

Resolve To Save Energy in 2013



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

The start of the New Year always seems to bring about the inevitable lists of resolutions to improve one's life: Lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more ... conserve electricity.

Well, that last one might not have actually appeared on your resolutions list, but it can be just as important as any personal health goals, both to your financial bottom line and the overall health of the state's electricity system.

Right now, there are adequate supplies of electricity to serve Texas' needs, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the grid operator for 85 percent of the state. But a few years down the road, ERCOT predicts, there may be a shortfall of power given the state's growing demand.

But if we all do our part and make energy conservation a part of our daily habits, we may be able to change that forecast.

As one saying goes, it takes 21 days to create a new habit. During that time, it may take a conscious effort to change your behavior—for instance, remembering to switch off lights as you leave a room. But, you may find, after a few repetitions of a new behavior, you won't even have to think about it. You'll turn off the lights automatically.

Here are some other energy-saving resolutions that you might consider for 2013:

- ▶ Unplug phone chargers, the coffee maker and other kitchen countertop appliances, when you're through using them. Only leave the TV that you use all the time plugged in, and unplug the main TV when you are gone for more than one day. I have a power strip that I unplug, which takes care of the TV, receiver, DVD player, etc. These items draw electricity as long as they are plugged in, even if they are turned off. Collectively, their energy use adds up.

- ▶ Turn your computer off when finished. Yes, I know some folks will advise you to always leave the computer on, but leaving it on all the time adds additional wear and tear to the constantly spinning hard drive and fan. The electricity saved will add up over time.

- ▶ If any of the overhead fixtures, table lamps or outdoor lights around your house still has those standard lightbulbs, change them to CFLs, which use less electricity and can reduce your power bill. You may want to wait to change the bulbs in closets and other locations that are seldom lighted, until the old bulb burns out.

- ▶ Explore LED, or light-emitting diode, lighting fixtures. The light is built into the fixture—for all kinds of decorative and task lighting. They sip even less energy than CFLs, and with no bulbs to burn out, the light could work as long as the

fixture does. Those bulbs still aren't as cheap as other options, but prices are dropping. In the long run, they will pay for themselves. Now would be a good time to buy LED Christmas lights for next year, while they are on sale.

- ▶ When leaving the house for work or for the day, turn your thermostat to "Off." Turn it back on when you return home. You can avoid the "emergency heat" cycle by turning your thermostat up only a few degrees at a time. The house will be a little uncomfortable when you get home, but you will notice a dip in your electric bill.

If every member of Lamar Electric adopted just one or two of these ideas, or took other energy-efficiency measures, the effect would be magnified by our almost 12,000 meters. And if everyone in Texas embraced even the simplest of these ideas, turning off unused lights, it could add up to a significant saving, and perhaps help keep the lights on for all of us.

Lamar Electric has arranged for enough electric generation to take care of our members' needs. Unfortunately that electricity must be transmitted through the electric grid, which is controlled by ERCOT. The electric grid is operated on a competitive market-based model by ERCOT, and that model provides no assurance that enough electric generators are operating to take care of the needs of electric marketing companies that rely on the grid to wheel the power they are selling. In other words, no one has the responsibility to make sure customers connected to the deregulated market, actually have generators that can and will deliver the power when it is needed.

You may remember February 2011, when ERCOT issued mandatory rolling outages for everyone connected to the electric grid. The state was suffering through a great freeze, and this caused great demand for electricity, as most areas were below freezing for several days. This higher than normal demand for electricity combined with several generating units tripping offline due to sagging, ice-laden lines, resulted in more demand for power than the generators could provide. Many electric generators were not scheduled to run and did not winterize their facilities. Many of these plants did not expect to be called on to operate until summertime and they receive no reimbursement unless they are called on to generate.

This model approach to providing electric generation resulted in a situation where the state simply didn't have enough juice and caused ERCOT to order the rolling blackouts. While we're happy that ERCOT's measures prevented a total blackout in record-freezing temperatures, we sure don't want to experience rolling outages again. So what can we do about it? We can conserve.



