

# Blowing Smoke That Will Raise Your Electric Bill



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

**Nothing is more natural than a campfire while you admire all the creations provided by God. It is doubtful if any of you wondered if that lazy whiff of smoke disappearing into the sky is full of carbon and will help bring the world to an end. The truth is, God created wood and fire so man could be warm and cook the food He provided us. Burning wood, coal, natural gas or any other way of making a flame will release carbon dioxide. That's just the way it**

federal government to make sure issues were fully explored and input from the citizens considered. A lot of Congressmen don't agree with him, so he decided to ignore them and announced actions his federal agencies will use to combat climate change. For members of Lamar Electric and all other electricity users across the nation, those actions will drive up the price of electricity.

The president said in his speech that he doesn't "have much patience for anyone who denies the challenge (that climate change) is real." His statement

mixes two issues: changes in the climate and the assumption that human activities are the cause. Unfortunately, he is willing to carelessly handle the science he quotes. Science often takes a bit more time to explain than a 5-second sound bite.

The president repeated the talking point, "97 percent of scientists ... acknowledged the planet is warming and human activity is contributing

to it." This makes a nice sound bite for the media, but it is simply not true.

The study upon which this claim is based is "Quantifying the Consensus on Anthropogenic Global Warming in the Scientific Literature" published by John Cook and others. Their "study" was actually a review of written abstracts by various people in the scientific community. They were trying to support their preconceived opinion there was consensus among the scientists that humans are causing global warming.

I didn't have to go further than their first page to discover that of the (Abstracts) papers reviewed, 66.4 per-

cent of the scientist had No Position as to man causing climate changes. Only 32.6 percent thought global warming was somehow related to man. Of this 32.6 percent of the total papers reviewed, 97 percent held the position that humans are causing global warming. This is how global warming alarmists concluded that 97 percent of scientists are in agreement that man is causing global warming. They totally ignore the 66.4 percent of scientists who didn't make this conclusion in their abstract.

Some investigative journalist at Popular Technology looked into precisely which papers were classified within Cook's asserted 97 percent of 32.6 percent. When they asked physicist Nicola Scafetta whether Cook had accurately classified one of his papers as supporting the position that man is causing global warming, Scafetta criticized the conclusion and stated the view is erroneous because about 40-70 percent of the global warming observed from the years 1900 to 2000 was induced by the sun. Yet, his paper was counted as part of the 32.6 percent.

Weeks after Cook's paper was published, it was reported that actually only 1.8 percent of authors (not 32.6 percent) actually expressed an opinion in their abstract. It is amazing that despite the original scientists not expressing an opinion, Cook and his cohorts were able to divine each author's true opinions.

The facts show that for the past 17 years, the global average annual temperature has remained statistically unchanged, even while global CO2 emissions have risen near 50 percent since 1990. Even the infamous Phil Jones of the UK's Climate Research Unit admitted in a recent interview that the global average temperature change since 1995 is statistically not significant. (Note: Jones was at the center of the controversy last November when emails were

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**Proposed climate change actions could shut down the 37 percent of the U.S. generation capacity that comes from coal-fired plants.**

**is. I certainly think we should be good stewards of what God gave us, but some folks just don't seem to understand who is "in charge."**

In late June, President Obama addressed students at Georgetown University on "carbon pollution" and impressed a bunch of students with his willingness to fight climate change (carbon pollution) by presidential order rather than the legislative process. He wants to skip the legislative process of reaching a solution that is accepted by congressional representatives that were selected by us. Our founding fathers intentionally designed a three-branch



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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.

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leaked that indicated he and others may have been hiding data in order to support their view of global warming.)

About 4 years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency declared carbon dioxide a hazardous gas. Yes, this is the gas you and I exhale, that trees need to survive on this planet and is released by your campfire, fireplace, wood stove, etc. The comments by Obama at Georgetown played fast and loose with science and were clearly intended to help build public support for "carbon pollution" as the source of climate change. He used the term "carbon pollution" 24 times in his speech. Don't take my word for it; the script is still available on the White House website, and you can count the words for yourself.

