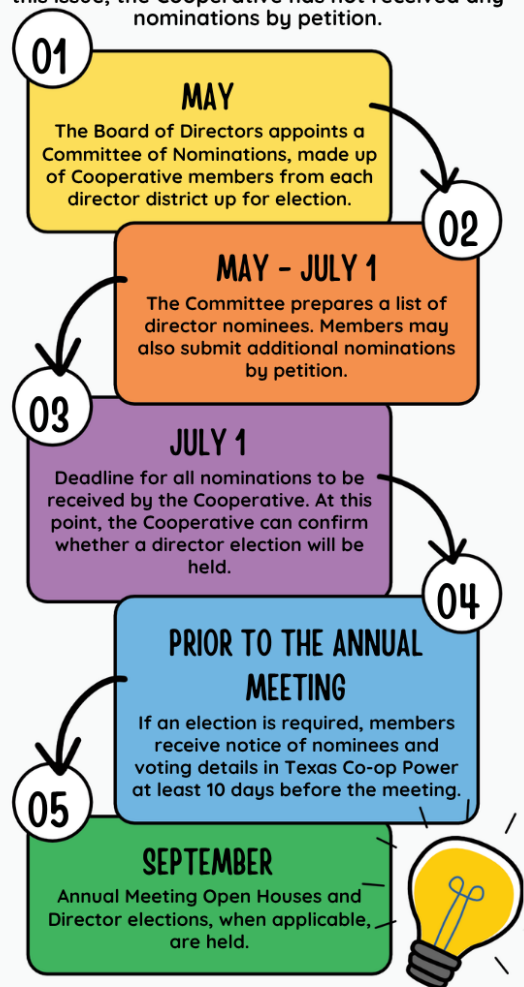


DIRECTOR ELECTION UPDATE

In accordance with Article VI, Section 6.06 of the BCEC Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations met on June 15, 2026, at the Roby District Office to consider nominations for the 2026 Board of Directors election.

The committee nominated the incumbent directors for the districts up for election:
District 3 – Chris Estes
District 4 – Todd Coker

Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by at least 25 members. Petitions must be received by the Cooperative on or before July 1 to be included on the ballot. As of the publication date of this issue, the Cooperative has not received any nominations by petition.



SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Save The Date

Member Appreciation Open Houses
3:30-6:30 p.m.

Virtual Annual Meeting online all day!

Read your August and September
Texas Co-op Power magazine for more details.

SEPTEMBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Need Funding for a Local Project?

The Big Country Development Corporation (BCDC) helps support economic development and job creation within our service area. BCDC provides funding to qualifying projects that strengthen local economies, support community growth, and improve quality of life across the communities we serve.

BCDC funding comes from a portion of unclaimed capital credits, which Texas law allows electric cooperatives to use for community-benefit purposes, including local economic development. Because the amount of unclaimed funds can vary from year to year, available BCDC funding may be limited.

Applications are reviewed quarterly by the BCEC Board of Directors.

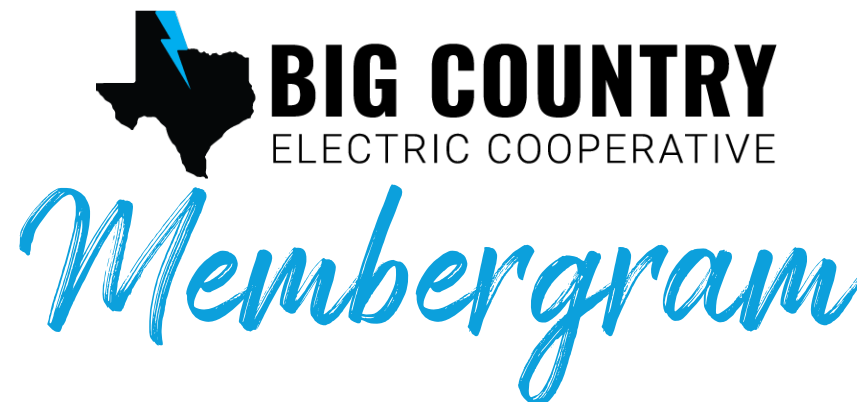
What Types of Projects Are Supported?

