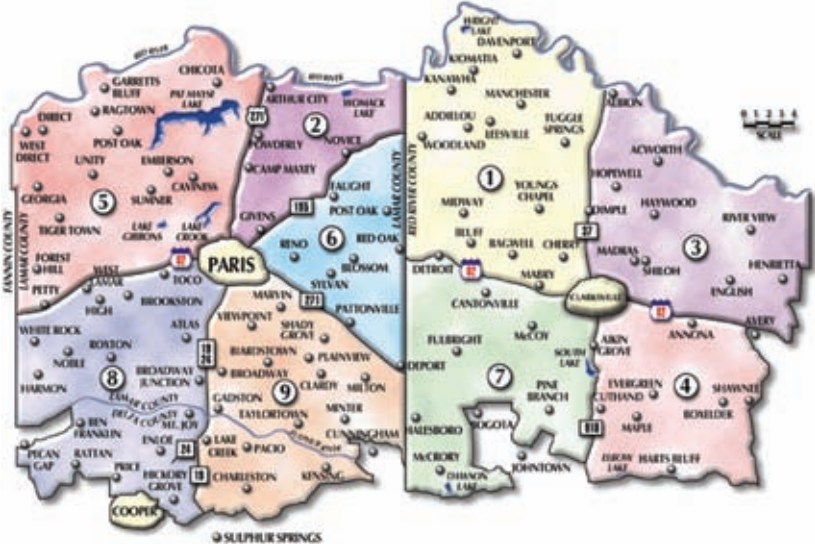
incandescent lightbulbs with their more energy-efficient compact fluorescent or light-emitting diode counterparts will shave more electricity usage.

Reducing the amount of water used by installing efficient showerheads and faucet aerators and stopping leaks will help save money and energy by reducing the amount of time water heaters run. Those heaters, which are another big energy user, also can be made more efficient by insulating them with thermal blankets and installing insulation on exposed hot water pipes. A friendly builder may have a couple of pieces of fiberglass insulation left over from insulating the wall of a new home. These pieces make an excellent blanket around your water heater and can be held in place with duct tape.

Adding insulation in the attic will really make a dent in the cost to cool and heat your home. I like the blown-in insulation. The vapor barrier is already in place under your existing insulation, which allows you to add insulation without the need for paper/barrier backing.

There are several reputable insulating businesses in our area, or you can buy your bundles of insulation from The Home Depot or Lowe's and get the use of their fluffing/blowing machine for free. A lot of insulation can be added to most houses for less than \$1,000. An R-rating of 34 is recommended, which equates to about 14 inches of blown fiberglass and a little less if you use cellulose. Don't get excited if you notice the bags of cellulose are actually chopped-up newspaper. The newspaper has been treated with a special chemical to make it fire retardant, and it makes excellent insulation.

Recouping your investment with these “go green” steps could come in a matter of months. Before taking on a big investment in going green, consider starting with the smaller things.



Lamar EC Annual Membership Meeting

Lamar Electric Cooperative will hold its annual membership meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28. The meeting will be held at Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris.

Each member in attendance at the meeting will receive a registration gift, and a drawing for other prizes will be held. Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded at the meeting. Members' children who are high school seniors may submit their names for the drawing. Details can be found in another article in this magazine. No meal will be served.

There will be an election for the board of directors in Districts 5, 6 and 7. You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote in the director election. Before the meeting, ballots will be mailed to members who reside in those districts. If you reside in one of the districts having an election, you may either vote by mail or in person at the meeting.

Watch for additional details in the next issue of Texas Co-op Power.



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

For information during office hours 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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Jerry D. Williams

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YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of Texas Co-op Power 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
- E-Bill
- Visa and MasterCard accepted



TICK TOCK

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11. Set clocks forward one hour and remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Lamar Electric Cooperative Academic Scholarship Information

This year, Lamar Electric Cooperative will award six \$1,000 academic scholarships to students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college or junior college. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the college or university in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date.

Eligibility Requirements for an Academic Scholarship

To be considered for a Lamar Electric Cooperative Scholarship, the student must:

- Live in the home of a parent or legal guardian who is a full-time resident in the Lamar Electric service area and maintains an active Lamar Electric account in good standing.
- Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited Home Extended Studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric Cooperative.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 28 in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

Entry Deadline Is April 27, 2012

The application can be found on our website: www.lamarelectric.coop. Once the application is completed simply click on the email button and send to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop.

Or, fill out the application below and mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative
Member Services Department
P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Deadline is April 27, 2012

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME _____

LEC ACCOUNT # _____

PHONE # _____

KIDS' SAFE SATURDAY



A free Think Child Safety Fair for children ages 0-12 and their parents

**SATURDAY
MARCH 17
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Love Civic Center

2025 S. Collegiate Drive, Paris

**Ambulances • Police Cars
Fire Trucks • School Buses
Jaws of Life • Beat the Heat**

Lamar Electric Co-op will be performing electrical safety demonstrations.

Games & Activities

Electrical Safety

Water Safety

Internet Safety

Animal Safety

Gun Safety

Traffic Safety

Home Safety

Farm Safety

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Bicycle Safety

Auto Safety

Special Appearances By:

Andy the Ambulance

McGruff the Crime Dog

Crash Dummies Vince & Larry

Trauma Roo



Blood Drive For Carter Townes

Give the Gift of Life

Given by: Carter BloodCare

Hosted by: Lamar Electric Co-op (in our parking lot)

Date: Wednesday, March 28

Time: Noon-4 p.m.

Carter is still in need of blood throughout his 3½ year journey to recovery from Precursor B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

You get points for free gifts or gift cards, cookies and juice. Make sure you eat a good breakfast that morning.

If you have any questions or want to schedule your appointment for that day, you can call Marci Thompson at (903) 783-4911.

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

March 9-10

Kiwanis Pancake Days—6 a.m.–8 p.m., Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Paris. Tickets \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

Coon Hunters Convention—Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Paris. For information call Randy Norris at (903) 715-4562 or Preston Boles at (903) 249-5888.

March 17

Kids Safe Saturday—10 a.m.–2 p.m., Love Civic Center in Paris. Free admission. For information, email Rodney Jones at rjones@paristexas.gov.

March 23-25

ASA Tournament—Love Civic Center in Paris. For information, call the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce at (903) 784-2501.

March 28

Lamar Electric Blood Drive for Carter Townes—Noon-4 p.m., Lamar Electric Cooperative parking lot. For information, call Marci Thompson at (903) 783-4911.

March 31

Bowl For Kids' Sake—9-11 a.m., Paris Lanes at 2331 N. Main in Paris. Register at www.bowlfor-kidssake.org, and then select Paris.

If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River County, please contact Marci Thompson. Information must be submitted two months in advance. Email marci@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4911.