

hello FALL

Even though the calendar says fall, weather across the Big Country often stays hot well into October. Here are a few tips to help you manage energy use while the heat lingers — and prepare for cooler days ahead:

- Keep the thermostat steady. Every degree counts — raising your setting a couple of degrees can reduce A/C run time and lower costs.
- Use fans strategically. Ceiling fans make a room feel up to 4° cooler. Just remember to turn them off when you leave the room.
- Block the sun. Close blinds and curtains during the hottest part of the day to keep your home cooler.
- Check your A/C filter. A clean filter helps your system run more efficiently while it's still working overtime.
- Prep for later. When the weather does cool off, check weatherstripping and seal gaps around windows and doors to keep that comfort inside.

Staying cool now and preparing for the season ahead can make a big difference in your energy use — and your bill.

HARVEST SEASON SAFETY REMINDERS

- **Look up before you move equipment.** Always check for overhead power lines before raising augers, loaders, or other tall machinery.
- **Keep a safe clearance.** Maintain at least 10 feet of space around power lines with equipment and people.
- **Use a spotter.** Have someone guide you when moving tall machinery near lines or poles.
- **If equipment contacts a line, stay put.** Call 911 and BCEC immediately. Only exit if there's fire, and jump clear — never touch the equipment and ground at the same time.
- **Inspect lighting & wiring.** Make sure portable lighting and cords around grain bins or barns are in good condition.

Power Cost Adjustment Stays at Zero

Your Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) will remain at zero for the near term, meaning no additional charge or credit will be applied to bills beyond our standard rates.

The PCA is a billing mechanism that allows cooperatives to adjust for changes in the Cost of Purchased Power (COPP) — essentially, what it costs us to buy wholesale electricity for our members. Because power costs can vary from month to month due to fuel prices, demand, and market conditions, the PCA helps ensure fairness: members pay only what it truly costs to deliver power, no more and no less.

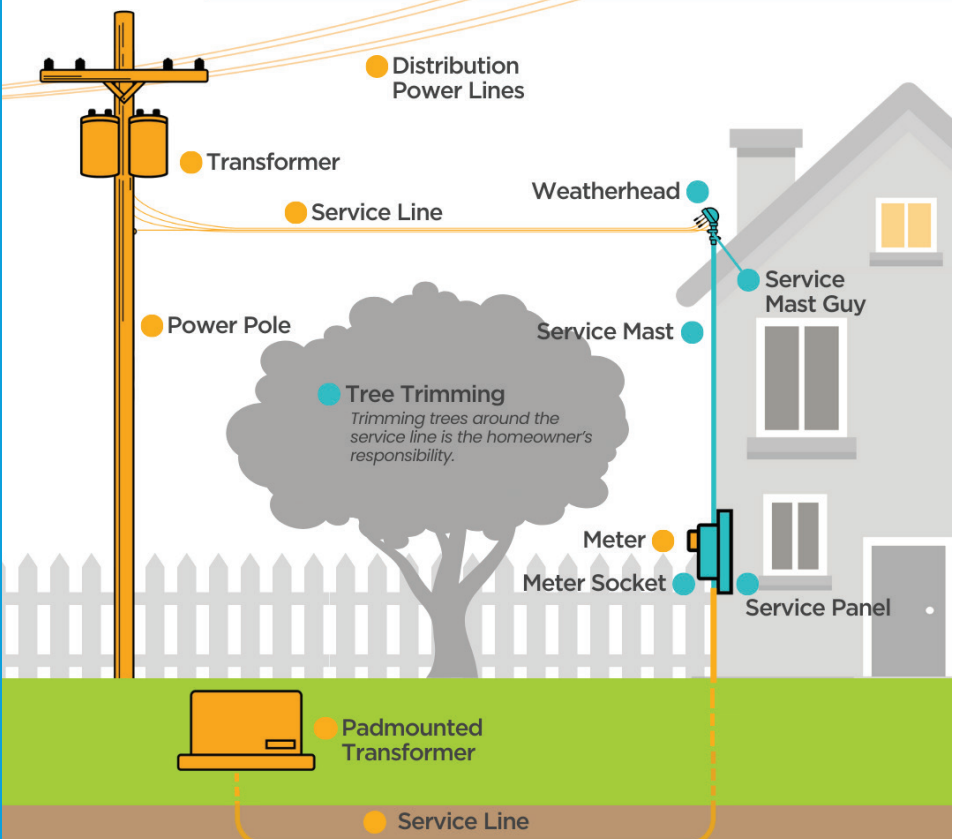
Fortunately, BCEC's COPP has been below forecasted levels, which has allowed us to keep the PCA steady at zero. This means members have continued to see stable, predictable bills without the extra cost adjustments that can sometimes occur in the industry.

