



CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

February 2025



On The Right Path

Scott Spence | President & CEO

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) remains focused on two key goals in 2025: continuing to ensure the cooperative's financial health and improved service to you, the TCEC member.

Thanks to the dedication of approximately 300 employees and the expertise of the new leadership team, progress is being made to reduce the debt mountain without compromising safety or reliability:

- TCEC drew just \$4 million from its line of credit in the second half of 2024, resulting in a balance of \$208.5 million at the end of calendar year 2024. For context, TCEC had a zero balance at the end of March 2020.
- Including the \$4 million, the cooperative was able to keep its total 2024 line of credit draw to \$35.5 million. This is much better than taking out \$100 million in additional long-term debt that had been previously planned and approved to keep the cooperative open in 2024. The result was a \$65 million cash savings for members last year, along with a savings of \$5 million, at current interest rates, each and every year going forward.
- The cooperative slashed \$17 million from its long-term debt in 2024. This reduction alone saves over \$1 million in interest expenses, with more savings for each year the debt decreases.

Other cost-savings actions taken include reductions to purchased material costs, administrative cost reductions and the ending of cooperative subsidies for new members.

Just like the efforts to reduce the debt are paying off, so too has the work to secure a five-year power-supply agreement that started on January 1 and runs through 2029. The agreement financially protected TCEC and its members from the spike in wholesale market prices that resulted from January 2025 winter weather. Wholesale market prices peaked at 219 cents per kilowatt hour, an over 1400% increase from the 14.425 cent base rate TCEC members pay. Without this agreement, members would have seen a dramatic swing in the power cost recovery factor (PCRF) to cover that 219 cent price tag. Instead, the cooperative's power costs remained stable, and the agreement further ensures that the PCRF remains a credit to members in 2025.

Along with ensuring the cooperative's financial health, improved member service remains a top priority. The [Member Information Center](#) is consistently updated with more transparency than ever before. Transparency was the idea behind two recent Member Connections events. One in-person session provided members the opportunity to speak with experts and get their individual concerns addressed. An additional virtual Q&A allowed even more transparency through member questions answered live by leadership team members.

TCEC has enhanced programs and features that are uniquely part of being a member. Through MyTriCountyTX, either on the website or mobile app, you can access your bill instantly, track energy usage, or enroll in a variety of options, including auto pay and paperless billing. And with instant outage alerts, you'll be automatically notified of an outage impacting your home.

The 2024 successes laid out above, and others not directly mentioned here, give us a strong foundation as 2025 begins. But they are just the first of many necessary steps. We are thankful to be able to provide safe and reliable power for members. As long as we continue on this path, we are confident that TCEC will continue to do so for years to come.

Member Connections In-Person Event

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's leadership and staff recently engaged with members during the first in-person Member Connections event, held in person on Thursday, January 23, in Azle.

Member service representatives were on hand to speak with members in one-on-one settings and answer specific questions tailored to the account. MSRs were also available to discuss the latest TCEC programs available.

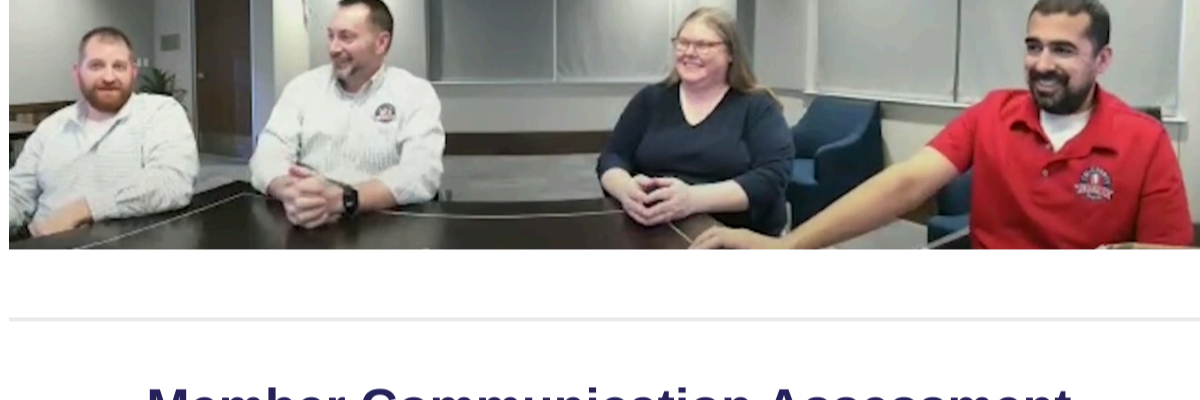


Member Connections Virtual Event

On Thursday, January 28, members of the TCEC leadership team participated in a live Members Connections virtual event. Members joined the meeting to hear the leadership team discuss the Cooperative's challenges, the solutions implemented, and the preliminary results. The leadership team also addressed questions submitted by members during the registration process.

A recording of the meeting is available on the online [Member Information Center](#).

As referenced during the meeting, the PCRF for the rest of 2025 has been updated on the [TCEC website](#).



Member Communication Assessment

As printing and mailing costs continue to rise, Tri-County Electric Cooperative is evaluating its communication methods with members.

The *Current Conversations* newsletter is produced and distributed using Tri-County's existing software tools at no additional cost.

Previously, the monthly Member Bulletin was included with your billing statement, either by mail or in the PDF version if you were enrolled in paperless billing. This incurred printing costs of approximately \$10,000 each month.

Additionally, the Texas Co-op Power magazine, which is distributed statewide for electric cooperatives, costs the Tri-County Electric membership close to \$1 million annually for printing and mailing by Texas Co-op Power in Austin, TX.

You can help reduce this expense by completing the opt-out form to stop receiving a paper copy of the magazine. A digital version of the magazine is available on our website at <https://tcectexas.com/texas-co-op-power>.

[Opt-Out Form](#)

Get Your Bill Instantly With Paperless Billing

Get added convenience of timely notifications and online payments with paperless billing.

Eliminate Surprises with Budget Billing

To smooth out the fluctuations in your seasonal electrical bills, consider enrolling in Budget Billing.

This payment option allows you to pay an amount each month based on a rolling average of your previous twelve (12) bills.

It's important to note that there is no settlement of account balances until you either disconnect your service or unenroll from Budget Billing. Additionally, your account should have a zero balance to enroll in this program.

To sign up, please contact Member Service by phone at 817.444.3201 or by email at memberservice@tcectexas.com.

TCEC BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

33 DONORS

34 PINTS

100+ PATIENTS HELPED

Thanks to everyone who donated at TCEC's Blood Drive on Monday, January 20, and helped save a life!



New this month in the

MEMBER INFORMATION CENTER

JANUARY 28, 2025 MEMBER CONNECTIONS VIRTUAL MEETING RECORDING

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's 2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Visit tcectexas.com/2025-scholarships for more info!

FIFTY \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS
Deadline extended to February 28, 2025



The TCEC Scholarship Program is not funded by members' electric bills. It is paid for using unclaimed funds, such as capital credit checks, that have not been cashed in three years. Texas law permits electric cooperatives to use a portion of these funds for limited purposes such as scholarships. These dollars would go to the state's general funds if TCEC did not repurpose them and reinvest the funds back into the local community.

Helpful Links

[Member Information Center](#)

[Cooperative Giving](#)

[Outage Center](#)

[Prepaid Billing](#)

[PCRF Tracker](#)

[Current Conversations](#)

Have Feedback?

Email CurrentConversations@tcectexas.com