BCDC funding supports projects that promote long-term, sustainable economic growth within the cooperative's service territory. Eligible projects may include:

- Workforce development and job creation initiatives
- Business attraction or retention efforts
- Community infrastructure or facility improvements
- Tourism and destination development projects
- Programs that encourage ongoing economic activity and community investment

Projects should demonstrate a clear benefit to the local community and align with BCDC's mission to strengthen the rural economy.

Organizations interested in applying for BCDC support can learn more and access the online application at bigcountry.coop/bcdc.



Rate Update Approved Following Cost-of-Service Study

For more than 85 years, Big Country Electric Cooperative has provided safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to the members and communities we serve. As your member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is to maintain the electric system you depend on today while planning responsibly for the future.

Following a recent cost-of-service study and careful review by BCEC's Board of Directors and management team, the cooperative will implement a phased rate update beginning with bills rendered in November 2026 for October usage.

The study, conducted by the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), found that current rates no longer align with the cost of providing electric service. Like many industries, electric utilities continue to experience rising costs for materials, equipment, vehicles, fuel, maintenance, and infrastructure. Using updated financial and operational data from the study, BCEC determined that a rate update was necessary to help support long-term reliability and financial stability while continuing to provide safe and dependable service. The cooperative remains financially healthy, and the purpose of this update is to help ensure BCEC can continue making the long-term investments needed to maintain and strengthen the electric system serving our members.

We realize that families, including our farmers, ranchers, and business owners, are also managing rising costs in their own operations. To help minimize the impact on members, BCEC's board and leadership chose to implement the rate update gradually over three years, similar to the cooperative's previous rate adjustment in 2019.

A member's electric bill consists of several components, including a Facility Charge, an Energy Charge, and, for some commercial and individual rate classes, a Demand Charge. Another component is the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), which reflects fluctuations in the cost of purchased power and fuel used for electric generation. BCEC purchases power through Golden Spread Electric Cooperative (GSEC), and those costs may increase or decrease over time based on fuel prices and market conditions. The current rate update is separate from the PCA and focuses on adjustments to Facility Charges for residential, farm, and seasonal accounts, as well as an Energy Charge update for certain commercial classes identified through the cost-of-service study.

August 2026

OUR COMMITMENT TO RELIABILITY



As we've shared throughout the year, our contractors have been making steady progress across BCEC's service territory on projects designed to improve system reliability and identify infrastructure needs.

Empact Engineering is wrapping up its current round of staking work for the year after identifying and planning pole replacement projects based on inspection results.

Beginning in August, Sundance PPI will complete the remaining pole inspections in the Albany area. Approximately 176 poles remain to be inspected, marking the final phase of this year's inspection program before crews wrap up for the season.

By proactively inspecting, maintaining, and upgrading infrastructure, BCEC can identify potential issues before they lead to outages or service disruptions, helping provide safe and reliable service for members.

Thomas Hull Earns BCEC Journeyman Lineman Status

Big Country Electric Cooperative is proud to recognize Thomas Hull for recently completing all the requirements to become a Journeyman Lineman.

Earning journeyman status is a significant career milestone that reflects extensive training, technical knowledge, and a strong commitment to the line profession. Thomas brings more than 30 years of experience in the electric industry, including 19 years serving members in the cooperative world with Bartlett Electric Cooperative before joining our team in the winter of 2024. Prior to his cooperative career, he also gained valuable experience working as a contractor.

This marks the third time Thomas has earned journeyman-level recognition throughout his career—a testament to his dedication to continuous learning, exceptional work ethic, and commitment to serving others safely and professionally.

Thomas is also known for his positive attitude and dependable nature, making him a respected and valued member of the BCEC team.

