

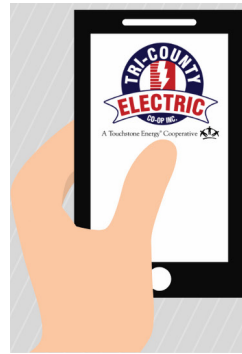


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Taking Care of Our Member-Owners”

Member Information Bulletin

August 2022



Your Co-op is Calling

From time to time, we may give you a call to inform you of system maintenance scheduled in your area.

Save our number so you never miss an update!

817-444-3201



In your August Texas Co-op Power

- ▶ Increased power costs, page 18
- ▶ Update from the board of directors, page 19
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- ▶ Save time with the online member portal, page 23

Look for your account number on pages 18-25 for a chance to claim a \$20 bill credit!

Your Questions Answered on Rising Power Costs

Here at Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we are painfully aware costs for electricity have increased for our members. The past few months, wholesale power costs have risen sharply across the ERCOT grid and unfortunately have also affected your monthly bill. We know you have questions, and we are doing our best to ensure members receive information behind these increases.

Why is my bill higher than last summer?

Local and state headlines have been focused over the last several months on utility bill increases being felt by Texans across the ERCOT grid. Tri-County Electric Co-op has been impacted by these increases and in June 2022, we had to increase the Power Cost Recovery Factor (PCRF) component of your bill to cover these increased costs from our wholesale power supplier, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative. The co-op passes the cost of wholesale generation and transmission services on to you at our cost with no markup. The main driver of the increased electric costs in Texas – and across the nation – is the dramatic increase in the cost of natural gas. As you may know, natural gas is the predominant fuel used to generate power in ERCOT. To put things into perspective, in June 2021, natural gas sold for just over \$3.00/mmBtu and one year later, June 2022, prices for natural gas were over \$8.50/mmBtu. Tri-County Electric Co-op understands these increased costs are felt by our members, as well as electric consumers across the state and nation. We are here to help in any way we can. 23322001

Additionally, most members are seeing increased electric consumption due to the extremely hot days, most hitting triple digits. According to the National Weather Service, the north Texas region experienced the hottest June on record. Higher temperatures typically translate to higher consumption, which drives up monthly bill. Visit tcectexas.com/energy-efficiency for energy-saving tips. 34886001

How do I calculate my bill?

The Customer Charge and kWh Charge have not changed since 2002. The only component of your bill that has fluctuated over the last 20 years is the Power Cost Recovery Factor or “PCRF” which we pass directly on to our wholesale supplier. To calculate your bill, add the following main components together:

- ▶ kWh consumed multiplied by the kWh charge, 7 cents
- ▶ kWh consumed multiplied by PCRF charge, 7.5 cents
- ▶ Customer charge, \$15 for most residential members
- ▶ Applicable fees and taxes depending on location

What is the PCRF?

The Power Cost Recovery Factor (PCRF) is a rate mechanism used to true-up the actual cost of wholesale generation and transmission services versus budgeted costs. For example, Tri-County Electric has \$.048971 of base (or budgeted) wholesale costs built into its kWh charge of \$.07. Since wholesale costs have risen sharply over the last several months due to the increases in the natural gas market, PCRF has increased so we can recover the costs billed to us by our wholesale supplier. As a reminder, we pass these wholesale generation and transmission costs on to you at our cost, with no markup.

2022 Annual Meeting and Election

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a member-owned electric provider. One of the perks of the cooperative business model is the members have a say in the governance of the business. Each year, we hold an election and an Annual Meeting to update you on your co-op. 40741001

Here is everything you need to know about the election and Annual Meeting:

Election

- ▶ Every member can vote in the election, regardless of where you reside.
- ▶ Director districts 5, 7 and 9 will be on the ballot.
- ▶ Members who vote by the deadline will receive a \$25 bill credit and will be entered into the door prize drawing at Annual Meeting.
- ▶ Members may vote online, through email or by mail. 8005400401
- ▶ Your official election ballot will come on the back of the September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine – don't throw away your chance to win!
- ▶ Members with a valid email address will receive an email with your specific voting credentials.
- ▶ Voting opens September 1 and closes at 5 p.m. on September 28.
- ▶ Survey and Ballot Systems is our third-party election service and conducts the election securely on our behalf.

Earn a \$25 bill credit by voting in this year's director election

Annual Meeting

- ▶ Annual Meeting is Tuesday, October 4.
- ▶ Members can stream online or listen by phone.
- ▶ All members will receive your official notice and the Annual Report in the September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine.
- ▶ The agenda includes the business meeting, election results, review of the financials, a co-op update and door prizes.

Director Candidate Forum

Thursday, August 18 | 6:30 p.m.

Each director candidate will be asked a series of questions by co-op staff, as well as take questions from the membership. The virtual forum will be recorded and available on our website one week after the event.

Stream Online: tcectexas.com/director-elections

Listen by phone: 855-710-6229

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 4 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us virtually for the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members. More information to come in the September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine - including your ballot for the director election. Members who vote in the election will receive a \$25 bill credit.

It Pays to Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin or the *Texas Co-op Power* and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill!
Simply contact our Member Services team at 817-444-3201 to claim your credit.



TRI-COUNTY
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Taking Care of our Member-Owners"

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Azle ★ Keller ★ Granbury ★ Aledo ★ Seymour ★ Munday