The president has instructed the EPA to go after existing as well as new coal and natural gas-burning power plants to reduce the carbon dioxide released. As you may have expected, the president has a recipe for calling off the EPA hounds. He wants to pass his latest carbon tax bill, which has already been introduced as the "Climate Protection Act" in the Senate and its sister bill as the "Sustainable Energy Act." He clearly warned a few years ago that if Congress did not vote for his bill, the EPA would come up with even worse regulations.

I wrote in the September 2011 issue of Texas Co-op Power ("Another Rule May Add to Price of Power") how the EPA was targeting Texas in particular. Fortunately, a lot of the EPA efforts from 2011 have been shot down by the federal appeals courts. The latest legislation has a "fee and dividend." The law would impose a "fee" (a nice way of saying "tax") on carbon emissions and rebate a "dividend" to specific residents of the U.S., while keeping a big chunk for the government. This is designed to appeal to congressmen who want to report how they "brought home the bacon" in the form of "dividends" for their home district.

The president has instructed the EPA to regulate carbon emissions under the federal Clean Air Act, a law last updated in 1990 that does not contain a single line mentioning carbon dioxide. Under this sweeping mandate, the White House risks shutting down the nation's entire

coal fleet—roughly 37 percent of U.S. generation capacity. That would drive up electric bills for everyone.

Lamar Electric Cooperative and our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, do not believe the Clean Air Act was intended to regulate carbon dioxide. Through the NRECA, co-ops will engage the administration at every turn to inject common sense back into policy discussions. Whether you agree with the president's underlying concerns about global warming or not, the fact is that short of closing all coal-fired power plants, there are no economically viable technologies available to accomplish his goals.

For several years, electric co-ops have warned the Obama administration that employing the Clean Air Act to curb power plant carbon-dioxide emissions is misguided. Without significant modifications, co-op leaders think the president's proposal will increase electric bills for those who can least afford it—our consumer/members.

Rural residents already spend a greater chunk of their income on energy than those in urban communities. One of our most important missions as not-for-profit electric co-ops remains keeping rates affordable. Forcing electric co-ops to shut down coal plants and switch to other fuels amounts to levying a punitive, regressive tax on rural America.

Coal accounts for about 74 percent of the power produced by electric cooperatives nationally and 55 percent of all electric cooperative electricity requirements. In Texas in 2012, about a third of the total generation used in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas grid, which serves about 85 percent of the state's electricity consumers, came from coal.

Keeping the lights on 24 hours a day, seven days a week requires traditional baseload generation with a combination of all available fuels: coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewables.

Lamar Electric and our national association, on behalf of America's electric cooperatives, will continue to urge the administration to work with co-ops on a real, "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to keep electric bills affordable for rural Americans.

# The Co-op Difference

**Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated National Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.**

For starters, electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no Lamar Electric Cooperative. Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors in April at our annual meeting. As a bonus, co-op members receive special benefits through programs such as the Co-op Connections card. We also return margins ("profits") to our members in the form of capital credits. We are accepting applications for retirement of capital credits to the estates of deceased members. If your spouse died before January 1, 1990, or you are the heir to a member

who died before 1990, you can come by our office or call to request an application packet be mailed to you.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we feel compelled to support the areas where our members live and work. From sponsoring local schools to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community.

Of course, co-ops span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing and much more. There are more than 29,000 co-ops across the nation. And not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known co-ops such as Sunkist, Ace Hardware and Land O'Lakes.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local—living and working alongside those we serve.

That's the cooperative difference.

## Country Corner Events

### October 4

**Cruisin' on the Plaza**, 5-9 p.m., Downtown Paris around the plaza. For more information, call Bobby Slagle at (903) 785-6526.

