

# Energy Efficiency Is Good for Everyone



MESSAGE FROM  
**GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE ENDS MEET IN** your monthly budget? Many budget-savvy consumers explore ways to stretch every dollar, from clipping coupons and passing down clothes to planning meals around what's on sale at the grocery store.

One potential savings hot spot is your electric bill. A few home improvements and simple changes in behavior can add up to big savings over the long run.

Your local home improvement store offers inexpensive products that can make your residence more efficient. A few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows help keep conditioned air in and outside air out. Installing a blanket on your water heater will help it operate more efficiently. And insulating hot water pipes can cut water heating costs by 4 percent.

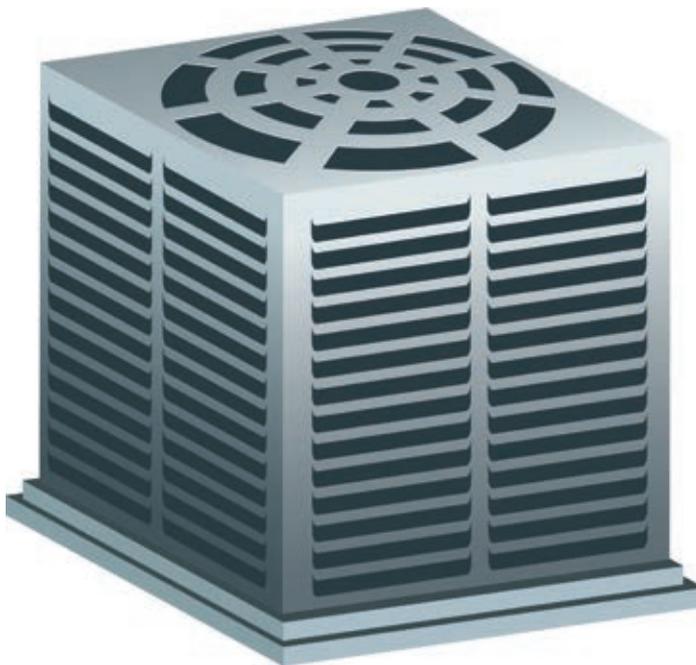
Changes in your daily routine also can translate into electric bill savings. Approximately 55 percent of the electricity used in the average home goes toward heating and cooling. The

ideal winter setting for your thermostat is 68 degrees. Rather than turning up the heat on a cold day, adding a layer of clothing will keep you comfy while shaving power costs. In summer, set the thermostat at 78 degrees and dress in light clothing.

Seeking even bigger savings? Check your home's insulation. According to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov), the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed. It is also important to use insulation with the appropriate R-value for your region. In Texas, an R-value of 30–60 is recommended. The colder the climate, the higher the R-value you will need to maximize savings.

At [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov), you'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

Comanche Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to



## 55%

**OF ELECTRICITY USED IN  
THE AVERAGE HOME GOES TOWARD  
HEATING AND COOLING**

improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for a shareholder. An important

part of that mission entails empowering you to manage your electricity use. We want you to have more affordable power bills. It's good for everyone.

# Meet Marisol



Marisol Flight's is the face you will see when you enter the Comanche Electric Cooperative office and one of the voices you will hear when you call any of our offices. Please join us in welcoming her to the CECA family.

**"I AM THE DAUGHTER OF LUCIO AND MARTINA VALDEZ, AND I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF** being the mother of twin 6-year-old girls, Valerie Nichole and Kloei Alyssa," Flight says. "I have two older sisters, one niece and one nephew. I have lived in Zephyr since I was 2 years old. I attended school at Blanket ISD from kindergarten through 12th grade. I graduated top five of my class and as a member of the National Honor Society. During my junior high and high school years, I participated in UIL One-Act Play, track and varsity basketball. I was also elected president for student council."

For fun, Flight says she likes to spend time with her daughters, coloring, painting and drawing. "We like to watch movies (mainly ones with cartoons). I love to bake and decorate."

Flight has been employed with CECA since September 11, 2017, as a customer service representative. "I have really enjoyed these months at the co-op, great co-workers and great members," she says. "I am really looking forward to many more years with CECA. I like being able to help out our members when they call or come into our offices. They are our No. 1 priority here at the co-op."



## HAPPY EASTER! APRIL 1

The offices of CECA will be closed March 30 in observance of Good Friday.



P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

### HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.  
Comanche, TX 76442

### EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

### EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

### OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., closed 1–2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

### General Manager

Alan Lesley

### Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1  
Pete McDougal, District 2  
Ruby Solomon, District 3  
Monty Carlisle, District 4  
Troy Stewart, District 5  
Loren Stroebel, District 6  
Phil Taylor, District 7

### Report an Outage

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power-quality issue by calling 1-800-915-2533.

