



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO BRYAN STORY

Stay in the Know

AT LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we're constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we could use your help.

By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Up-to-date information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Current contact information allows for a more efficient power restoration process during an outage. Your phone number is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means that when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your meter location. That helps us predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain continuous service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text mes-

sages or email if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Lamar EC can easily get in touch with you.

Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any changes in co-op events.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that when you provide your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It's only used by Lamar Electric to send important information to you.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information through our SmartHub app, by submitting an email to info@lamarelectric.coop or by contacting our office. In doing so, you'll help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op. ■

REGISTER TO START YOUR **SMARTHUB** EXPERIENCE TODAY!

SCAN ME! VISIT www.LAMARELECTRIC.COOP TO LEARN MORE.





Stay Away From Electrical Substations

AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because dangerous high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind.

Teach youngsters to stay away from substation fences. These areas are dangerous, and the fences are not for climbing.

If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that's open or looks to be vandalized, please contact us immediately.

Never fly kites or drones near electrical substations. If you do and the kite or drone gets caught inside the fence, let us retrieve it for you.

Never release metallic balloons near substations. If they get caught in the equipment or lines, they can cause power outages. ■

POWER TIP

Set equipment like home printers and scanners to switch to sleep mode when not in use. The equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

JITTAWIT.21 | ISTOCK.COM



5225 US Hwy. 82 E, Blossom, TX 75416
P.O. Box 68, Blossom, TX 75416
Phone (903) 784-4303
Web lamarelectric.coop

General Manager and CEO
Bryan Story

Board of Directors

George M. Wood, President, Blossom
Lyle Yoder, Vice President, Pattonville
Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, Detroit
Matthew Albus, Roxton
James D. Floyd, Annona
Barbara Golden, Detroit
Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner
Josh Hostetler, Sumner
Ron E. Tippit, Clarksville

Contact Us

For information and to report outages, please call us.

(903) 784-4303

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- Prepaid metering

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Lamar Electric provides *Texas Co-op Power* and TexasCoopPower.com to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

VISIT US ONLINE

lamarelectric.coop



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/lamar



KUNLATHIDA PETCHUEN | ISTOCK.COM

The Top Energy Users in Your Home

Start here for savings

ALTHOUGH MOST HOMEOWNERS would like to be more energy-efficient and save money, the effort often feels overwhelming because many folks don't know where to start.

How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart the effort, it's useful to identify the top energy users in your home. **Here are the top five, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration:**

Energy Information Administration:

- ▶ Air conditioner: 17%
- ▶ Heater: 15%
- ▶ Water heater: 14%
- ▶ Lights: 10%
- ▶ Refrigeration: 7%

Together, these five constitute 63% of the average American home's energy bill. By adjusting household habits around each energy user, you can start conserving and saving.

Adjust the Temperature

Combined, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. You can achieve at least 10% savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- ▶ During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees.

When it's warm, set it to 78.

- ▶ Clean or replace the filters of your HVAC system regularly to cut costs 5%–15%.
- ▶ Clean refrigerator and electric baseboard heater coils to maintain maximum efficiency.
- ▶ Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to prevent indoor air from escaping to the outdoors.
- ▶ No matter the time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save 10% on your utility bill.

Water Heater Efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, walls and floors, it also pays to wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. Doing this is all the more critical if you have an older unit, which may have less insulation than newer models.

Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain 1–2 gallons of water from the bottom of your tank

annually to prevent sediment buildup.

Shine a Light on Savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25% efficiency.

Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. For another easy way to save, always turn lights off in unoccupied rooms.

Cold Cash in Your Wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40% more energy than a new model. If you're considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star-certified fridge uses at least 15% less energy than other models and 20% less energy than required by federal conservation standards.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35–38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for separate freezers. ■

Lamar Electric Cooperative 2025 Scholarship Application

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will award 10 \$1,500 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 institution in one lump sum and must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

Eligibility

To be considered for a Lamar Electric scholarship, a student must:

- ▶ Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric.
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited homeschool program within the counties served by the cooperative.
- ▶ Apply by April 4.

Winners will be chosen in a random drawing at the Lamar Electric Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 26. You do not need to be present to win.

Apply by April 4

Once the application is completed:

Email it to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop

Or mail it to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarships
P.O. Box 68
Blossom, TX 75416

Lamar Electric Cooperative 2025 Scholarship Application



Name _____

Address _____

Name of High School _____

College of Interest _____

College Major of Interest _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

Lamar Electric Account Number _____

Phone _____



ALEXANDRE POTASHEV | ISTOCK.COM

Stay Alert During Storms

IN TEXAS, storm season starts early and stays late, so Texans need to know how to avoid the deadly hazards that severe storms can leave in their wake. Here are some common dangers that arise during storms.

Carbon monoxide poisoning. If the power goes out, you might need to use alternate means to power appliances or for light, heat or cooking. Gas-powered generators can pose hazards if not used safely. Make sure to operate portable generators according to safety specifications. Use generators, grills and camp stoves outside the house and garage, at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents.