Lamar Electric Cooperative

1485 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

Operating in Lamar, Red River,
Delta and Fannin counties

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GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allen Branch, President, *Sumner*
Charles Dooley, Vice President, *Annona*
Billy Hines, Secretary-Treasurer, *Clarksville*
Matthew Albus, *Roxton*
Mark Jones, *Paris*
Ron E. Tippit, *Clarksville*
Mike Williams, *Detroit*
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Lyle Yoder, *Pattonville*

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Member Benefits

- Level billing
 - Automated meter reading
 - Free bank draft service
 - E-Bill
 - Visa and MasterCard accepted
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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.



CONTACT US

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*For information during office hours
and outages after hours*

CALL US

(903) 784-4303 local or
1-800-782-9010 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

lamarelectric.coop



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*from Lamar
Electric Cooperative!*

Lamar Electric Cooperative will
be closed Tuesday, January 1, in
observance of the holiday.

As always, crews will be on standby
in the event of an emergency.

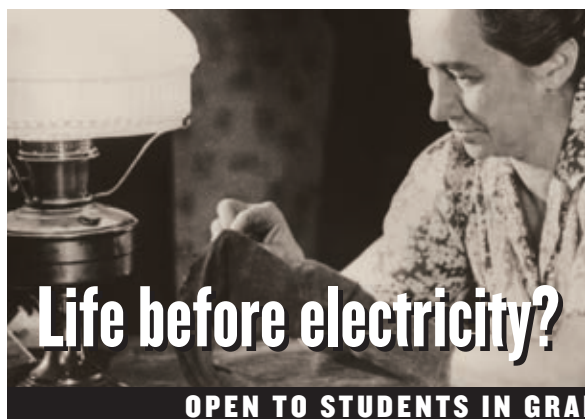
CHOCTAW ELECTRIC RELAY FOR LIFE

Third Annual Predator Hunt

Mark your calendars for February 16, 2013
Antlers Fair Building, Antlers, Oklahoma

\$1,000 Guaranteed First Place • Big Dog, Big Cat 100% payout, \$20 each

Teams should consist of no more than three members. \$100 entry fee per team.
For further information, call Guy Dale at Choctaw Electric Cooperative, 1-800-780-6486.



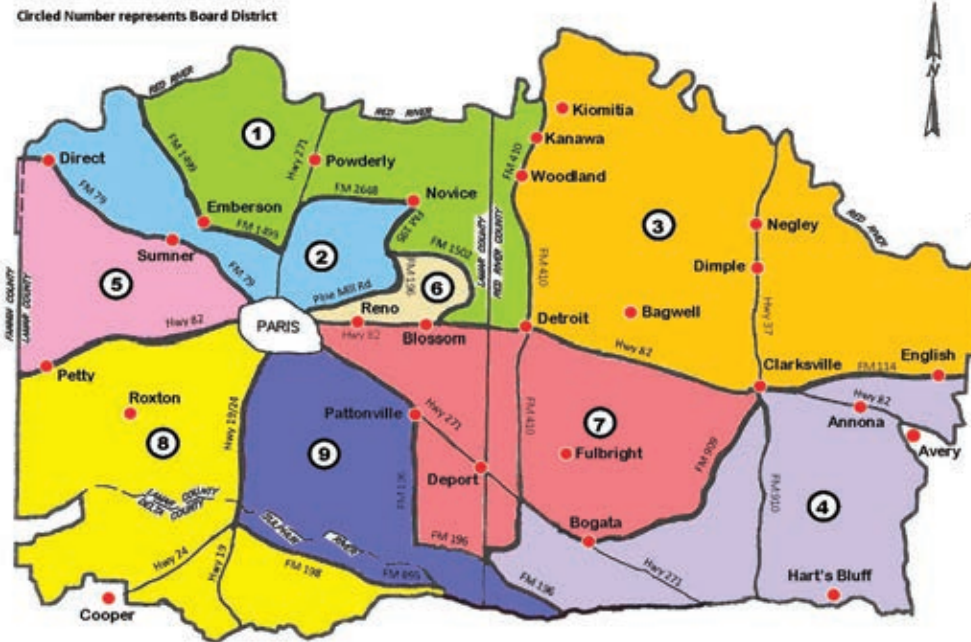
Shoot an interview with
someone who remembers
those days. You could win

\$1500

TEXAS CO-OP POWER
CO-OP TEENS POWER TEXAS
TexasCoopPower.com

Life before electricity?

