

Why We Celebrate You in October



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER LEROY T. SKLOSS

This year, National Cooperative Month has taken on a special meaning to folks at Karnes Electric Cooperative with the United Nations-sanctioned International Year of Cooperatives. But what are we really celebrating? What makes Karnes Electric different, and why should that matter to you?

Our economy still has critical hurdles to overcome, so you may not feel like celebrating at all. But when our faith in big institutions has been shaken, it's the perfect time to remember what we've already accomplished locally—all with a little cooperation.

We've faced tough times before; 75 years ago, our area didn't have electricity. Younger folks were leaving to find a brighter future in urban areas, and rural America was left in the dark. Instead of waiting for someone else to fix our problems, we turned to each other. We built our own utility, and we powered our future.

By our very nature, not-for-profit, local, member-owned and -governed cooperatives like Karnes EC empower members to improve their lives. And while bringing electricity to rural Texas was a big first step, you, as our members, certainly didn't stop there. Just think about what we've accomplished in our area in the past year!

You've funded \$110,200 in college scholarships for our local students over the past 15 years. These bright young leaders will keep our community's future strong.

Supporting a strong community on your behalf, our employees help coach little league, serve on local school boards and city councils, are actively involved in local stock show activities and athletic events, and are members of our local church communities.

By working with your cooperative, you can make a big impact on the communities we serve. Ready to get involved? Attend our annual membership meeting on June 3, 2013, to let us know what issues are important to you. Visit our website at karnesec.org to find out what national and state regulations and legislation might affect your electric bill, and help us stand up for our community's right to affordable, safe and reliable electricity.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, thank you for your efforts to strengthen our community. The cooperative business model is a powerful tool that can be used to improve our quality of life. We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together.



Let dishes air-dry to save energy and money.

Now That Is a Smart Appliance

Follow these tips to use your appliance smartly—and save.

1. Adjust the thermostat in your refrigerator. Refrigerators account for about 20 percent of household electricity use. Use a thermometer to set your refrigerator temperature as close to 37 degrees and your freezer as close to 3 degrees as possible. Make sure that its energy saver switch is turned on. Check the gaskets around your refrigerator/freezer doors to make sure they are clean and sealed tightly.
2. Set your clothes washer to the warm or cold water setting, not hot.
3. Make sure your dishwasher is full before you run it, and use the energy-saving setting, if available, to allow the dishes to air-dry. You can also turn off the drying cycle manually. Not using heat in the drying cycle can save 20 percent of your dishwasher's total electricity use.
4. Adjust your water heater thermostat. Thermostats are often set to 140 degrees when 120 is usually fine.
5. Select the most energy-efficient models when you replace your old appliances. Look for the Energy Star label—your assurance that the product saves energy and prevents pollution. Buy the product that is sized to your typical needs—not the biggest one available.

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Notice of Capital Credit Allocations

Capital credit allocations were assigned in August to the members' accounts of Karnes Electric Cooperative for the year 2011.

After the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to members' accounts.

Your cooperative's margin is any money left after all its operating costs have been paid. Because members are co-owners of the cooperative, those margins are allocated to their accounts.

These capital credits are not available as either cash or credit on your electric bill. Refund of this amount, in full or part, in the future will be based on the decision of the board of directors when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant, credited to each member's account, even though the member may move away from Karnes Electric Cooperative. It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses in the future so they can receive capital credit refunds when they are paid.

This will serve as your official notice that capital credits have been allocated.

To calculate your allocation for 2011, multiply your total electric bills for 2011 by the following factor that pertains to your particular account.

Farm & Nonfarm (Residential)	0.09822098
Irrigation	0.09372649
Small Commercial	0.09913935
Large Commercial	0.03480477
Oil Wells	0.13399103
Public Buildings	0.11014725

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please call the cooperative's office at (830) 780 3952.

Is Your Plasma TV Celebrating Its 10th Birthday?

If so, maybe you should consider throwing a retirement party for it instead of a birthday party. Early plasma TVs could cost well over \$200 a year to operate. Current models have better pictures and typically use only \$70 for electricity annually. Many models use even less.

LCDs are the most efficient type of TV, especially those with LED instead of fluorescent backlights.

When shopping for a new TV, just like with appliances, always look for the Energy Star. Models with that endorsement are 40 to 60 percent more energy efficient.



