



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Taking Care of Our Member-Owners”

Member Information Bulletin

June 2022

OUTAGE TEXTING

Text **“OUTAGE”**
to **25069**
to report your outage

For more info visit tcectexas.com/outage-texting



In your June *Texas Co-op Power*

- ▶ Message from the CEO, page 18
- ▶ Put a local café on your menu, page 20
- ▶ 2022 Youth Tour Winners, page 22
- ▶ 2022 Scholarship Winners, page 23

Look for your account number on pages 18-25 for a chance to claim a \$20 bill credit!

Rising Power Costs

The PCRf, or Power Cost Recovery Factor, component of your monthly billing statement is a mechanism that Tri-County Electric Cooperative uses to recover the actual cost of wholesale power and transmission services billed to us from our wholesale power supplier, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative (Brazos). Beginning with your June billing statement, the PCRf increased from \$.04/kWh to \$.075/kWh (i.e. 4.0 cents per kWh to 7.5 cents per kWh). 800588601

The Reason Behind the Change

Tri-County Electric Co-op passes the cost of wholesale power and transmission charges on to you at our cost, without a markup. Over the last several months wholesale power costs have increased substantially across the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid and therefore, we must increase the PCRf to recover the costs billed to us by Brazos. The main driver of the increased costs in Texas, and across the nation, is the drastic increase in the price of natural gas. As you may know, natural gas is the predominant fuel used by generators operating in ERCOT. To put things into perspective, in June 2021, natural gas sold for just over \$3.00 per MMBtu and just one year later, June 2022, prices for a similar contract were over \$8.50 per MMBtu. 800655469

Understanding your Bill

Most residential member bills have a single line item, or a “bundled” electric charge, that includes a kWh Charge, a Monthly Service Charge and a Power Cost Recovery Factor (PCRf) Charge. This can be found on your bill as the “Electric Charge” line item, and you can view your kWh use in the “Electric Use” chart under your service address information. The kWh charge includes \$.048971/kWh of base power costs. In order to calculate the complete cost of wholesale generation and transmission, you need to add the base power costs (\$.048971) plus the PCRf (\$.075) and multiply that number by your total kWh used during your billing period. To sum it up, the base power cost rate plus the entire PCRf rate—approximately 75% of your bill—go directly back to Brazos. The only money that stays with Tri-County Electric Co-op to operate and maintain the co-op comes from the Monthly Service Charge and the remainder of the kWh charge, approximately 25% of your overall bill. Learn more about your bill at tcectexas.com/my-bill.

Reducing your Electric Use

Tri-County Electric Co-op is here to help you identify areas to reduce your electric use and lower your bill. Here are three simple tips:

- ▶ **Ceiling Fans.** Ceiling fans move cool air around in your home without touching the thermostat.
- ▶ **Fire up the Grill.** Grilling is a summer staple. Not only is it fun, but it keeps your home cool by reducing the use of kitchen appliances that put off heat. 8003161901
- ▶ **Watch the Thermostat.** The recommended thermostat setting during summer is 78 degrees. While we understand comfort is key during a Texas summer, consider using a smart thermostat to raise the temperature when you are away from home.

Visit tcectexas.com/energy-efficiency for more energy-saving tips.

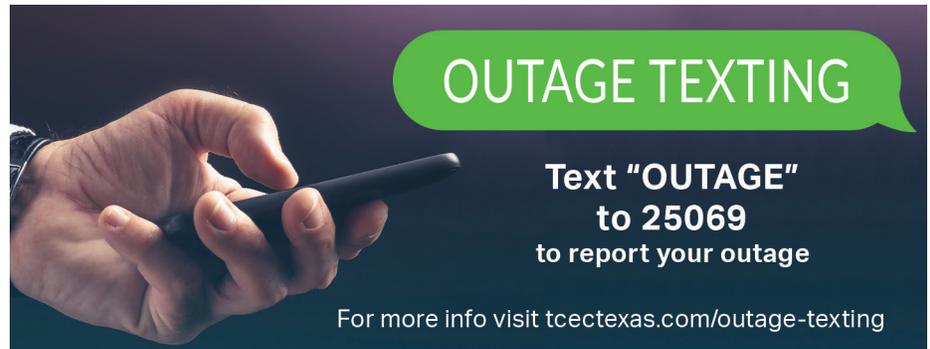


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Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Let summer begin! Tri-County Electric Co-op has a few energy-saving tips for our members as things begin to heat up.

- ▶ **Seal in Savings.** Use caulk to seal cracks and openings around windows and doors. This is one of the easiest and low-cost ways to save energy. Keep cool, conditioned air indoors where it belongs. 800588601
- ▶ **Ceiling Fans.** Ceiling fans move cool air around in your home without touching the thermostat. Make sure the blades are spinning counterclockwise to create a cool breeze during the summer. Keep in mind fans cool people, not spaces, so be sure to flip the switch when you leave the room.
- ▶ **Pools and Spas.** Swimming is a great way to keep cool in the heat of summer. Maintain pool and spa pumps to increase efficiency and clean filters regularly. 800655469
- ▶ **Fire up the Grill.** Grilling is a summer staple. Not only is it fun, but it keeps your home cool by reducing the use of kitchen appliances that put off heat.
- ▶ **Create Ambiance.** Consider lining your outdoor walkways and flowerbeds with solar-powered lights. These provide the light needed during the evenings and nights and are charged by the sun each day. 8003161901
- ▶ **Watch the Thermostat.** The recommended thermostat setting during summer is 78 degrees. While we understand comfort is key during a Texas summer, consider using a smart thermostat to raise the temperature when you are away from home.

Looking for more energy-saving tips?

Visit tcectexas.com/energy-efficiency



USE SOLAR LIGHTS TO ILLUMINATE PATHWAYS & OTHER OUTDOOR SPACES.



MAINTAIN POOL & SPA PUMPS. CLEAN FILTERS REGULARLY.



COOK OUTSIDE TO REDUCE INDOOR HEAT.

Big Red Ice Cream

Joy Jenkins of Azle

2-liter bottle of Big Red
2 cans of Eagle Brand milk

Pour ingredients into an ice cream maker. Stir until mixed well.

Process ice cream according to your ice cream maker.

Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP: Try this recipe with your favorite soft drink – cream soda, Big Peach, orange, etc.!



Share your Favorite Recipe!

Please submit your favorite recipe and this form to the Communications Department.

The recipe submission is a free and voluntary service provided by Tri-County Electric Cooperative. As we have more than 100,000 member-owners, we may receive high volumes of submissions. Recipes must be submitted before the 20th of each month to be considered for the next Member Bulletin or issue of the *Texas Co-op Power* (i.e., June 20th for the August issue). We reserve the right to refuse any recipe. Please submit recipes through the postal service or email and not on the back of your payment stub. These stubs are processed automatically because we receive hundreds daily. 800890828

Name: _____

Town: _____

Recipe Name: _____

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com

Online:
tcectexas.com/recipe-submission

Postal service: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
200 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008

Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



It Pays to Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin or the *Texas Co-op Power* and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill! **Simply contact our Member Services team at 817-444-3201 to claim your credit.**



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Taking Care of our Member-Owners"

200 Bailey Ranch Road | Aledo, Texas 76008
Phone: 817-444-3201 | Fax: 817-444-7679
www.tcectexas.com

Azle ★ Keller ★ Granbury ★ Aledo ★ Seymour ★ Munday