



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Renewable Energy Solutions Environmentally Sound Economically Challenging Looking Toward the Future

Texans informed of possible electric supply emergencies. "Conservation Alerts" provide information on the state of electric supply and delivery within the ERCOT control area.

Renewable Energy Solutions are moving forward across the nation as regulators press for environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional generation. Clean air and global warming issues are at the forefront of the initiative. Frequently overlooked issues concerning this type of energy alternative are the costs associated with bringing the systems on line. Both wind and solar are frequently located in uninhabited areas which allows for straight line wind collection with less turbulence. Solar systems require more arid environments because moisture and clouds reduce their generating capacity.

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This means that the generation is isolated from points of demand and must be brought in on transmission circuits. Since most of these areas are isolated with little demand for energy, it requires a significant investment in new facilities to move the power from where it is being generated to where the power is being used.

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Renewable energy resources have introduced a new player that is known as Mother Nature. If she decides the wind will stop blowing or the sun will not shine, these must be replaced by conventional generating plants to keep the power flowing. It is this scenario which makes renewable resources so expensive. We have to build and maintain conventional resources to replace them when mother nature cannot supply the wind or sun to make electricity. Ultimately the rate payer will cover the cost for all generating facilities constructed, along with the cost for crews who keep them operational and ready to bring in service.

To close the gap between supply and demand the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) in cooperation with Texas Public Utility Commission have designated a four step plan. This plan keeps

Powerful Advice provides a color-coded system to notify Texans of conditions on the electricity grid, including conservation steps that Texans can take to reduce the chance of involuntary rolling outages. This is required in the event an Electricity Emergency is declared.

Conservation Encouraged Normal Conditions

On GREEN days, no Electricity Emergency is likely, but normal conservation measures are recommended as a means for reducing electricity bills.

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Conservation Needed Power Watch

On YELLOW days, extra conservation measures are urged because of a chance that electricity shortages may occur during the peak usage hours. A YELLOW Alert will be declared for days where temperatures statewide are expected to be extremely hot, leading to record or near-record electricity consumption. A YELLOW Alert will also be declared if some combination of unexpectedly high electricity demand and unexpected outages of power plants occur and cause a greater than normal chance of shortages. There is an expected or actual declaration of Step 1 of ERCOT's Emergency Electricity Curtailment Plan (EECP), which includes procurement of additional generation. An inability to obtain additional generation could lead to the declaration of EECPP Step 2, which includes deployment of interruptible loads such as large industrial customers. Consumers are encouraged to reduce their electricity use as much as possible during the peak electricity usage hours from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Conservation Critical Power Warning

On RED days, conservation is critical to avoid Electricity Emergencies and the potential for rolling outages needed to prevent uncontrolled blackouts. RED Alerts will be declared when there is

insufficient electricity available to meet customer demand and rolling outages may be needed during the peak hours of 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. Consumers should reduce their consumption of electricity as much as possible to help prevent an emergency. ERCOT has currently entered into Step 3 of its Emergency Electricity Curtailment Plan (EECP), including the deployment of emergency interruptible loads.

- Electricity consumption should be limited. Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances, and electronic equipment.

- Do not use your dishwasher, laundry equipment, hair dryers, coffee makers, pool pump, or other home appliances between the hours of 2 PM to 7 PM.

- When at home, close blinds and drapes on windows that get direct sun, set air conditioning thermostats to 80 degrees, and use fans to cool the air.

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- When away from home, close blinds and drapes on windows that will get direct sun, set air conditioning thermostats to 85 degrees and turn all fans off before you leave.

- Use microwaves or outdoor grills for cooking. Using an indoor range or stove will heat up your house and cause your air-conditioner to run harder.

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- Customers can minimize the chance that power surges will occur by turning off all appliances, lights, and other electrical equipment. Leave one task light on to determine when power has been restored.

- Minimize unnecessary travel, as traffic signals may go out of service, resulting in traffic jams.

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Power Emergency Rotating Outages

On BLACK days, rolling outages are occurring and are needed to prevent uncontrolled rolling blackouts. BLACK Alerts will be declared when there is insufficient electricity available to meet customer demand and rolling outages are occurring during the peak hours of 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. ERCOT is currently in Step 4 of its Energy Electricity Curtailment Plan (EECP), which includes rolling outages to achieve frequency curtailment. Consumers should reduce their consumption of electricity as much as possible to help prevent rolling blackouts.

- Rotating outages will be limited in duration for a period of 10-45 minutes. Remember to turn off cooling equipment so power restoration can be accomplished in a more timely manner.

- Customers can minimize the chance that power surges will occur by turning off all appliances, lights, and other electrical equipment. Leave one task light on to determine when power has been restored.

- Minimize unnecessary travel, as traffic signals may go out of service, resulting in traffic jams.

- Your cooperation and participation in steps two and three will prevent the need for using step four. Always keep Informed and remember to do your part to work through the emergency.

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From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Karen Taylor from Granbury. She will receive a Texas Co-Op Power Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



SOPAPILLA CHEESECAKE

... INGREDIENTS ...

- 1 - Cup of Sugar
- 1 - Teaspoon of Vanilla
- 2 - Containers of 8 oz. Light Cream Cheese
- 1/2 - Cup of Melted Butter (Divided)
- 2 - Packages of Reduced Fat Crescent Rolls
- Cinnamon and Sugar to Taste

Pour half of melted butter on bottom of cake pan to coat.

Take one package of crescent rolls, unroll and line bottom of pan pressing seams together.

Mix sugar, vanilla and cream cheese together and spread over crescent rolls.

Using the other package of crescent rolls, unroll and lay over cream cheese mixture pressing seams together.

Pour remainder of melted butter over crescent rolls.

Sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on top then bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. You can enjoy them until their gone.

It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery.

It pays to stay informed!

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TRI-COUNTY

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Central Headquarters Office (817) 444-3201 or (817) 523-7231
Southwest District Office (817) 279-7010 or (817) 279-7011
Northeast District Office (817) 431-1541
B-K District Office (940) 888-3441
Internet: www.TCECTEXAS.COM