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12!



Co-op Annual Meeting Set for April 6

Lamar Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris. There will be additional information in Texas Co-op Power over the next few months regarding the meeting.

Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year. This year, Districts 2, 3 and 4 will be voting at the annual meeting. Members residing in Districts 2, 3 and 4 who wish to be a candidate for one of the three available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative to fill out a nomination form no earlier than January 6 and no later than February 5, as outlined in the co-op’s bylaws. If you are unsure of which district you are a resident, please refer to the district map above.

The bylaws spell out the qualifications to be a board member.

Co-op Bylaws Excerpts, Article III

SECTION 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become a board member of the cooperative who:

- a) Has not been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year prior to nomination;
- b) Has not been a bona fide resident of the board district for which seeking election for at least one year prior to nomination;
- c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee’s spouse (“close” being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, step-parent, step-child,

step-brother, step-sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);

f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead “no contest” to a felony; or

g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

No person shall be eligible to remain a board member who:

- a) Is not a member of the Cooperative;
- b) Is not a bona fide resident of the district for which elected;
- c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee’s spouse (“close” being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, step-parent, step-child, step-brother, step-sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);
- f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead “no contest” to a felony; or
- g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board or at any special or annual meeting of the members.

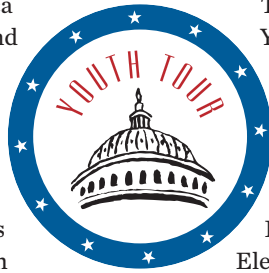
Government-in-Action Youth Tour 2013

Lamar Electric Cooperative is again sponsoring two students from its service area for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. This year, the trip is June 13-21. Sponsorship includes airfare, transportation, hotel rooms, meals and some spending money while in Washington.

More than 1,500 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! Travel to Washington, D.C., where you could meet your U.S. representative and senators. This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore the museums, memorials and monuments with other students from your state. You will meet student leaders from nearly every state and hear dynamic leaders on Youth Day. Bottom line, you will make friendships that will last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. senators and CEOs.

While in Washington, tour participants from Texas will visit their members of Congress, tour the House and Senate chambers, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, and will have photo sessions on Capitol Hill and in front of the White House. The group will also attend the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns; see Kennedy's Gravesite; tour Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln, Vietnam and World War II memorials; see the Petersen House; visit the Smithsonian Museums of American Art, Natural History, and American History, as well as the Air & Space Museum, Union

Station and the Old Post Office Pavilion. In addition, the students will visit Pentagon City Mall and Hard Rock Café, experience the Washington at Night Driving Tour, and see the Sunset Parade at Iwo Jima. On the last night in Washington, Youth Tour groups from all states will come together for a dinner and dance.



To be eligible for this year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest, a student:

- ▶ Must be a junior or senior in high school, AND
- ▶ Must live full-time in a residence served by Lamar Electric OR must attend one of the four high schools serviced by Lamar Electric, including Detroit, Prairiland, Roxton and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students in homes served by Lamar Electric are also eligible.

HOW TO ENTER:

Let us know a little information about yourself and send us a two-page essay (about 300 words) on "Historical Significance of Washington, D.C." It's that simple!

More information can be found on our website: lamarelectric.coop.

Once the information is entered on the application, simply click on the email button, attach your two-page article (must be a PDF or in Word format) and send to: dctrip@lamarelectric.coop.

The deadline is 5 p.m. February 22, 2013.

For more information, call Dena Beason at Lamar Electric at (903) 783-4949 or email dena@lamarelectric.coop.

LEC GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR 2013 APPLICATION

Deadline is 5 p.m. February 22, 2013.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

Name of High School _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Lamar Electric Account Number _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Applicant hereby acknowledges that the application essay becomes the property of Lamar Electric and may be published.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____