

Tesla Coil Scam To Cut Electric Bill



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

RECENTLY I RECEIVED SEVERAL EMAILS about an innovative product that will “show you what you have to do today to cut the cord with the energy fat-cats” and “slash your electric bill by 80% or more.” This product does not involve solar panels or wind turbines. At this point, I was sure it was a scam, but it pricked my interest.

I am somewhat a fan of Nikola Tesla and am always looking for ways to reduce electric bills, so I checked it out. Although a slick presentation is linked to the message, the whole concept is a scam to sell you the plans and an instructional video on how to build a “Power Innovator” for \$80, \$60 or the daily special of \$49. Despite the plans and video, the “Tesla Coil” or so



called “Power Innovator” will not function as shown in the video and will not do anything to reduce your electric bill. Don’t waste your money.

The Power Innovator Program is offered by a supposedly Dr. Richard Goran with a pleasant-sounding voice and picture of someone you might trust. The video linked to the email begins with a credible reference to Nikola Tesla who

really was an early inventor and in my opinion, father of AC electricity. Read my article “Butch Cassidy and Electric” printed in the October 2012 issue of Texas Co-op Power for more information about Tesla. (You can download the article by clicking on the magazine in the lower left hand side of our web page).

The narrator then tries to build trust with his listeners by telling us something we already know and that is “Free” energy is a scam. When someone warns you about a scam, the natural reaction is to think they are honest. Wrong. Their claim is it takes energy to make energy (true) but a very small amount of energy (nine volt battery) can somehow be connected to this coil and provide enough power to make you independent in case of a power company disruption. The best lie seems to be one that has elements of truth sprinkled in. His claim is that “even though many people know about the Tesla Coil, no one will teach you how to make it work for your home.” Dr. Goran then claims there is a conspiracy to keep the truth hidden from us all, but he will release the truth for only \$49.

The elements of truth are better understood by taking a look at the true facts. Tesla (not Edison) built the first commercial AC power generating plant; it was located in Telluride,

Colorado. He and his partner George Westinghouse later went on to construct the large commercial Hydro Power AC generating plant at Niagara Falls. Being a pioneer of high voltage power lines going long distances to power homes did not stop Tesla from pursuing other ideas.

Among Tesla’s inventions was a coil that was to send electricity through the air and power lights or appliances some distance from the coil. His idea was “wireless lighting.” He wanted to supply AC power to the public without the need for stringing wires up and down the roads. Although he succeeded in sending electrons thru the air, there has not been any practical application for doing so. I have used a Tesla Coil as a part of my educational display for school children for many years. It was real popular after the Star Wars movies came out and the similarity of a four foot fluorescence tube and a light saber was eye catching.

The concept is that when a high voltage power supply charges up a capacitor and the capacitor reaches a high enough voltage to breaks down the air resistance of a spark gap, a spark across the gap will occur. Think of the capacitor like a sponge that soaks up the charge. The spark gap is like a switch. It allows electrons to flow and then turns off when the voltage gets low. Like squeezing water out of a soaked sponge. The spark allows electrons stored up in the capacitor to dump into a very sturdy coil of wire, called the primary coil, and creates a magnetic field. Often the primary coil may only be about 10 turns of heavy duty copper wire. The primary coil surrounds a secondary coil which typically has at about ten times as many coils of thin wire. The massive amount of energy dumped into the primary coil causes the magnetic field to collapse quickly and generates electrical current in the secondary coil. Through electromagnetic induction, this allows you to feed in 10,000 volts and get ten times this amount (100,000 volts) in the secondary coil.

A ball or circular piece of metal is attached near the secondary coil to collect and eventually release electrons into the air. Eventually there is enough voltage (electrons) on the surface of the ball, the curved surface cannot retain the charge anymore and you will see discharges in the air like lightning. Those same electrons in the air will cause a fluorescent tube to light up.

Goran takes the above theory and attempts to make it look like you are harvesting electricity right out of the air. He mixes the concept of radiant energy (from the sun) to say “energy is all around us.” His comparison is simply bogus science. Tesla never inferred he was tapping into the air for an unlimited source of power. When you hear of any energy saving device that sounds too good to be true, give us a call; because most of the time it is bogus.



SURANGAW | ISTOCKPHOTO

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

EVERY YEAR, Lamar Electric Cooperative selects two high school students to attend an all-expenses-paid tour of Washington, D.C., which includes visiting the U.S. Capitol and meeting members of Congress.

Eligible students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric Cooperative or attend one of the four high schools served by the co-op: Prairiland, Roxton, Detroit and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric also are eligible.

Applications must be complete, with a three-page typed essay titled “How will electrical needs be met in the future?” and submitted to Lamar Electric Cooperative no later than 5 p.m., February 10. Applications are available online at lamarelectric.coop. Submit by email to dctrip@lamarelectric.coop, or in person at 1485 N. Main St. in Paris. It’s that easy!

