

The Resolve To Be More Efficient



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER RONNIE ROBINSON

Did you resolve to be better organized this year?

You're not alone—most people resolve to become better organized. Most people also count on others—spouses, children and co-workers—to help them stay organized. It's a scary thought to realize that someone may be counting on you to help them become more organized.

Right up there close to getting organized is another popular resolution: save money. And that gives me an excuse to jump on my soapbox. Here are the five easiest ways to save money on your electric bill this year:

- Wait until you have a full load of dishes before running your dishwasher or a full load of laundry before turning on the washer or dryer.
- Examine all of your appliances to learn whether they have energy-saving

features. Once you find them, set them and use them. You won't notice much difference on your bill, but over time, the savings will add up.

- Unplug clocks, TV sets, nightlights and radios in unused guest rooms. Even when those appliances are turned off, they still use electricity. While you're at it, check your spare refrigerator and freezer. If they don't have anything in them, unplug them, too.

- If you buy a major appliance like a washer or refrigerator this year, read the label that explains how energy efficient it is. The efficient ones save energy, even if they cost a few bucks more. In the long run, you'll save money on your electric bill.

- Install a programmable thermostat that automatically turns the heat down when you're sleeping or out of the house. The difference in your heating bill—and in your air-conditioning bill in the summer—can be substantial.

Not only will you save money on your electric bills, you'll also do your part to conserve energy—another good resolution.

A very happy, prosperous, safe, efficient and organized New Year to you and yours!



My customers love the savings they get with the Co-op Connections Card

The Co-op Connections® Card helps you save money on goods and services of all kinds, including prescriptions (up to 60 percent!). Just take it with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say "hello" to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy® cooperative. And we're always looking out for you.



To learn more, visit www.cecacoop.com.

Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.



WE RESOLVE TO:

*Provide you with the most **reliable electric service** possible.*

*Provide **friendly and efficient customer service** at all times.*

*Never forget that **you are a member-owner** of this cooperative.*

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Directors and Employees of Comanche Electric Cooperative

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Winterize for Savings and Safety

The coats have been cleaned, the mittens and scarves found and the sweaters have been pulled out of the attic. Old Man Winter has settled across Texas. Your wardrobe is ready, but what about your house—is it ready for winter? A small investment of time to review your home for safety and efficiency weak spots can pay big dividends toward making your home safer, more energy efficient and, ultimately, reduce electric bills this winter.

“Energy dollars pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, attics, walls and floors without even being noticed,” says Doug Erwin of Comanche Electric Cooperative. “Taking time to winterize and check heating equipment now can be a worthy investment, saving you money on your monthly bill and ensuring your home is safe as well.”

It’s important to have a professional inspect and service your furnace to make sure it is in good working order before turning the heat on this winter. An efficient heating system means greater comfort at a lower cost.

Regularly clean or replace furnace filters monthly during winter use, and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Ensure the chimney is clean, clear of bird and animal nests, and that there is no blockage in high efficiency furnaces that vent through the wall. Keeping heating equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak effi-

ciency and safety.

Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night. Set your thermostat to lower temperatures while you’re asleep or away from home.



Make sure attics and flooring, especially above unheated spaces such as crawl spaces and garages, are properly insulated. A quick rule of thumb is to check the attic—if you can see the ceiling joists, you don’t have enough insulation. Ceiling joists are usually at most 10 to 11 inches, and insulation should be a minimum of 12 inches. Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft. Check around outlets and look for

gaps near the dryer vent, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weatherstripping.

“Weatherstripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year-round,” says Erwin.

Another way to save energy is by replacing screens with storm windows and doors. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

Consider replacing regular incandescent lightbulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lightbulbs. CFLs use one-fourth of the

energy consumed by a regular bulb and can last 10 times as long or longer.

“During cold weather, don’t overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home and reversing your ceiling fans to a clockwise rotation to recirculate and force the warm air downward,” Erwin says. “Also, make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use. These are effective energy-saving tips that cost you nothing.”

Source: www.SafeElectricity.org



When fewer cars get filled up, more will
— GET PLUGGED IN. —

And we'll make sure the power never runs out.

Used to be, every car on the road would get filled up. Before you know it, more and more will be getting plugged in and powered up. That's why your electric co-op is doing everything in its power to ensure affordable electricity is always on hand. No matter what change rolls into town.

**Comanche
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking out for you.

GIS Digital Mapping Will Speed Outage Repairs

We all know that winter can bring cold weather, sleet, snow and rain. And invariably, ice forms on the fences and trees, or snow blankets the landscape. As long as we are warm and comfortable on the inside, we tend to think it is beautiful on the outside. But when ice and snow accumulates on the landscape, it is also accumulating on the electric lines and poles. And when that happens, something has to give—and lines and poles can snap and break under that pressure, leaving us in the dark and cold.

Comanche Electric Cooperative linemen pride themselves on their ability to get the power back on as quickly as possible, preventing additional inconvenience to our members. So when a new technology came along that has the ability to help our linemen lessen the length of time between that first call and the moment the power comes back on, we jumped on it.

In the coming months, Comanche Electric Cooperative will be developing a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a digital mapping system that will give us detailed information on our network of electrical lines and equipment. Once in place, this system will allow us to locate our equipment and trace down the source of outages in a much more timely manner, thereby reducing the amount of time power is off.

This GIS system is based on technology developed by the U.S. Department of Defense that is now available

for public use at an affordable price. It uses signals from satellites to compute map coordinates for a specific location. To implement this technology, Comanche Electric Cooperative employees must do a field inventory of every pole and piece of equipment on the 4,780 miles of line within our service territory. Accomplishing this will require contractors, armed with Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment, to physically visit every single pole within our system and

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record information about that pole and any equipment on it. This is without a doubt, a daunting task, one that could take well more than a year to complete. Once done, however, this mapping system will allow our linemen to locate trouble spots much more quickly and efficiently.

Implementation of this project is scheduled to begin

in the Downing area around the first of January and will continue to branch out from there. In the coming months, you could see crews or individuals associated with the cooperative working on the project. Their vehicle doors will have Comanche Electric Cooperative signage identifying them as CECA contractors or employees.

Additionally, Comanche Electric Cooperative is working in the Gustine area trimming trees and conducting pole inspections. Should you have any questions concerning either of these projects, contact Comanche Electric Cooperative at 1-800-915-2533 or by e-mail at memberservices@ceca.coop.



**COMANCHE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

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**FIND US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CECA.COOP**

YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by Comanche EC each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative