

Celebrating the Career of Joe Brewer

After more than 30 years serving electric cooperative members across West Texas, Joe Brewer is retiring from BCEC, where he served as the District Operations Manager for our Stamford district area.

Joe began his cooperative career in November 1989 with South Plains Electric Cooperative and later worked for Stamford Electric Cooperative, continuing through the consolidation that formed Big Country Electric Cooperative in 1999. He also spent time in the utility contracting field before returning to BCEC to finish his career serving members until his retirement in February 2026.

Over the years, Joe helped guide operations through major industry changes – from paper maps and manual records to today's digital systems and modern grid technology. After gaining extensive hands-on field experience, he moved into leadership roles where his knowledge of linework, system operations, and crew coordination helped support storm response, system upgrades, and daily service reliability.

As District Operations Manager, Joe played an important role in supporting crews, coordinating projects, and helping ensure dependable electric service for the Stamford district. His experience, leadership, and commitment to cooperative service leave a lasting impact on BCEC and the members he served.

We thank Joe for his many years of service and wish him the very best in retirement!



Which Irrigation Rate Option Suits Your Needs?

Each year, irrigators may select the rate option that best fits their operation. To simplify these choices, we have eliminated Rate C, as Rates A and B have proven more beneficial for our members. Any members currently on Rate C will be contacted directly to assist with this transition.

BCEC offers the following irrigation rate options:

Rate A - Flat Rate

A single, consistent charge for all kilowatt-hours (kWh) used.

- \$0.116875 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)

This option may work best for members who irrigate less frequently or only for short periods during the month.

Rate B - Stepped Charge

A tiered rate structure that may be more economical for irrigators with higher monthly usage:

- First 100 kWh per installed horsepower (HP): \$0.154776 per kWh
- Next 100 kWh per installed HP: \$0.100632 per kWh
- Over 200 kWh per installed HP: \$0.059482 per kWh

How to Choose the Right Option

There is an annual horsepower charge of \$19.50 per horsepower (minimum \$97.50), billed in April. If you have a center pivot, multiply your total drive horsepower on your pivot by 25% to determine the billing horsepower for your center pivot. Then add the horsepower for your pump to calculate your total billing horsepower. It is important that we have your correct horsepower so that we can bill your account accurately.

In considering the choice of Option A or Option B, it is essential to determine how often you will be watering. If you water more than 45% of the month, Option B may be the better choice. If you begin watering during the last few days of a month and run over into the next month only a few days, you may not fully utilize the benefits of choosing Option B.

Important Reminders

- Irrigation rate selections are made annually and cannot be changed during the year once selected. Therefore, please carefully review the options above when selecting your annual rate.
- Please note, irrigation rate reminder letters will not be mailed this year.

How To Make or Update Your Selection

If you would like to change your irrigation rate option, you may:

- Call your local BCEC office, or
- Submit your selection online at bigcountry.coop/form/irrigation-rate-options or by scanning the QR code.



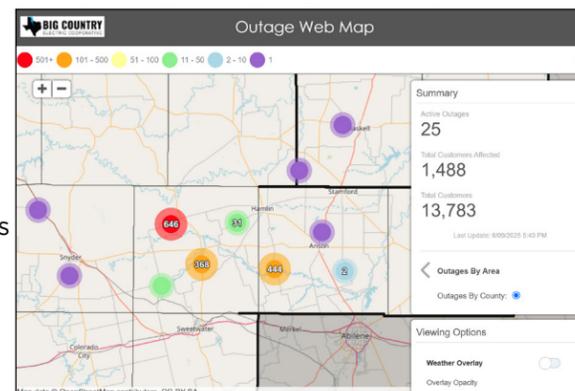
If no action is taken by March 31st, your irrigation service will remain in its current rate class. If you have any questions or would like help determining which option best fits your operation, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're happy to help!



Track Outages with BCEC's Online Outage Map

Did you know we have an online Outage Map to help members stay informed when outages occur across our system? This tool allows you to view current outages, see general restoration progress, and understand what areas may be affected – especially during larger, widespread outage events.

While the Outage Map is a helpful way to check outage status and affected areas, members should still report outages through SmartHub or by calling one of our BCEC offices.