Please join us in congratulating Thomas on this outstanding accomplishment and thanking him for his continued dedication to our cooperative and the members we serve.



www.bigcountry.coop



Committed to Community

For complete information about our Operation Round Up program or to opt out of participation, visit bigcountry.coop/operation-round-up.

Operation Round Up Deadline Approaching

The Operation Round Up program is supported by BCEC members whose electric bills are “Rounded Up” to the nearest dollar. The “Round Up” amounts fund Operation Round Up for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton.

Every penny stays right here at home!

Who can apply to Operation Round Up?

- Local organizations or programs that provide vital community services, such as food banks, shelters, medical and health needs, rescue organizations, educational projects, childcare programs, and other community needs.
- Families and individuals with demonstrated financial need due to life-altering circumstances.

The next application deadline is 5:30 p.m. on August 18, 2026.

What does my facility charge cover?

Ever wondered what your monthly facility charge supports? It takes a solid infrastructure and great people to keep safe, reliable, and affordable power flowing to your home.

Here’s how BCEC’s facility charge breaks down:



Agricultural Tax Exemptions - In order to claim an exemption from Texas sales and use taxes on electricity and other items used in agricultural and timber operations, you are required to provide us with a registration number on Texas Agriculture Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification Form 01-924. All water wells should be exempt if used for irrigation or watering livestock. The Texas Comptroller’s Office issues the registration number and those wanting to claim the exemption must fill out an application. Registration numbers must be renewed every four years. Applicants can request a paper application to mail in by calling 1-800-252-5555 or download a copy from the comptroller’s website, www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ag-timber. The generic exemption certificate, Form 01-339, cannot be used to claim the agricultural exemption. Accounts that do not have the new required form on file will be subject to taxation. Commercial Tax Exemption Records - A completed and signed exemption form is required for each commercial tax exempt account. Accounts that do not have current exemptions on file will be changed to taxable accounts. Any refunds for taxes must be claimed from the State of Texas. Thank you for your help.

Continued from front page

Rate Update Overview

For residential, farm, and seasonal accounts, the rate update will be implemented through the monthly Facility Charge, which helps support the infrastructure, equipment, and ongoing maintenance required to deliver electricity safely and reliably to your location. The per-kilowatt-hour Energy Charge for these rate classes will not change as part of this update.

Residential and Seasonal accounts will see a \$4.00 monthly Facility Charge increase in November 2026, November 2027, and November 2028.

Farm accounts will see a \$3.50 monthly Facility Charge increase in November 2026, followed by \$4.00 increases in November 2027 and November 2028.

Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, the cooperative still must maintain more than 5,380 miles of power line, more than 13,650 connected meters, plus substations, vehicles, and other equipment across our service territory. Those costs exist year-round, which is why the Facility Charge is an important part of how the cooperative recovers the cost of providing service.

Commercial Rate Updates

While the rate update for residential, farm, and seasonal accounts focuses on adjustments to the Facility Charge, certain commercial rate classes will see adjustments to their Energy Charges.

Commercial accounts use electricity differently from residential members, so their rate structures differ and include a Demand Charge in addition to the Facility and Energy Charges. Demand Charges help recover the cost of maintaining the capacity required to serve higher electrical loads, particularly during peak usage. As part of the recent rate review process, BCEC identified certain commercial Energy Charges that no longer aligned with the cooperative’s purchased power costs. These adjustments are designed to improve cost alignment and help ensure each rate class contributes an equitable share toward the cost of providing electric service.

Beginning with November 2026 billing, the Energy Charge for medium power services (SS150, PS150, SS350, and PS350) and auxiliary services greater than 25 kW (AS > 25) will increase from \$0.055695 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.065 per kilowatt-hour. Large power services (S > 350 and P > 350) will increase from \$0.046764 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.065 per kilowatt-hour.

