

We're Thankful for You



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DARRYL SCHRIVER

WITH THANKSGIVING JUST AROUND THE corner, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership and support of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. And this is no offhand or perfunctory thanks: Because of your connection to Tri-County EC, we are able to make our community a better place. It might sound trite if it weren't so true.

In the spirit of this month's holiday, I think it's important to let our members know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As a cooperative, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also seek to be a catalyst for good. We are purposeful in partnering with local groups, such

Youth Tour sends teens from cooperatives around Texas and the nation to Washington, D.C., each June for a week of immersion in democracy in action. The trip is life-changing for many students, and we are humbled and honored to be part of this golden opportunity.

These investments in our community wouldn't be possible without you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and patronage of these programs. When you attend co-op events—particularly the annual meeting—and alert us to problems, give kudos or provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve our operations and, ultimately, better serve the entire membership. 29855002

Because we are locally governed, Tri-County EC has a first-hand perspective on community priorities, which enables us to make reasoned decisions about long-term and infrastructure investments, including considerations of whether certain projects are a timely fit for our membership.

I'm thankful for our board members' willingness to carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. Their time is well spent, as it results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way that our members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather or its aftermath. Our employees are thankful for your patience, care

and concern while they work to restore power during prolonged outages amid challenging conditions.

Tri-County EC was established 80 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that reason and many others, we're thankful for your membership.



as volunteer fire departments, who share our commitment to enriching our community's safety and quality of life.

Another cooperative principle we work to amplify is Education, Training and Information. We espouse this principle by working closely with area schools to provide safety demonstrations and award college scholarships, and by sponsoring some of our community's brightest young people on the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour.



CHAD SIMON | SAN HOUSTON EC

Move Over—It's the Law

WE ARE ALL THANKFUL FOR OUR CO-OP'S LINEWORKERS AND THE LONG HOURS THEY dedicate to ensuring affordable and reliable power is available around the clock. With this demanding work, safety is always the first priority because, in some cases, there are no second chances to get the job done right.

Now we have another important tool to keep our utility workers safe: Texas' "move over/slow down" law. When you see a utility vehicle parked on the side of the road with its amber (or amber and blue) lights flashing, help us keep our lineworkers safe by moving over a lane, if you safely can, or slowing down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

When you move over, you're giving workers the room they need to safely complete their jobs for you and other members.

We've all been careful to keep an eye out for police, firefighters and other first responders who are on the scene of an accident. Now, with the new law in place, drivers should treat utility workers just as they do other first responders. After all, they are among those who move toward trouble, not away from it, to keep all of us safer. 800714166

The last thing they need to be worrying about when they are taking care of our business is a careless motorist. Common sense tells us to just move over. Now, as of September 1, the power of the law stands behind this important rule.

If you are driving on a two-lane road and you do not have an extra lane to move into, the law says you should slow down by 20 mph. A slower-moving vehicle is a safer vehicle. And keep in mind—significant fines give this law teeth.

After all, there is no price that can recoup a lost life. There's no need to ask questions or wonder what they're up to. Just move over.

Some Quick Tips for Thanksgiving Savings

Turn down the thermostat. With a full house and a hot kitchen, your house will be too steamy at its usual setting.

Replace your lightbulbs with LED bulbs. Your guests won't notice a difference in lighting, but you'll see a difference in your energy bill.

Don't just stuff the turkey—stuff the oven. As long as your oven will be running all day, make the most of it by cooking several dishes at once. A variation of 25 degrees in either direction from the recommended cooking temperature will still produce the desired result in most cases. 800687212

Cook at least one dish from start to finish in the microwave. Microwaves are faster than the oven and use about one-third the electricity.

Keep cleanup easy. Load the dishwasher completely full. With a mountain of dinner plates, using the dishwasher will be more efficient than hand-washing.

Don't rush to put leftovers in the refrigerator, which must work harder to cool off hot foods. Let leftovers cool slightly on the counter.



ASHENOW | ISTOCK.COM



Savor an Energy-Efficient Holiday Feast This Season

NEW ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES USE FAR LESS ENERGY THAN OLDER ONES, BUT THAT doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save some energy and money.

There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking—like a turkey—will be in it for a long time.

Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie isn't burning. Opening the oven door—even for a second or two—can drop the temperature inside by 25 degrees.

Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.

Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.

Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do. 800839609

Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40% of the generated heat.

Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.

Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand, and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.



CHOREOGRAPH | ISTOCK.COM

Power Tip

Heading out of town for the holidays? Unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



GLDBURGER | ISTOCK.COM

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Set clocks back one hour
Sunday, November 3.