## Contact Us

### CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

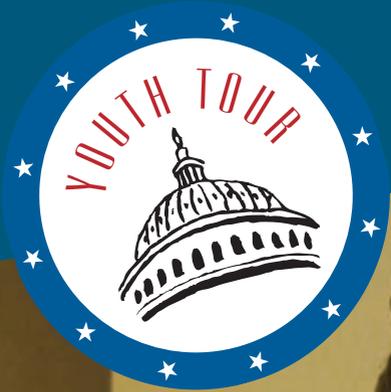
[www.cecacoop](http://www.cecacoop)



[facebook.com/CECA.coop](https://facebook.com/CECA.coop)

# IMPROVING MEMBERS' LIVES

By SHIRLEY KIDD DUKES



*Dyson & Schulte Embark on*

# THE TRIP

*of a*

# LIFETIME

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SIERRA DYSON AND GRACEY SCHULTE** ON being selected to represent Comanche Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Dyson is the daughter of Ed and Jessica Dyson and a senior at De Leon High School. As a senior, she has had the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, including Mighty Maroon Marching Band, student council, National Honor Society, UIL, One-Act Play, and the Gifted and Talented Program. She has had the privilege of being class vice president for three years and was the FCA devotion leader her junior and senior years of high school. Dyson also is involved with community organizations such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Junior F&M Bank Board, and serves as vice president for both those committees. She is a member of First Baptist Church in De Leon and is active in her youth group. She helps with their annual fall festival, vacation Bible school and community rehab, and has been a small-group leader at Falls Creek Church Camp. "I would like to thank the CECA for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Dyson says.

Schulte is the daughter of Steven and Melody Schulte and is a sophomore at Comanche High School. She participates in many activities, including cross country and track, and competes in powerlifting. She has competed in UIL Biology and is currently competing in UIL Computer Science. Schulte enjoys reading, creating and admiring art, architecture and photography, and being outdoors. She loves spending time with her family, such as shopping with her mom and sisters, and watching sports with her brother and dad. After high school, Schulte plans to attend college and hopes to study abroad during those years.

This year, CECA had several students who applied for the trip. In preparation for the Youth Tour contest, students had to learn about cooperatives, our history and grassroots advocacy.

Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion of then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson believed youths from rural areas would benefit from visiting Washington to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience.

From this idea, Youth Tour formed. Every year, high school students from around the country are selected by their respective electric co-ops to participate in a weeklong trip to the nation's capital, where they learn about the country and the world by visiting museums, monuments, memorials and more.

The program has grown exponentially since its inception; last year's tour saw more than 1,800 high school students par-

ticipate from co-ops in 46 states. Texas sent a delegation of 147 students.

Youth Tour is one of the most important programs that CECA undertakes. We are consistently impressed by the caliber of students that our co-op sponsors.

The week is interspersed with visits to important D.C. sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with Youth Tour delegations from across the country enable teens to meet a broad spectrum of co-op kids. The program creates a safe space for teens to discover the adults they are striving to be. Teens leave behind their hometown identities and venture forward with a fresh slate. Students are encouraged to stretch themselves by talking to people they ordinarily wouldn't.

For many teens, the tour is full of firsts. It may be the first time they leave the state, fly on a plane, visit the nation's capital or travel away from their families for an extended period of time. They will see and experience the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through their parents' perspectives—that's the most important first, as it's truly a leap to their next phase, where their journey to adulthood begins. A

highlight of Youth Tour is a meeting with congressional delegates. Teens learn firsthand that their elected officials work for their hometown communities. Students often have the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators, and our chaperones always are impressed with the interactions and questions asked by our students.

Youth Tour culminates in a farewell evening that centers on challenging and inspiring teens to go forward from the tour and make an impact in their communities. As conversations evolve, so do

the teens' worldviews. Their definition of "community" often changes from their hometown to a broader meaning.

We can say that nearly all teens who have participated in our Youth Tour program look back with fond memories of an educational, interesting and eventful week. Many make lifelong friends. For a few, Youth Tour is a transformational experience. Parents often remark how their children return noticeably different—more mature, more confident, with bigger goals and aspirations; they have a sense of purpose.

Our teens are our future, and it's looking brighter every day. We hope you will join us in congratulating Dyson and Schulte on being selected for this prestigious honor, and consider urging your teen to take the leap and join our next Youth Tour delegation.

For more information about the Youth Tour program, contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop), or visit [texasyouthtour.com](http://texasyouthtour.com).

*As part of their effort to improve members' lives, electric cooperatives followed Lyndon B. Johnson's call in 1957 to send youths to Washington, D. C. to "actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Out of his remarks was born the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, which is still going strong decades later, with more than 50,000 students having participated nationwide.*

# CECA Vehicles To Be Auctioned

**COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HAS TWO RETIRED VEHICLES THAT WILL BE** auctioned through a closed-bid process. These vehicles have a few battle scars and are well broken in, as expected from a work vehicle.