District Member Meetings

Members who would like to learn more about the rate update are invited to attend one of BCEC’s district member meetings on Tuesday, September 1, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Meetings will be held at the cooperative’s Roby, Snyder, and Stamford offices. Cooperative staff and leadership will be available to answer questions and visit with members about the upcoming changes.

Looking Ahead

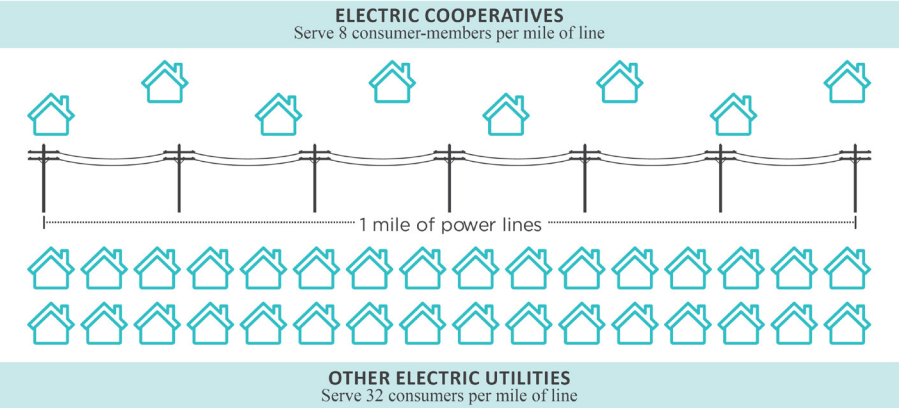
We understand that no one welcomes higher costs, and these decisions are never made lightly. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, BCEC does not operate to generate profits for outside shareholders. Instead, rates are designed to reflect the actual cost of providing service while ensuring the cooperative remains financially strong enough to continue delivering the reliable service our members expect. As a member-owned cooperative, BCEC’s approach to rates is guided by the people who use and depend on the system every day. The board of directors and management team carefully reviewed the findings of the cost-of-service study and the long-term needs of the cooperative before moving forward with this phased rate update. Our goal remains the same as it has always been: providing safe, reliable electric service while balancing affordability for the communities we serve.

Beginning November 2026			
COMMERCIAL SERVICE TYPE		ENERGY CHARGE (per kWh)	
 Auxiliary Services greater than 25 kW (AS > 25)		Current Rate	New Rate
		\$0.055695	\$0.065
 Primary and Secondary 51HP up to 150HP, and 350HP (SS150, PS150, SS350, and PS350)		Current Rate	New Rate
		\$0.055695	\$0.065
 Greater than 350HP (S > 350 and P > 350) Greater than 350 HP		Current Rate	New Rate
		\$0.046764	\$0.065

	Nov. 2026	Nov. 2027	Nov. 2028
 Residential	\$34.00 → \$38.00	\$38.00 → \$42.00	\$42.00 → \$46.00
 Farm	\$28.50 → \$32.00	\$32.00 → \$36.00	\$36.00 → \$40.00
 Seasonal	\$34.00 → \$38.00	\$38.00 → \$42.00	\$42.00 → \$46.00

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Did you know electric co-ops power fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other utilities?



www.bigcountry.coop

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30-5:30

Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-855-940-3872

Roby: (325) 776-2244

Stamford: (325) 773-3684

Snyder: (325) 573-3161

Report Outages

Please **call** your local BCEC office to report power outages.

We’re Mobile!



Access your BCEC account anytime with SmartHub! Download the app for your mobile device today by visiting www.bigcountry.coop or searching for SmartHub in the app store.

Ask about our partnerships with:



Rural Development Assistance Available Through BCEC
BCEC is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. has a limited amount of funds available for low-interest loans to qualified applicants to stimulate rural development. Applicant does not have to be a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Please contact Sarah McLen at smclen@bigcountry.coop for details.



Call 811 at least 2 working days before you dig.
Visit www.texas811.org for more information.