SDI PRODUCTIONS | ISTOCK.COM

Veterans Day

Monday, November 11

Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

Fall Home Maintenance and Prep

FINALLY, TEMPERATURES ARE AT least hinting at cooling, foliage is edging closer to its glorious reveal and football is on TV. That means leaves are falling or will be soon. Here are some practical steps you can take to get your home in tiptop shape for autumn.

Outdoors

Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris. Also, consider installing gutter guards to help minimize the job next time.

Trim dead limbs and branches from trees to prevent them from falling and causing damage to your house or car during winter storms that may come.

Lower humidity during fall makes for prime painting time. If you've been putting off an exterior house painting job, this could be an opportune time to get around to it. 43070001

Take a close look at your roof. Check for signs of wear and tear, including any misshapen, cracked or missing shingles. Damaged shingles should be replaced, and if there is significant damage to the roof overall, it may be time to consider replacing the whole thing.

Check flashing around skylights, chimneys and pipes, and seal any leaks or gaps with roofing cement.

If doing any of the above necessitates a ladder, observe the following practices:

- ▶ Place the ladder's base on a firm, dry surface.
- ▶ Wear slip-resistant shoes.
- ▶ Always keep three points of contact with the ladder: two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand.
- ▶ Don't stand higher than the third rung from the top.
- ▶ Don't lean or overreach—reposition the ladder instead.
- ▶ Be sure to check for and avoid any overhead power lines before climbing a ladder.

Once back on solid ground, rake or blow leaves from your lawn to avoid insects and prevent suffocating the grass below. The raked leaves make an excellent nutrient-rich mulch, or you can compost them.

One last task outdoors in anticipation of colder, potentially freezing winter temperatures. Wrap exposed water pipes with heating tape. The benefits of this are twofold: It will save energy and keep your pipes from freezing.



Fall is a great time for outdoor painting due to lower humidity.

Indoors

Clean or replace filters in your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system.

Check your attic for proper insulation and make sure there's enough. The insulation's vapor barrier should face down toward your home's interior. If more insulation is needed, install it on the attic's floor between joists, taking care not to step off the joists.

If there isn't one already, consider installing a screen behind any gable vents that lead into your home's attic to discourage pests from taking up residence there.

Weatherstrip doors and windows with vinyl, felt, foam tape or rubber to seal any drafty areas. Finish the job with a metal sweep along the bottom of the door. For an easier alternative to the door sweep, go with a removable draft guard. It's also wise to repair caulking around window and door frames. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, sealing an old or especially drafty house can save more than 20% on heating and cooling bills, so this is a worthwhile practice to maintain year-round.

Have wood-burning fireplaces inspected and cleaned to prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries as needed. If you don't own a CO detector, get one. Relatively inexpensive models can save lives.

Put these tips into action to make your home a safe and comfortable sanctuary for you and your family.

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

5 Your co-op notifies you of how and when you'll receive your capital credits retirements.

1 Your co-op tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

4 When the co-op's financial condition permits, your board of directors/trustees decides to retire, or pay, the capital credits.

2 At the end of the year, your co-op completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

3 Your co-op allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.

CATHERINE LANE | ISTOCK.COM

What Are Capital Credits?

CAPITAL CREDITS ARE AT THE HEART OF THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE AND ONE OF the many benefits of your membership. Tri-County Electric Cooperative operates as a nonprofit business—meaning we operate on just enough to run the business. We don't exist to earn a profit; we exist to serve you, our members.

Investor-owned utilities, on the other hand, maximize profits for the purpose of paying dividends to their stockholders. Tri-County EC members—not stockholders—are owners of this electric utility.

Capital credits represent your ownership in Tri-County EC. When you pay your monthly bill, we in turn pay all the expenses associated with running the cooperative, and any funds left over are called margins. Your allocated share of the cooperative's margins is based on the amount of electricity you purchased during the years you received service. These credits are held in reserve for a period of time and used for plant expansion and system improvements to allow us to better serve you.

Periodically, the Tri-County EC Board of Directors reviews the financial condition and requirements of the cooperative to determine when and how much of the accrued capital credits can be responsibly retired and distributed to members. Those allocations are then returned to you.

Capital credits are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you have as a member of Tri-County EC.

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."

—W.T. Purkiser, author

Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28–29, in observance of the holiday.



PRZEMYSŁAW CIEGLAREK | ISTOCK.COM

STRAIGHT SHOOTING ON Safety

Texans love to hunt. There's suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine. Here are the "Ten Commandments" of shooting safety:

Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.

Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.

Be sure of your target.

Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.

Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.

Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.

Control your emotions when using weapons.

Wear hearing and eye protection.

Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.

Never use electrical insulators and transformers as targets.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jorden Wood, President
Dr. Jarrett Armstrong, Vice President
Todd Smith, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry A. Walden
Steve V. Harris
John Killough
Max Waddell
Larry Miller

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Contact Us

CALL US

(817) 444-3201

FIND US ON THE WEB

tcectexas.com

EMAIL US

pr@tcectexas.com

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Azle—Headquarters

600 NW Parkway, Azle, TX 76020
(817) 444-3201

Granbury Office

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048
(817) 279-7010

Keller Office

4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244
(817) 431-1541

Seymour Office

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380
(940) 888-3441

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18–25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

 Find us on Facebook



MILAN MARJANOVIC | ISTOCK.COM

A House Full of Holiday Safety

NEARLY EVERY HOUSEHOLD USES EXTRA ELECTRICITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS—FOR cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Some tips:

Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.

Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.

Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.

One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet.

Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.

Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the lab's symbol on packaging.

Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.

Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.

When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines.

Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.

Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.

Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires. 8000623701

Keep all decorations—and everything else—at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.

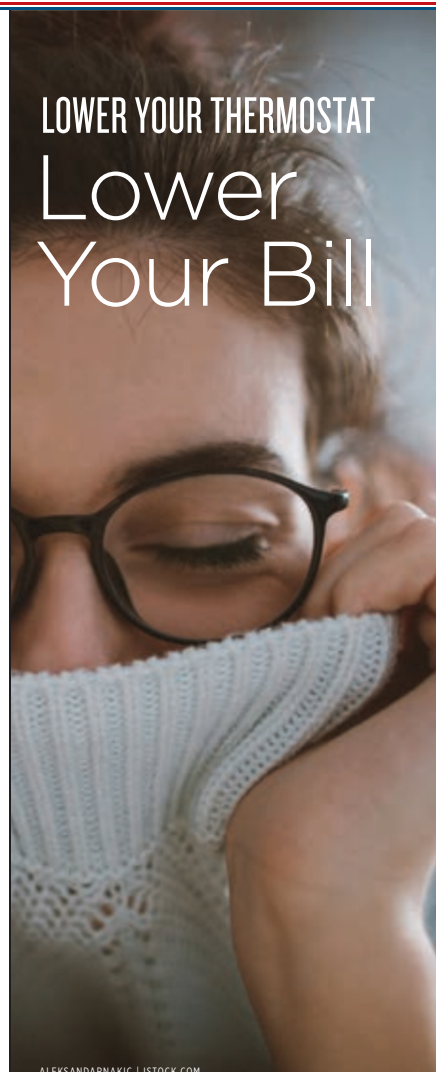
Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.

Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.

Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep. 8002482026

Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.



LOWER YOUR THERMOSTAT
**Lower
Your Bill**

ALEKSANDARNAKIC | ISTOCK.COM

Conserve electricity and avoid higher winter energy bills. Setting the thermostat to 68 degrees when home—and lower when away—saves money.

Save even more!

Turn off and unplug unused lights and appliances.

Close shades and blinds at night to reduce heat loss.

Open them to capture solar heat on sunny days.

Avoid using electric space heaters.

Change furnace filters.

Weatherstrip or caulk doors and windows.

Tri-County EC encourages you to conserve electricity.



Pumpkin Praline Chiffon Pie

DONNA PUTMAN | PARADISE

9-inch pastry shell	Pinch of salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter	4 eggs, separated
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar	1 can (1 pound) pumpkin
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped pecans	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, for egg whites
1 envelope unflavored gelatin	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream, whipped
$1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons pumpkin spice	

1. Bake pastry shell at 450 degrees 10 minutes or until just brown.
2. Mix together butter, brown sugar and pecans and spread mixture on the bottom of the shell. Bake an additional 5 minutes. Let cool.
3. In a double boiler, combine sugar, gelatin, spice and salt. Stir in slightly beaten egg yolks, pumpkin and milk. Cook over hot water, stirring constantly 15 minutes. Chill until mixture begins to set.
4. Beat egg whites in a large bowl until foamy. Beat in sugar gradually, until meringue forms stiff peaks. Chill.
5. Beat pumpkin mixture until fluffy. Fold into meringue and spoon into shell. Top with whipped cream and nuts. Chill. Enjoy! 139201015

Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

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

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

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020