Learn more about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour at lamarelectric.coop by clicking on the Youth Programs tab.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2017 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 10

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. _____

Applicants hereby acknowledge that the application essay becomes the property of Lamar Electric Cooperative and may be published.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



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

GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

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Member Benefits

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

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

CALL US

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

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.lamarelectric.coop



COMING SOON: Prepaid Metering

A new option for Lamar Electric members

PREPAID METERING IS AS SIMPLE AS IT

SOUNDS: Consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit is depleted.

A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car: Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. Literally. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you become more prudent with your gas use and make informed decisions about when and how much to use.

Now let's transfer that analogy to your account with Lamar Electric Cooperative. With normal metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a shock. "How could I possibly have used so much electricity?" Prepaid metering is designed to ease—and hopefully eliminate—that shock. Let's take a look at how it works.

There's no difference in the electricity service you receive—just in HOW and WHEN you pay for it. When you sign up, you pay as often and as much as you'd like. Prepaid metering takes a meter reading at midnight each day, calculates the amount of electricity used, and deducts it from the credit balance. The credit balance is updated around 9 a.m. each day. You're in control of your budget, your usage and your payments. Prepaid metering allows Lamar Electric members to use electric service without deposits and penalties.

There will still be the normal customer charge of \$12.50 applied to your account, prorated daily. Each payment trans-



action must be a minimum of \$25. Best of all, there's no deposit and no credit check required for prepaid metering accounts. As you approach "empty," you add more money to your account, and you're set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off, just like your car stops when it runs out of gas. When you make a payment, your power comes back on automatically.

To complete the analogy, let's look at what you might do during a week of prepaid metering: You become quite aware of how

you are using electricity. You might turn things off more often. You might change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it.

Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts. Members who sign up for prepaid metering also are signed up for email and text alerts. We'll let you know when it's time to add money to your account and when your payment has been received.

"Prepaid metering has been well-tested by Lamar Electric employees," said Lamar Electric Cooperative General Manager and CEO Jerry Williams. "We've found prepaid metering to be convenient and easy to use. This is a great option for our members who are on a budget."

The option to switch to prepaid metering is coming soon. Be sure to read next month's *Texas Co-op Power* for an update. To learn more, give a member services representative a call at (903) 784-4303.

Academic Scholarships Available

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, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the college, university or school in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

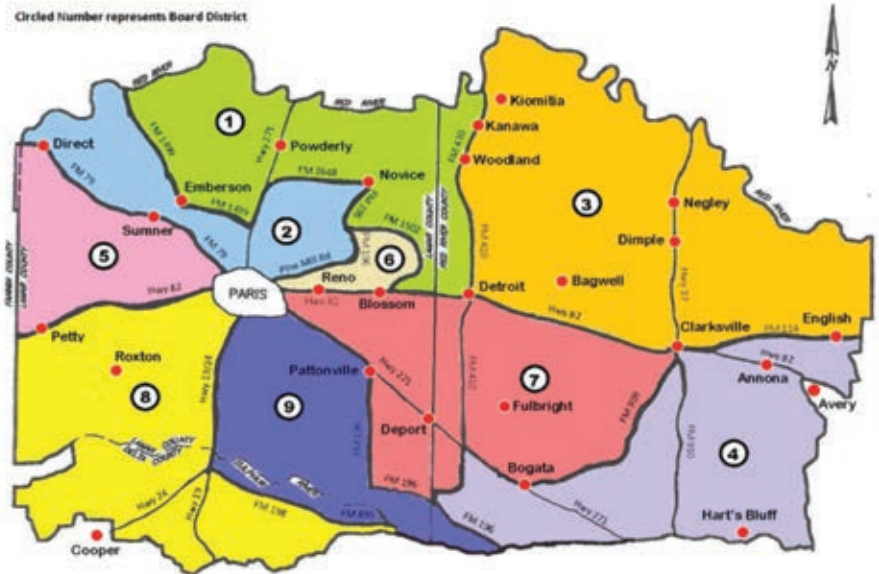
The entry deadline is April 7. Full details and the application can be found on the Lamar Electric website at lamarelectric.coop.



Annual Meeting Set for April 22

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 22, at Paris Junior High School, 2400 Jefferson Road in Paris. There will be additional information in the next few issues of *Texas Co-op Power* regarding the meeting.

Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year. This year, members in districts 1, 8 and 9 will be voting at the annual meeting. Members residing in districts 1, 8 and 9 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 and fill out a nomination form no earlier than January 22 and no later than February 21, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws. If you are unsure of which district you live in, please refer to the district map.



EXCERPT FROM LAMAR ELECTRIC BYLAWS

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.