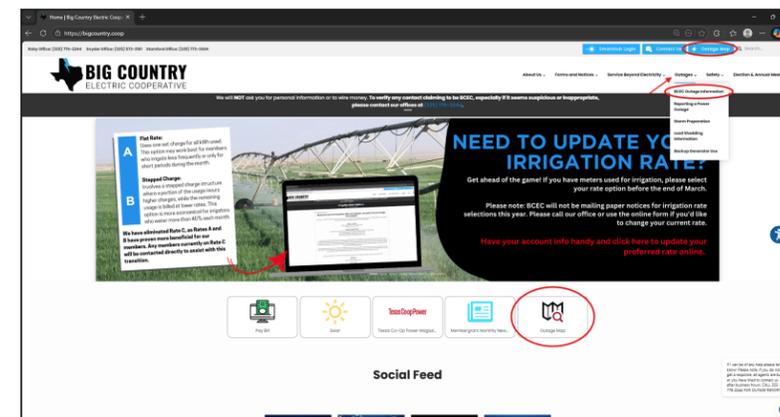


Screenshot of the BCEC Outage Map from June 2025, showing system-wide outages after tornadoes and high winds impacted our service territory.

Reporting your outage ensures we know your location is affected and helps us restore power efficiently.

The Outage Map can be accessed anytime through our website. Look for the Outage Map button at the top right of the page, in the quick links below the homepage slideshow, or under the Outages menu.

We encourage members to bookmark this tool (bigcountry.outagemap.coop) so it's easy to check during severe weather or major outage situations.



www.bigcountry.coop

March 2026

OUR COMMITMENT TO RELIABILITY



BCEC's contracted pole inspectors, Sundance Power Pole Inspections, continue inspection work on lines served by the North Hamlin Substation. Crews are also beginning inspections in areas served by the Rule Substation (Rule to Rochester), Longworth Feeder 3 (Longworth south toward Sweetwater), and Nugent Feeder 1 (Nugent back toward Anson).

Impact Engineering is supporting this work by staking and preparing engineering designs for any projects identified during inspections. Impact crews are working daily to help keep this process moving efficiently as inspections and follow-up work progress across the system.

As this work continues, members may see contractors in the area with BCEC signage on their trucks or UTVs.

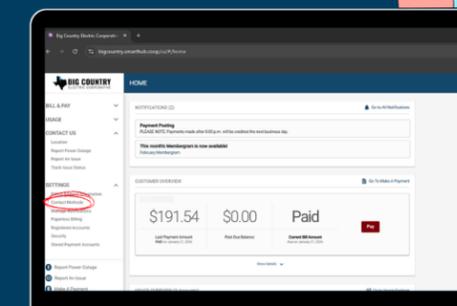
We appreciate our members' patience as these inspections and follow-up efforts move forward. Proactively inspecting poles and addressing potential issues early helps reduce the risk of outages, strengthens system reliability, and supports dependable electric service for our members over the long term.

CAN WE REACH YOU? When was the last time you updated your contact information?

PLEASE update your contact information in SmartHub or by calling a BCEC office.

Updated contact info helps us reach you faster during outages and emergencies. It only takes a minute in SmartHub.

We promise not to send junk, make unnecessary calls, or share your information!



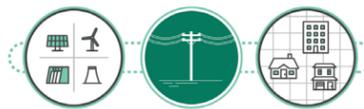


Committed to Community

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

A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

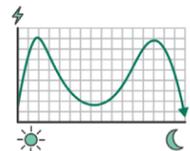
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

Regional Grid Operators



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand

- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

Do you have UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS?

BCEC RETURNS CAPITAL CREDITS TO MEMBERS EACH YEAR. BUT SOMETIMES MEMBERS MOVE, PASS AWAY, OR WE LOSE CONTACT — LEAVING FUNDS UNCLAIMED.

HOW TO CHECK FOR UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS:

Visit ClaimItTexas.org

Enter your name or a family member's name
Claim any funds that belong to you!

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO UPDATED!

Even if you've moved or closed your account, make sure we have your current mailing address, phone number, and email so you can receive future capital credit payments.

NEED TO UPDATE YOUR INFO? CONTACT US TODAY!

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.getreadytexas.org. 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.

Understanding Large Electric Loads ("Mega Loads")

As electric demand grows across Texas, utilities across the state — including electric cooperatives — are receiving requests from very large power users such as data centers or industrial facilities. These types of projects are often referred to as "mega loads."

Here are a few quick facts about how these requests are handled and what they mean for our members.

1. How BCEC Evaluates Requests for High-Demand Electric Service (Mega Loads)

Electric cooperatives are required to provide service fairly and without discrimination, meaning BCEC cannot refuse a consumer based solely on their electrical volume or demand. However, very large projects — such as data centers or major industrial facilities — go through a far more extensive technical, engineering, risk assessment, and regulatory review process than a typical residential, agricultural, or small commercial service request since the size of the load affects these issues. These additional studies and requirements help ensure the electric system can safely and reliably support the requested load, as well as established member loads, before a project can move forward.