Electrocution. Severe weather can snap electric lines and break poles, leaving live electric wires down where you or family members could be in danger of touching them. Power lines can carry enough voltage to injure and even kill, so exercise extreme caution around them if you must venture outside.

Never assume that a line isn't live just because it doesn't throw sparks, pop or hiss. Stay away from all downed wires and whatever they're touching, especially water or wet items.

Closer to home, make sure electrical cords and cables you use with portable generators are undamaged and in good repair. Keep cords away from puddles and sources of water.

Flooding. Avoid standing water, which can conceal electrical hazards—outlets or other electrical equipment. Don't operate appliances and equipment that are in water or have been underwater. Dry them out and have a qualified technician clear them for use first.

House fires. You might light candles if the power goes out. Place candles on stable, flat surfaces, out of traffic areas and away from the reach of children. Better yet, use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns instead.

Gas explosions. Storms can damage gas lines easily. If you smell or hear gas leaking, don't use electrical equipment—including landline phones—or switch lights on or off. Before you use a gas appliance or gas cylinder that has been underwater, have a professional check it for damage and leaks. ■

Texas Rattlesnake Eggs

- 24 medium jalapeño peppers**
- 8 mozzarella cheese sticks**
- 2 cups buttermilk baking mix**
- 1 pound hot pork breakfast sausage**
- 1 pound cheddar cheese, grated**
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes**
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt**

1. Line a cookie sheet with parchment or aluminum foil.
2. Remove the stems and seeds of the jalapeños, keeping each whole.
3. Cut the cheese sticks into thirds and stuff a cheese piece into each pepper. Set aside.
4. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
5. Using a stand mixer, combine the baking mix, pork sausage, cheddar and spices; mix until it forms a stiff dough. Form dough into 24 rounded balls of equal size using a cookie scoop or heaping tablespoon. Take one piece of dough, flatten it and shape it around one stuffed jalapeño to completely seal it inside. Continue to form the dough pieces around each pepper until all are covered.
6. Place the "eggs" on the prepared baking sheet and bake 30–40 minutes or until lightly browned.

MAKES 24 APPETIZERS

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

112233 | ISTOCK.COM



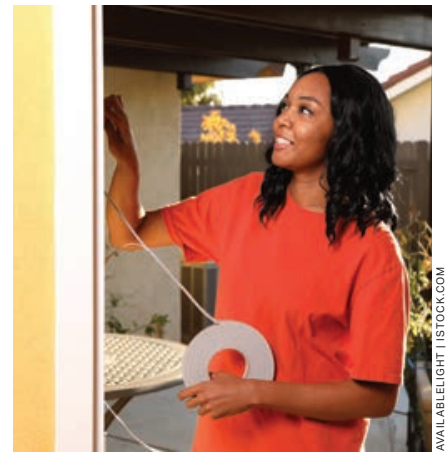
10 Tips for Spring Energy Savings

AS SPRING UNFOLDS so do opportunities to save energy. Here are some no-cost ways to get you started on spring energy savings.

- 1. Clear the air.** Open windows to allow fresh—free—air to circulate.
- 2. Cook outside.** Enjoy a few hours of sunshine by using your grill or smoker to add flavor to meals. Or toss a salad or pull together sandwich fixings and enjoy them outdoors.
- 3. Search and seal.** Cracks and gaps let conditioned air outside. Caulk and weatherstrip to seal leaks. Window and door frames need the most attention.
- 4. Brighten up naturally.** Open blinds and curtains and turn off lights to save energy.
- 5. Be fan friendly.** Use ceiling fans to circulate air. Fans should turn counterclockwise for cooling. And remember: Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when the room is unoccupied.
- 6. Adjust the atmosphere.** Remember to adjust your thermostat settings for the milder months ahead. Consider turning off the system entirely during mild spring weather.
- 7. Tune up.** Schedule an appointment with an HVAC technician to identify potential problems with your system and have them addressed before peak cooling season arrives.
- 8. Maximize savings.** Think about supply and demand. Plan to do household chores that require electricity during off-peak hours (when energy demand is lower—typically between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.).
- 9. Take charge.** Consider disconnecting electrical devices you don't use regularly until you need them. Plugged-in devices use energy even when not in use. A smart power strip can make it easy to turn off multiple items.
- 10. Move outdoors:** Trade lights, TVs, computers and devices for fresh air. You'll be more active, have fun and save money. ■



CARLOS GAWRONSKI | ISTOCK.COM



AVAILABLELIGHT | ISTOCK.COM

Capture Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

SAVE ENERGY AND SEAL air leaks by weatherstripping exterior doors. If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weatherstripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste.

This DIY project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the materials you use. The most common weatherstripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal or a combination of materials may also be used.

- 1. Clean the door and the doorjamb to be weatherstripped.** For best results, weatherstripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces.
- 2. To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material.** It's best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and doorjamb.
- 3. Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weatherstripping material** for each side of the doorjamb and door.
- 4. Peel back the self-adhesive foam.** Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weatherstripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and the doorjamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and doorjamb, without making it difficult to shut. ■