### October 4-6, 11-13

**Paris Community Theatre presents "Doubt,"** 7:30-10 p.m., Paris Community Theatre in downtown Paris

### October 5

**Red River County Duck Races**, sponsored by Clarksville Rotary, 3 p.m., Delaware Creek along the creek walk.

**Fall Bazaar**, sponsored by the Historical Society in Red River County. For more information, call Jim Clark at (903) 427-2266 or Donna Robinson at (903) 427-0689.

**Golden Oldies Reunion**, starts at 5 p.m.; meal at 6 p.m.; and pictures at 7 p.m., McKenzie Memorial Methodist Church. Bring finger foods!

### October 11

**3rd Annual Paris Texas Antique Fair**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Paris. For more information, call Janet Green at (903) 249-4211.



**Antique Fair**  
October 11  
PARIS

DIGITAL VISION

### October 11

**Tandem Cycle Ride**, call the Red River County Chamber at (903) 427-2645 for more information.

### October 12

**2013 Heart of Paris Gala**, Casino Royale, 6 p.m.-midnight, Love Civic Center. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Community Foundation. Call Louisa Kessel at (903) 784-5136.

### October 18-19

**20th Annual Delta County Chiggerfest & 5K Run**, Downtown Cooper

### October 19

**Mad Max Mud Run**, 9 a.m., 2 miles north of Paris along Highway 271. To rival some of the best in Texas, the Mad Max Mud Run in Paris is an annual event with a military-type obstacle course, designed to challenge even the best. All proceeds go to the Lamar County Coalition of Education Business and Industry.

*If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Dena Beason. We need the information two months in advance for the magazine. Email dena@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4949.*



Charles Brazeal and Cory May install transformers to provide power to the new dental office.

## Electric Provider for ‘My Dentist’

**Lamar Electric Cooperative was recently chosen to be the electric provider for a new dental office in Paris.**

We typically provide electricity to the rural area, but this location offers more than one option for an electricity provider. The dental office could choose their electric provider, and they chose us!

This is not uncommon. For several years, most businesses and homes that have the option to be a part of our cooperative choose the co-op. Lamar EC is the electric provider to the assisted living facility next to the dental office, so we think it was easy for them to decide who would be their electric provider.

We are proud to serve this new business.



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**POWER TIP**

Save  
**ENERGY**  
Save  
**MONEY**

**Heating water accounts for 15 to 20 percent of a typical home’s energy bill.**

Installing low-flow showerheads or temperature-sensitive valves can reduce hot water use, and thus the amount of money spent to heat it.

Also, check the temperature setting on your water heater. If it’s above 120 degrees Fahrenheit, you may be spending more money than necessary for hot water.

## Children’s Pumpkin-Carving Contest

Hey, kids, give that plain old pumpkin a creative facelift! In return, Lamar Electric Cooperative might just reward you with a \$25 cash prize. Lamar Electric’s first-ever pumpkin-carving contest kicks off this month, inviting children from 4 to 14 years of age to submit their most original jack o’lanterns. Spooky, happy, unusual or hilarious, Lamar Electric welcomes all designs and skill levels.

The only requirement: Using real pumpkins only. Pumpkins may be any size, and they must be carved. Other items or nonflammable materials may be



used to enhance your pumpkin, but the primary features must be carved.

Entries will be accepted in the following age divisions: 4-6 years; 7-10 years; and 11-14 years. Entries should be delivered to the Lamar Electric office by the entry deadline. Please attach the following information to your entry: parents’ or grandparents’ name, your name, age and telephone number. (Yes, if your grandparents are a member of Lamar Electric, you are eligible to enter the contest.)

The winners’ names will be announced Wednesday, October 30.

Entries will be accepted until the close of the business day Monday, October 28. For questions about the contest or more details, please contact Dena Beason at [dena@lamarelectric.coop](mailto:dena@lamarelectric.coop) or call (903) 783-4949.