You may come by the office at 201 W. Wrights Ave. in Comanche to inspect them in person.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or dropped off in person at the office in Comanche.

In all correspondence, please include a phone number where you can be reached. Questions can be directed to Dale Ogle at 1-800-915-2533. The deadline for bids is noon, March 20. Bid winners will be notified by March 22.

CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board.

Mileage is current as of January 19 but is subject to change as vehicles could still be used.



*Truck 2699: 2011 Silverado 1500; 4WD extended cab; 5.3-liter V8 engine; 4-speed automatic transmission; GD trailering equipment package; electric windows; 140,453 miles.  
Minimum bid: \$5,000*



*Truck 1799: 2011 GMC 1500; 2WD; 4 door; 5.3-liter V8 gas engine; 4-speed automatic transmission; electric windows; bed cover; 152,608 miles.  
Minimum bid: \$8,000*

# Work Benches To Be Auctioned



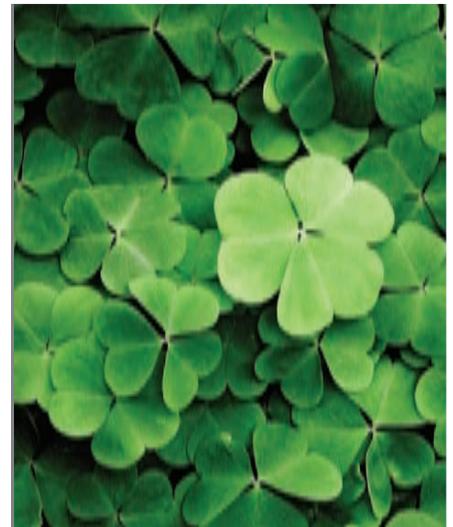
**LOT OF THREE WORK BENCHES WILL BE AUCTIONED THROUGH A CLOSED-BID PROCESS.** The minimum bid is \$100 for all three benches; benches are not being sold separately.

You may come by the office at 201 W. Wrights Ave. in Comanche to inspect them in person.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or dropped off in person at the office in Comanche.

In all correspondence, please include a phone number where you can be reached. Questions can be directed to Dale Ogle at 1-800-915-2533. The deadline for bids is noon, March 20. Bid winners will be notified by March 22.

CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board. Benches are stored outside, so depending on the weather, they may not be in exact condition as in photo.



ANITA STIZZOLI | ISTOCK.COM

# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

from CECA!  
Saturday, March 17



AMANDA ROHDE | ISTOCK.COM

# DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 11.  
Remember to "spring forward" by setting all clocks an hour ahead.

# ARE YOU CONSIDERING *GOING GREEN IN 2018?* **CALL US FIRST!**

CECA is committed to our mission of **improving the quality of life for our members.**

By including renewable energy expertise in our mix, not only are we a valuable resource when it comes to the best option for your area, we also can help you address necessary billing and safety issues before beginning your renewable upgrade project.

Call our Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533.

Your safety is our No. 1 priority!

We all share a responsibility for energy efficiency wherever and whenever we can.



# Do you aspire to go to college?

If you are a high school senior with a strong desire to attend college, we can help. Comanche Electric Cooperative will award five \$2,000 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships to aspiring young men and women to help make their college dreams a reality.

## Who can apply?

Graduating high school seniors or current college students who are dependents of CECA members and meet the eligibility requirements set forth on the application form can apply.

## How to apply:

To apply, visit our website at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop). You will find applications for the Scholarship for Excellence and the Operation Round-Up Scholarship under the Youth Opportunities tab.

For more information on our scholarship program, call us at 1-800-915-2533 or email us at [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).





# Don't Go Out on a Limb

Your safety is a top priority at Comanche Electric Cooperative. And it's even more important when it comes to our kids. They don't always know—or remember—what can be dangerous, so it's up to all of us to watch out for their safety.

## Safety rules for power lines:

- ▶ **Don't plant trees or install tall playground equipment under or near power lines.**
- ▶ **Don't build treehouses in trees near electric lines.**
- ▶ **Don't allow children to climb trees growing near electric lines.**
- ▶ **Teach your children always to look up to check for power lines before climbing trees or any tall objects.**
- ▶ **Keep children away from ladders, poles or work equipment that may be near power lines.**

And the No. 1 safety rule for everyone to remember is this: **Don't touch a power line or anything that's touching a power line.** No one can tell simply by looking at a line whether it is energized or not, and contact with a power line can be deadly. Remember, electricity always seeks the easiest path to reach the ground, and, unfortunately, human beings are good conductors of electricity. Look up and live!



encourages you  
to always practice  
safety.