2. How do you make sure the electric system can support a large facility?

Before any large facility can be energized, projects are carefully examined at the local, regional, and state levels to evaluate their potential impact on the electric system. These reviews include detailed cooperative engineering analysis as well as broader transmission and grid-level studies coordinated through ERCOT. Projects must meet all system requirements and reliability standards before they can move forward.

3. Do large facilities still have to follow BCEC's service requirements?

Yes. Large facilities must adhere to the cooperative's terms and conditions of service, which include stipulations to ensure that reliability standards and cost responsibilities are met. These requirements help protect the integrity of the electric system and ensure fair treatment for all consumers.

Providing service without discrimination is one of the core principles of the cooperative business model and is also governed by state-level requirements. If the large facility cannot or will not meet our terms of service, the project cannot proceed until those issues are resolved.

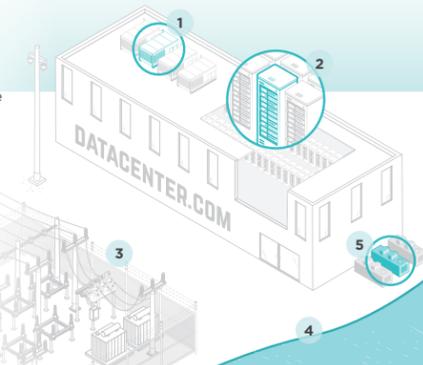
4. Concerned about rolling outages?

In very rare emergency situations, ERCOT may mandate utilities to temporarily reduce electric demand to protect the stability of the Texas power grid. When this occurs, utilities are instructed to shed a percentage of their load, which can result in temporary rolling outages. These statewide emergency orders are issued by ERCOT and are not

Big Data, Bigger Demands

Many companies are choosing rural areas for their data centers because of cheaper land, available power and potential tax breaks. Data centers require huge amounts of electricity to operate, which presents new opportunities and challenges for electric co-ops.

- 1 **HVAC:** Constant cooling is needed to ensure the servers function properly.
- 2 **Servers:** Servers run applications and process data 24/7. One server rack can consume enough electricity to power a small home. A large data center can house thousands of server racks.
- 3 **Infrastructure:** Data centers often require new electrical infrastructure to meet their power needs.
- 4 **Water Source:** Many large data centers are deploying evaporative cooling, which is more efficient than compressor-based systems.
- 5 **Backup Power:** On-site generators keep data centers running during power outages and can also be used to help lower demand when electricity use spikes.



determined by local cooperatives.

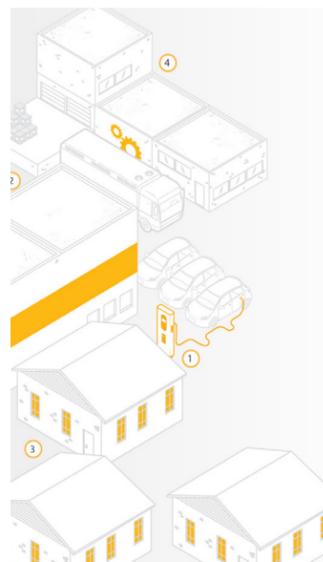
Exceptionally large loads, such as data centers or other transmission-level consumers, are subject to ERCOT reliability requirements and participate in separate curtailment programs designed to reduce their usage during grid emergencies.

During any required load shed or curtailment event, BCEC follows established procedures designed to reduce demand while minimizing impact to residential consumers whenever possible. Curtailment decisions follow an approved priority structure for emergency operations, and residential service is typically among the last categories considered, though emergency conditions can vary and outcomes cannot be guaranteed. Read more about our established procedures at <https://bigcountry.coop/load-shedding>.

Looking Ahead

As electric demand continues to grow across the region, BCEC remains committed to thoughtful planning, responsible system management, and maintaining reliable service for all of our members.

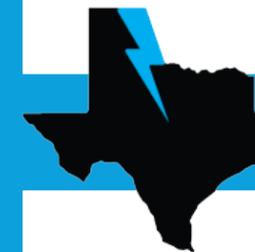
The cooperative maintains a long-standing focus on keeping native, or established member loads, central to system planning, with all electric service subject to established cooperative and regulatory requirements that safeguard long-term system reliability.



Why is the Demand for Electricity Rising?

Demand for electricity in the U.S. is booming. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts (enough to power more than 30 million homes) between now and 2028. Meeting this new demand will require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades and energy storage technology advancements. Here are the key factors that are driving increased demand.

- 1 **Increased Electrification:** Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are increasing overall U.S. energy consumption.
- 2 **Data Centers:** Driven by explosions in AI, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.
- 3 **Economic Growth:** Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.
- 4 **Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring:** New, expanding and "onshored/reshored" manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.



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.