



# 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](http://BIGCOUNTRY.COOP/YOUTH-TOUR)**

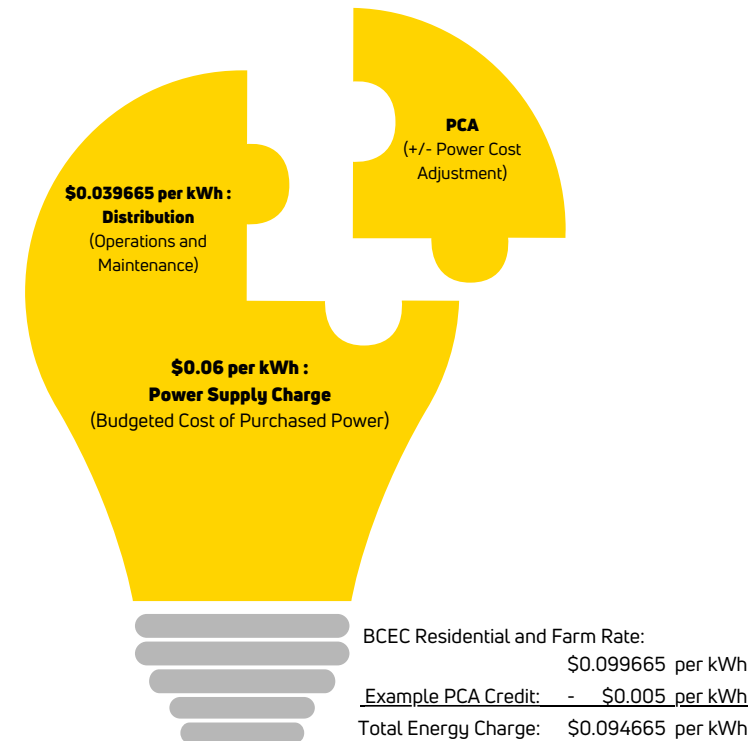
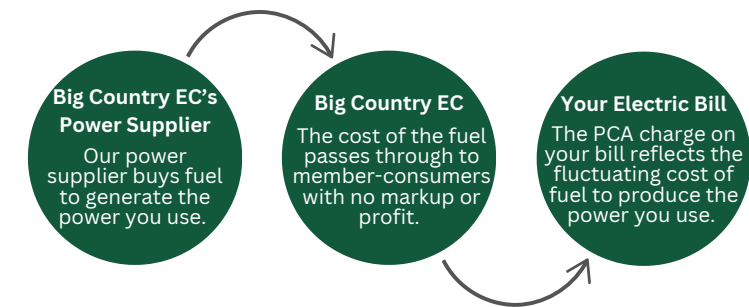


## What exactly is the PCA?

The PCA is the rate component on electric bills based on our average expected/budgeted purchased power cost of \$0.06 per kWh. The exact cost of purchased power varies somewhat from month to month, which is why we base our rate on the budgeted average mentioned. BCEC's residential, farm, and seasonal rate is \$0.099665 per kWh. The difference between that and the budgeted cost of purchased power is about \$0.039665 per kWh, which is what BCEC operates on.

The wholesale Power Supply Charge from GSEC is passed on to the distribution cooperative (BCEC) and then to its member-consumers, you. When the wholesale Power Supply Charge is greater than the amount recovered through the base rate, a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is added to each member's bill. Conversely, when the Wholesale Power Cost is lower than our budgeted costs, that amount is reflected as a credit on each member's bill.

**PCA - Power Cost Adjustment**  
**BCEC - Big Country Electric Cooperative**  
**GSEC - Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, our Wholesale Power Supplier**



Increasing or decreasing the PCA half a cent per kWh will reflect in approximately a \$10 increase or decrease per 2,000 kWh consumed.

# BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Membergram

As the crisp autumn air settles in, the leaves turn vibrant shades of red and gold, and the hot Texas weather finally starts to cool off, we are reminded that November is a time for reflection and gratitude. At Big Country Electric Cooperative, we want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to you, our valued members.

We are grateful for the trust you place in us to power your homes, farms, and businesses. Our commitment to providing safe, reliable, and competitive service remains unwavering.

At the heart of our cooperative is the spirit of community. We are proud to be part of a network that values cooperation, mutual support, and shared success. Your trust in us - your neighbors and employees - to be good stewards of the cooperative is something we deeply appreciate.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we do so with a sense of optimism and gratitude. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are committed to continuing our work to serve you better. Your ongoing support and involvement are what make our cooperative strong and vibrant.

In this season of giving thanks, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to you. Thank you for being an integral part of our cooperative family. We wish you and your loved ones a warm and joyous Thanksgiving.



