



Spread THE WORD for the 2025 YOUTH TOUR

We are asking for your help spreading word amongst our community about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital. BCEC will send three local students on this incredible journey, scheduled for June 15-22, 2025. Students' parents or guardians do not have to be members of BCEC to compete in and win the Youth Tour contest.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON JAN 23, 2025

2025 VIDEO CONTEST TOPIC: Explain how the electric grid works, and the role cooperatives have in maintaining it.

LEARN MORE AT BIGCOUNTRY.COOP/YOUTH-TOUR



Did you know that our 65 employees collectively bring over 770 years of experience to our cooperative?

At our employee Christmas party, we honored those who have reached significant milestones in their years of service. Their commitment and hard work have been instrumental in our success, and we are proud to celebrate their milestones.

- 5 Years of Service: Wesley Gonzales, Andrew Porter, Corbin Smith
- 10 Years of Service: Cody McClintock, Rosa Sanchez
- 15 Years of Service: Sarah McLen, Henry Vega
- 20 Years of Service: Catarino Macias
- 35 Years of Service: Pat Pierce

Collectively, these nine employees bring 120 years of experience to the co-op. Each of these individuals has contributed significantly to our organization, and their dedication exemplifies the values we hold dear. We are grateful for their continued service and look forward to many more years of working together.

Congratulations to all our honorees and thank you for your unwavering commitment!



We missed several of our Stamford office honorees and coworkers who were cheering on the Stamford Bulldogs at the state game! We also had a special appearance from the Grinch brought to life by Bren Rister.

BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Membergram

NEW YEAR, SAME SAVINGS: PCA CREDIT CONTINUES!

The 3-cent PCA credit will continue this January, bringing you even more savings on your energy bill.

A 3¢ CREDIT TRANSLATES TO ROUGHLY A \$60 SAVINGS FOR AN AVERAGE USAGE OF 2,000 KWH.

Check out the article on the next page for further details.



We Want to Hear from You!



As we look forward to the new year, we want to ensure our Membergram continues to meet your needs and interests.

Your feedback is important to us, and we'd love to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see in our upcoming issues.

If you have time and would like to share your opinion, please scan the QR code to fill out a brief five-question survey.

We appreciate your time and feedback!



www.bigcountry.coop

January 2025

OUR COMMITMENT TO RELIABILITY



Right of way clearing and tree trimming are among the many activities we undertake in our commitment to providing reliable service. These efforts help maintain the safety and efficiency of our power lines and infrastructure. By keeping the areas around our power lines clear, we reduce the risk of outages potentially caused by wind or other weather conditions, thereby enhancing the reliability of our service.

We are currently in the process of developing our game plan for the upcoming year. This plan will outline the schedule and specific areas we will target for right of way clearing and tree trimming.

Stay tuned for more information and thank you for being a valued member of our cooperative!

Scholarships!

Attention Moms, Dads, and Grads! Scholarships are available through Big Country EC. Don't miss out on this opportunity!



BCEC Academic Scholarship
Deadline: March 1, 2025

Two \$4,000 scholarships for graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are BCEC members.

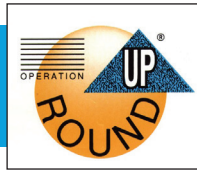
GSEC Directors' Memorial Scholarship
Deadline: March 1, 2025

\$2,000 scholarships for selected graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are BCEC members.

Texas Rural Electric Women's Association Scholarship
Deadline: March 15, 2025

Twenty \$1,500 scholarships are available for TREWA members and their children, open to graduating high school seniors, full-time college students, and adults accepted as full-time students at any accredited institution.

For full details and applications, visit bigcountry.coop and click on Service Beyond Electricity, then Scholarships. Please contact Krysha Burlison at (325) 776-3803 or kburlison@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.

