

# Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

*Increased demand could test the state's supply*



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

**DO YOU REMEMBER** the electricity bill you received after this winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, during the hot days of summer, a reverse weather pattern holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use more electricity this summer than last and pay more for it. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have been shut down.

Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings for higher electric bills.

No one knows how much extra your co-op might have to pay, but the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees 90 percent of the state's power grid, is predicting record-breaking peak power usage. To keep the system reliable, ERCOT prefers to maintain a small percentage of generation capacity beyond what is needed to meet peak demand. This extra energy capacity is called the "reserve margin," and it measures the system's ability to meet demand for power during the hottest days. The current projections for hotter summer weather and increased demand could test the reserve margin.

With that in mind, we all need to get ready for summer by managing our electricity use.

A few modest home improvements and simple changes in day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your home and hot air

outside. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air conditioning system's thermostat to 78 degrees and maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Would you like to make an even greater impact on your bill? 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 a recommended R-value of 30-60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand.

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

Most importantly, Comanche Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for investors. An important part of that mission entails providing you with tools to manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.





# Erwin Retires After 32 Years

**IT IS WITH A MIXTURE OF JOY AND SADNESS THAT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE bids a fond farewell to Doug Erwin after 32 faithful years with the co-op.**

Erwin began his career with Comanche EC in 1986 as a service lineman. Over the years, he has held various positions, landing as director of member services in 1991, the position he now retires from.

In addition to spending time with his five grandchildren, Erwin plans to fish, golf and kayak, and will pursue a new venture in the art of jewelry making.

Doug, we wish you a happy and prosperous retirement!



## Happy Independence Day

Our offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.



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)

# Teachers! Have You Applied for a Classroom Teacher Grant?



## Classroom Teacher Grants 2018–2019 School Year

### What is the Classroom Teacher Grant program?

The CECA Operation Round-Up Classroom Teacher Grant program is sponsored by the membership of CECA through Operation Round-Up. Because the education of our youths is critical, the Operation Round-Up board of directors has approved five classroom grants of up to \$1,000 each to enhance the education of our youths.

### Who can apply for these grants?

Any K–12 classroom teacher whose school or community is served by CECA or whose students' homes are served by CECA can apply. The list of qualifying schools includes Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, Hamilton, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

Grants are limited to one per school per year. Each school may submit multiple applications and is encouraged to do so to increase the chances of being awarded a grant, but only one application per school will be approved.

### What information do we need to know before applying for a grant?

The applications will be judged by the Operation Round-Up board and an appointed CECA group. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- A project, educational tool or field trip that demonstrates cooperation between students.
- Appropriateness for age and grade levels.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that encourages a high level of student involvement.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that includes coordination with Comanche Electric Cooperative.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that focuses on student learning.
- Overall quality of the application and adherence to grant guidelines.

### What should be the focus of a proposal?

An eligible project, educational tool or field trip should offer students an expanded learning opportunity that complements and reinforces classroom study. The project or field trip should be limited only by your and your students' imaginations and the resources you have available.

### How can the grant money be used?

The money must be expended in compliance with your proposal.

### Can the grant be used to extend/expand an existing project?

Yes, but in that case, clearly indicate the scope of the original project and for what part of the original project you plan to use the grant.

### What kind of document or final report is required?

Each classroom grant winner must submit a written final report on their project or field trip. Educators are encouraged to include CECA in all plans. In some cases, CECA may be able to provide technical support in the form of classroom presentations or information. In addition, CECA would like to feature your class and project, educational tool or field trip in *Texas Co-op Power*, and on the CECA website and Facebook page.

### How do I apply?

The entry form is available online at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop). Click on Youth Opportunities and then Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant Program. The form must be completed and submitted online by 5 p.m., September 30.

### Who do I contact for more information?

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop) or 1-800-915-2533.

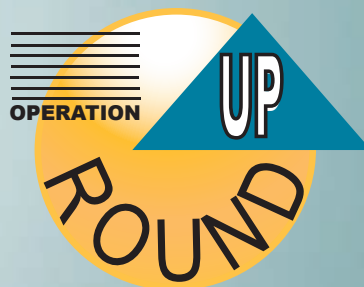
# ADULT AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Going back to school? CECA has a program just for you!



*“An investment in knowledge  
pays the best interest.”*

*Benjamin Franklin*



Through the Operation Round-Up program, CECA is proud to offer a nontraditional scholarship to adults attending college.

To qualify, one must be an active member of CECA and participate in Operation Round-Up. To apply, visit the CECA website at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop).

Go to the Operation Round-Up page under Member Benefits and complete the online nontraditional scholarship application.

For questions concerning the program, contact CECA's Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533 or [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., September 30.