This stability is the result of a combination of factors — purchased power costs have remained slightly lower than projected, thanks in part to the careful forecasting and management of our wholesale power supplier, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Along with the diligent monitoring of our accounting team here at BCEC, these efforts help protect our members from unnecessary fluctuations and keep rates affordable.

We will continue to monitor power costs closely and keep members informed of any future changes. For now, we're proud to deliver on our commitment to stability and affordability — keeping the PCA at zero is one more way we're looking out for our members.

Co-op Manages

Homeowner Manages



This example depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.



BIG COUNTRY

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Membergram

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Available online all day

Vote early — online or by mailing in your ballot from the September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine & Annual Report. Each registered voter will receive energy bill credits!



MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

3:30–6:30 p.m. | Come & Go
Snacks + Door Prize Drawings for registered members who stop by any office!

Don't forget to register and vote to claim your energy credit!
One day, two great ways to stay involved with your co-op!

www.bigcountry.coop

September 2025

OUR COMMITMENT TO RELIABILITY



We have contracted Sundance Power Pole Inspections to carry out inspection work on our poles throughout the remainder of 2025 and into 2026. Their crews will be inspecting both transmission and distribution lines, beginning with the transmission system this fall.

Pole inspections are an important part of maintaining safe and reliable electric service. Over time, poles can weaken or sustain damage from weather, age, or other environmental factors. Regular inspections allow us to identify potential problems before they become hazards, helping protect members, employees, and the electric system we all depend on. As part of this work, crews may need to access our rights-of-way to reach and inspect equipment. We appreciate your understanding as this essential maintenance takes place.

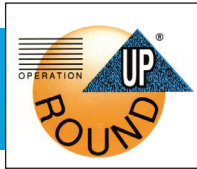
Sundance crews may be traveling in pickup trucks or four-wheelers along our lines. While some equipment may not display BCEC markings, all vehicles and personnel will carry Sundance identification and licensing.

As inspections move through our service area, members will be notified by substation feeder via email when crews begin working in a new area.

In addition to transmission inspections, Sundance will begin distribution line inspections in the following areas:

- Southeast of Justiceburg
- North of Sweetwater in the Busby and Palava areas
- North of Rule toward Rochester
- Between Anson, Nugent, and Hawley
- North and south of Hamlin

We thank you for your cooperation and patience as this work is completed. Pole inspections are just one of the ways BCEC invests in system reliability and member safety—today and for the future.



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 Helping Our Communities

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 November 11 2025.

LABOR DAY

**BCEC WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1, IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY.**