Supporting Our Community Together

In December, the following organizations were approved for Operation Round Up grants:

The LifeHouse	\$2,500
Roby Lions Club	\$300
Stamford Elementary Backpack Program	\$1,000
Stonewall County Senior Citizens	\$3,000

What is Operation Round Up?

The Operation Round Up program is supported by BCEC members whose electric bills are "Rounded Up" to the nearest dollar. The "Rounded Up" amounts fund Operation Round Up for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve. Every penny stays right here at home!

Who can apply to Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up welcomes applications from:

- **Local organizations** that provide essential community services, including food banks, shelters, medical assistance, rescue organizations, educational projects, childcare programs, and more.
- **Families and individuals** facing financial hardships due to life-altering circumstances.

2025 Quarterly Deadlines

- February 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- August 19, 2025
- November 11, 2025

For more information about the Operation Round Up program or to opt out of participation, please visit bigcountry.coop and navigate to the Service Beyond Electricity dropdown menu.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

The holiday season is a time for giving, and our cooperative is proud to be part of a community that embodies this spirit so profoundly. Through our annual Christmas Cookout fundraisers and Angel Trees initiative, we were able to make a meaningful difference for families and children across our service area. Thanks to our communities, we were able to make a significant impact across our service area:

- Snyder:** Raised \$404.22, 10 fleece throws, 22 games, three stuffed animals, and 96 toys for KSNY's Christmas for Kids.
- Roby:** Raised \$1,042 for No Need for Need.
- Stamford:** Raised \$2,174 and some toys for Goodfellows.



Additionally, our employees came together through our annual Angel Trees initiative to support eighteen children from local families within our service territory.

Our team ensured each child received a variety of gifts to brighten their holidays. From toys and games to essential clothing items like jackets, pants, shirts, underwear, socks, and shoes, employees made sure no detail was overlooked.

We are incredibly proud of their generosity and commitment to giving back. Their efforts reflect our cooperative principle of concern for community, highlighting our dedication to supporting and uplifting those around us.

Together, our community strengthens the bonds that make the Big Country area a wonderful place to live.



SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTINUES

Starting in January, we will continue our maintenance program with pole changeouts on Wetzel Feeder 2. This phase covers areas southwest of Roby, including FM 419, Claytonville, and towards Rotan, such as the Fisher County Hospital.

What to Remember:

- Brief outages may occur during maintenance.
- Crews will notify residents before any outages.
- We aim to minimize disruptions and complete the project quickly.

We appreciate your understanding as we work to enhance the reliability of our service.

Enjoy Continued Savings with PCA Credit

The 3¢ PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) credit will continue into January, bringing you additional savings on your electric bills. This credit is due to a significant decrease in the cost of purchased power in 2024.

The PCA is a rate component on your electric bills that reflects the fluctuating costs of purchased power from our provider, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Our average expected purchased power cost is \$0.06 per kWh. The PCA adjusts for the difference between this budgeted cost and the actual market price of electricity, ensuring fair and transparent billing.

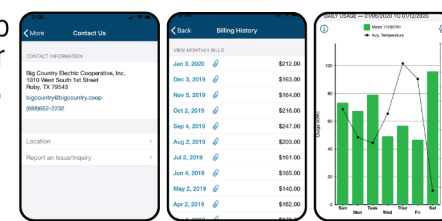
A 3¢ credit translates to roughly a \$60 savings for an average usage of 2,000 kWh. We are grateful to be able to give back to our members, especially during a season when expenses are higher as many of us are recovering from the holidays.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our savings go back to our members, not to profits. We strive to support and uplift our members by providing affordable and reliable energy. Our financial team works diligently to forecast and budget for costs, aiming to mitigate swings in purchased power prices and ensure stable billing.

We are dedicated to transparency and open communication. If you have any questions or need further clarification about the PCA or any other aspect of your bill, please do not hesitate to reach out. We're here to help!

Start the New Year with Less Paper!

Download SmartHub today to check your usage, pay your bill, report outages, update contact information, and more!



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.

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.