[www.bigcountry.coop](http://www.bigcountry.coop)

November 2024



**Filter Easy**

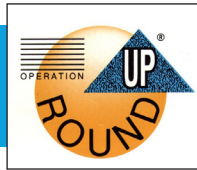
**Home Air Filters Delivered When It's Time To Change Them.**

When was the last time you changed your air filters? Chances are it wasn't recently. Let FilterEasy do the remembering while you enjoy improved indoor air quality, lower bills, and better maintenance of the most expensive appliances (HVAC & furnace) in your home!

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



### Committed to Community

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

## Operation Round Up Upcoming Deadline

### 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: 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?

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.

**Grants are awarded quarterly, with the next application deadline set for 5:30 p.m. on November 12, 2024.**

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

## Decorate Early, Decorate Safely

Many homeowners start decorating for Christmas early, sometimes even before Thanksgiving. If you're decorating in November, prioritize safety. The National Safety Council reports nearly three people per hour are treated for decorating-related injuries during the holiday season.

Here are some ways to keep yourself safe if you're on decorating duty this season:

- **Inspect Lights:** Check last year's lights for frayed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets.
- **Child Safety:** Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks high on the tree. Keep decorations with batteries out of children's reach.
- **Hazardous Plants:** Keep harmful plants like some poinsettias away from kids and pets. Have the Poison Control Center number handy: 1-800-222-1222.
- **Ladder Safety:** Use sturdy ladders outdoors and stepladders indoors. Avoid using chairs.
- **Extension Cords:** Don't hide cords under rugs or furniture. Unplug them when the tree is down.
- **Tree Safety:** Keep live trees well-watered and ensure artificial trees are fire-resistant.
- **LEDs Over Flames:** Use LED lights instead of candles to reduce fire risk.

Stay safe and enjoy your holiday decorating!

**CHRISTMAS COOKOUT FUNDRAISERS**  
ONE DAY, THREE LOCATIONS!  
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**STAMFORD, AT THE SQUARE**  
BENEFITING GOODFELLOWS

**ROBY, AT THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE**  
BENEFITING NO NEED FOR NEED

**SNYDER, AT THE POCKET PARK**  
BENEFITING KSNY RADIO'S CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

**BCEC will be cooking delicious sausage wraps and serving chips, drinks, and cookies for pick-up. This is a donation-only event.**

We welcome monetary donations, as well as new, unwrapped toys and winter clothing. All proceeds will benefit local charities, helping them share love with local families this Christmas.

*Please join us if you can and share the holiday spirit!*

**BIG COUNTRY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Closing Out the Year: PCA Credit Continues

Big Country Electric Cooperative, like many electric providers, uses a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to reflect the fluctuating costs passed on from our generation and transmission cooperative, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative (GSEC). GSEC generates a portion of our electricity and also purchases additional electricity on the wholesale market to meet demand. This means the amount you pay can vary each month depending on several factors.

The PCA is a rate component on your electric bills based on our average expected/budgeted purchased power cost of \$0.06 per kWh. The exact cost of purchased power varies somewhat from month to month, which is why we base our rate on this budgeted average. BCEC's residential, farm, and seasonal rate is \$0.099665 per kWh. The difference between that and the budgeted cost of purchased power is about \$0.039665 per kWh, which covers the cooperative's operational costs, like maintaining infrastructure. The PCA reflects the difference between the budgeted cost of buying electricity and the actual market price passed on through GSEC.

Over the last few years, the PCA reached a peak of a 3-cent charge at the end of 2022 and began to decrease at the beginning of 2023, eventually reaching a zero adjustment (no additional charge or credit) in June 2023. It remained at zero until July this year, when we were able to start distributing a credit to members.

While we cannot promise or guarantee that the PCA will not fluctuate differently in the future, we are happy to be able to continue passing on a credit to our members as we wind down the year.

As your cooperative, we value open communication and transparency. Our financial team works hard to forecast and budget for costs to help mitigate the swings of purchased power so that we can provide power at manageable costs to our members. If you have any questions or need further clarification about the PCA or any other aspect of your bill, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to keep you informed and support you with your energy needs.

## WHY DOES THE PCA FLUCTUATE?

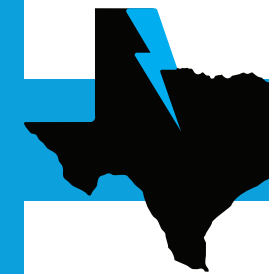
The biggest factor is the price of fuels like natural gas, coal, or the resources used for generation (like wind).

**Why are fuel costs low when gas prices at the pump are high?**

Natural gas prices used for electricity generation are different from the oil prices that affect gas station prices.

Electricity prices rise with high demand, especially during peak summer months.

Extreme weather, plant outages, and transmission costs can also strain the electricity supply chain, raising wholesale prices reflected in the PCA.



[www.bigcountry.coop](http://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](http://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](mailto:smclen@bigcountry.coop) for details.



Call 811 at least 2 working days before you dig.  
Visit [www.texas811.org](http://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](http://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.