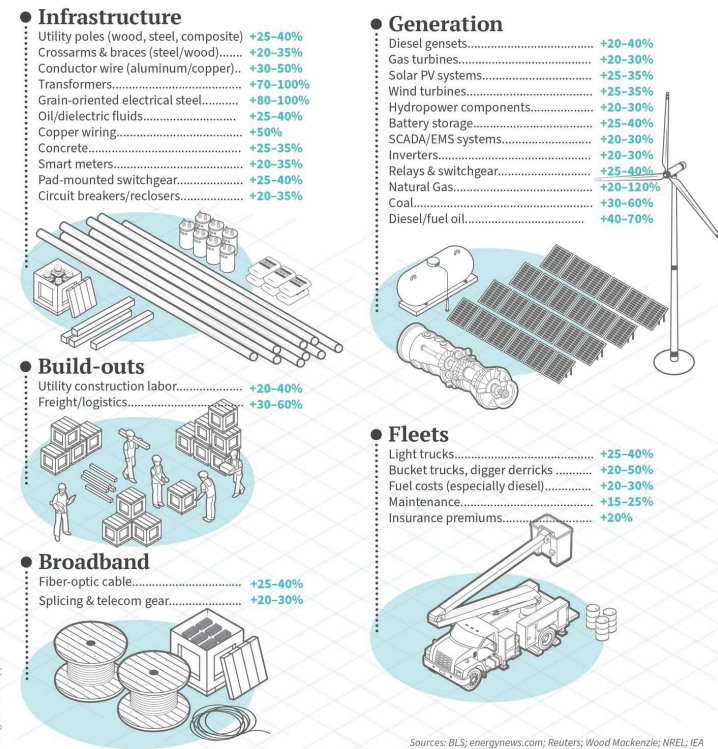
**PHONES WILL BE ANSWERED AND
CREWS WILL RESPOND TO
OUTAGES.**

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.

Cost Increases

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry and for broadband providers, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs and tariffs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend. **Percent increase since 2020:**



Capital Credits: The Co-op Difference in Action

One of the biggest benefits of being a member of BCEC is that you're not just a customer — you're an owner. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which return profits to outside shareholders, BCEC returns margins to the people we serve: our members.

These margins are called capital credits. Each year, any money left over after expenses is allocated back to members based on the amount of electricity they used. When the co-op's financial position allows, the board of directors votes to retire (or pay out) a portion of those credits.

This year, we began applying residential capital credit retirements as bill credits instead of mailing checks — making the process faster, more secure, and more convenient for members. Commercial accounts continue to receive checks by mail.

Capital credits are one of the most tangible examples of how the cooperative difference works in your favor. They represent your share of the co-op's success and reflect our commitment to operating at cost, not for profit.

One Day, Two Events: Virtual Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation Open House

On Tuesday, September 16, visit bigcountry.coop beginning at 10 a.m. to view Big Country Electric Cooperative's Annual Report, Annual Meeting video, and the results of this year's director election.

That afternoon, we invite you to join us in person for our Member Appreciation Open Houses at any BCEC office in Roby, Snyder, or Stamford from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy snacks, receive a door prize, and enter for prize drawings while visiting with your co-op team.

This day is all about celebrating you — our members. It's our way of showing appreciation for your support, partnership, and pride in keeping our cooperative strong.

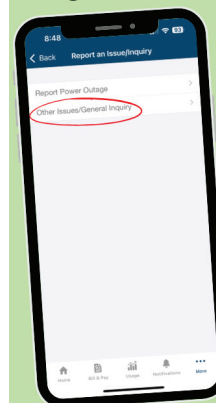
Bring the Registration Card included in your September issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine and annual report. This card is your ticket to receive your door prize and register for drawings.

Voting credentials were mailed to all members of record as of July 21, 2025, in the Texas Co-op Power Annual Report. If you became a member after that date, please contact kburleson@bigcountry.coop to obtain voting credentials and instructions. Voting closes on Friday, September 12.

Mark your calendars — we'll see you then!

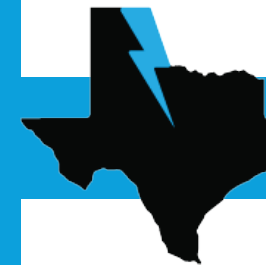
Need Tree Trimming Near Power Lines?

Trees growing too close to power lines can cause outages and create safety hazards. To help keep your service reliable and your community safe, we provide vegetation management around our lines.



Need this at your location?

You can easily request tree trimming through your SmartHub app — just go to “Report an Issue” and submit a vegetation request. You can also call any BCEC office for assistance. Keeping vegetation clear of power lines helps protect your electric service and ensures a safer system for everyone.



www.bigcountry.coop

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30-12:00, 1:00-5:30
Friday: 7:30-11:30

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.