

Why We Encourage You To Conserve Energy



MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER/CEO BILLY P. JONES

YOU MAY WONDER WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE ELECTRICITY efficiently. After all, we're in the business of selling kilowatt-hours—so why would we want our customers to use less electricity?

Unlike other utilities, your cooperative isn't in business to make a profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. Each co-op is collectively owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's common sense. Although fossil fuels are still relatively abundant, they are finite. Depleting these natural resources too quickly contributes to environmental degradation and means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy also saves money in two ways: Using less electricity decreases your electric bill, and when many consumers lower their usage, it saves your cooperative money as well.

That's because electric co-ops must keep enough power on hand to supply all members' highest usage. So if electricity can be conserved, less overall power is needed, new power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they would otherwise and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed.

As our electric system continues to grow, we must maintain an adequate supply of

power. Your conservation efforts, combined with the efforts of fellow members, can ensure the cooperative's stability and continued growth.

Here at Navarro County Electric Cooperative, we seek to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and by setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability or service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity and using it efficiently, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on Navarro County EC to continue looking out for you.



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It's Annual Meeting Time!

EVERY YEAR, NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative holds a meeting of our owners. That's you.

It's a fine opportunity to get together with your friends and neighbors. Mingle with the parents of your kids' classmates, find out how many new grandbabies others have and just catch up with what's been happening.

But it's more than that. It's also a time to speak up and share your views about how your co-op is doing because as an owner, you're important to the present and future of your electric cooperative.

Member ownership and member participation aren't just the hallmarks of your electric cooperative; they provide the foundation for its success.

Your participation and vote mean a lot. After all, it's your business.

We look forward to seeing you at Navarro County EC's annual meeting, May 9 at Cook Center in Corsicana.



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Navarro County EC Honors Employees for Years of Service



Back row, from left: Lindy Shaw, 40 years; Aaron Colvin, 5 years; Sam Miller, 10 years; Mike Lawrence, 25 years; Larry Harrison, 20 years; and Darrell Tidwell, 20 years. Front row, from left: Mark Rash, 40 years; Hope Edwards, 5 years; and Alex Mendez, 5 years.

Power Tip

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your AC and check its evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

CATHERINE LANE | ISTOCK.COM

Time To Spring Forward

Remember to set your clock forward one hour March 8 for daylight saving time.

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Navarro County Electric Cooperative

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*Operating in Ellis, Freestone, Hill,
Limestone and Navarro counties*

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Billy P. Jones

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CONVENIENT WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

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1-855-385-9975 to pay by phone

We no longer take payments over the phone at the office.

Springtime Savings

EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST CHRISTMAS, SPRING IS ALREADY HERE.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it's a good time for homeowners to take a few steps that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer. Here are eight ideas to get you started.

1. Tune up your air conditioner. AC weather is likely still a couple of months away, but if you put off having your equipment serviced until it's hot outside, you run the risk of a breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified technician

can replace your central air conditioning system's filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems in the making and recommend repairs so they don't put your unit out of commission.

2. Open your windows.

Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It's a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

3. Turn off the heat. And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless March and April are especially warm this year, enjoy the fresh spring air for as long as you can.

4. Seal gaps in the dry-wall on the indoor side of your exterior walls. You'll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows and doors. The



U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30% on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.

5. Service your large appliances. The refrigerator is one of your home's biggest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the back of it, where coils collect dust and sap the unit's efficiency. Clean the lint out of your dryer's vent.

6. Bring in sunlight. During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights, open the blinds, and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

7. Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat several degrees when it gets warm outside. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

8. Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.



Meter Tampering Can Kill

TAMPERING WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail and definitely slapped with fines of about triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion and even electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who reads or maintains it.

Plus, you're driving up electric costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force stores to inflate the prices of their products to cover losses from theft.

The cooperative does not have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the authorities. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

If you're aware of a meter on our lines that you suspect has been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life.

Join the Fight To Stop Scammers

Consumers are urged to report potential scams to utilities and authorities



OUR INCREASINGLY CONNECTED WORLD IS GIVING SCAMMERS more opportunities to take advantage of unsuspecting consumers, which means local authorities, utilities and other businesses are working overtime to keep people informed. To help protect yourself, your family or your business from being victimized, heed the longtime maxim about vigilance, “If you see something, say something.”

The Federal Trade Commission has received reports about scammers impersonating utility companies in an effort to get money. Reporting these scams helps authorities fight them.

Electric cooperatives are among the businesses and consumer organizations supporting Utilities United Against Scams. The international consortium of electricity, natural gas, water and sewer providers, and trade and industry associations is sharing information on payment scams, identity theft, and sales and service schemes to gain a leg up on the criminals.

Impostor scams are the most common type of fraud reported to the FTC. Impersonators call homes and small businesses demanding payment for supposedly delinquent bills and threatening to terminate service. This type of scam becomes more common during peak heating and cooling seasons, when its practitioners prey on consumers’ need to maintain utility service amid temperature extremes.

Variations on the scheme are also becoming more common. Rather than making an initial claim that a consumer owes an outstanding balance, some scammers are now claiming an overpayment is the reason for a phone call to a consumer. They will make contact in an attempt to get banking information so they can process a supposed refund.

Never give banking information over the phone unless you place the call to a number you know is legitimate.

There has also been an uptick in door-to-door scams by people claiming to represent utility providers like your electric co-op. Representatives knock on the door or ring the doorbell offering to replace or repair a meter or other device, or they solicit personal information to sign up a consumer for programs that they claim could reduce victims’ energy bills.

They may try to charge you for the phony service, sell you unnecessary products, collect personal information for use in identity theft or simply gain entry to steal valuables.

High-pressure demands are a common tactic in many of the schemes. Urging immediate decisions or actions—such as immediate payment, particularly by a specific method like a gift card, wire transfer, cellphone or third-party app—should raise serious red flags.

Utility-connected scams are common because utility services are so integral to daily life. Lighting, heating, water and sewage services are all essential, so any threat of service disconnection can provoke a lot of anxiety in a potential victim.

Your first defense is maintaining awareness of your account status, including knowing whether balances are up to date. This is becoming more important as scammers use more automatic dialers, or robocalls, to phish for potential marks.

If the caller insists you have a bill past due, that’s a big red flag. Contact the utility company directly using the number on your paper bill or on the company’s website. Don’t call any number the caller gave you because it’s likely to be answered by someone who is part of the scam.