Karnes Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118

GENERAL MANAGER

Leroy T. Skloss

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Arlon Retzloff, President, *Whitsett*
- Martin R. Harris Jr., Vice President, *Tilden*
- Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, *Runge*
- Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, *Charlotte*
- Paul T. Brysch Jr., *Karnes City*
- David C. Davidson, *Poteet*
- Shirley Hofmann, *Runge*

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

District Office

1824 W. Goodwin, Pleasanton

Pay your bill, submit meter readings and view your account summary at karnesec.org.



CONTACT US

For information and outages during office hours

(830) 780-3952 Karnes City
(830) 569-5538 Pleasanton
1-888-807-3952 Toll-free

To report a power outage after 5 p.m. and on weekends and holidays

(830) 780-3952

Coy City, Ecleto, Floresville, Gillette, Goliad, Karnes City, Kenedy, Runge, Three Rivers, Tilden and surrounding areas

(830) 569-5538

Charlotte, Christine, Pleasanton, Poteet, Verdi and surrounding areas

FIND US ON THE WEB

karnesec.org

Planting Trees?

Stay away from power lines



If the trees in your yard have grown so tall that they touch overhead power lines, they can cause all kinds of trouble.

Branches that sway in the wind and rain can snap an electric line, sending a live wire to the ground, where it can electrocute anyone who touches it.

Plus, lines broken by trees cause you and your neighbors to lose electricity.

And a tree that poses a danger—even an old or favorite tree—could be slated for removal by your electric cooperative.

Prevent the problems by planting smart. A few tips:

- ▶ Do some research about the tree you want to plant. Learn how tall it will grow—and how wide the full span of its branches will become. Use those dimensions to determine how far away from a power line you should plant it. Some trees are safe only when they grow 30 feet or more away from a line.

- ▶ If the landscape design you like requires you to plant trees near electric lines, choose a low-growing variety that will never be tall enough to pose a hazard.

- ▶ Before digging any holes to plant trees, call 811, the state’s “call before you dig” service. If you don’t call, and you hit underground utility lines, you could be liable for damages.

- ▶ Avoid planting in the right of way on the edge of your yard. Your electric cooperative and other utility companies must maintain that space and could wind up trimming trees out of the way of power lines—and possibly leaving the tree looking “lopsided.”

- ▶ Don’t plant shrubs too close to your home’s outdoor air-conditioning unit. That device needs some “breathing room” and should never be crowded by shrubbery or debris.

- ▶ If your yard is already home to trees that are close to power lines, keep the trees trimmed so they don’t touch any overhead wires. Hire a professional tree trimmer with the proper tools and training to provide this service for you. Don’t risk doing it yourself.

Before you know it, a tiny sapling has grown into a tall, glorious tree. Be sure you plant it where it has plenty of room to grow without contacting power lines.

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How Electric Co-ops Energized Rural America

1844 Cooperative principles established in Rochdale, England.

1909 Country Life Commission recommends creation of electric cooperatives to power rural areas.

1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt creates federal Rural Electrification Administration by executive order.

1936 First REA project in Texas energizes 110 farm homes in Bartlett.

1937 53,000 total miles of co-op lines constructed throughout the rural United States.

1940 180,000 miles of rural lines built with another 80,000 under way.

1941 Texas Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association of electric cooperatives, established to represent the interests of the co-ops and their members.

1942 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association formed to represent co-op interests nationally.

1949 More than 1 million rural farm homes energized. Roughly 184,000 miles of rural line constructed this year alone.

1950 Willie Wiredhand, a mascot for electric cooperatives, debuts; named after the “hired hand” electricity gave to farmers.

1962 Electric co-ops serve 5 million Americans.

1994 REA renamed Rural Utilities Service.

2009 NRECA/USAID partnership connects more than 100 million people to electricity in 42 nations.

2010 75 years after creation of REA, more than 900 co-ops in 47 states serve 17 million homes and businesses.

2012 People around the globe join the United Nations in celebrating 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. Texas electric cooperatives serve more than 2 million homes and businesses across the state through a network of 318,00 miles of line.



Have a Scary— But Safe— Halloween

Halloween lights and decorations in October are almost as common as Christmas displays in December. The same safety rules apply on “Fright Night.”

- ▶ If you're using last year's lights and lighted displays, inspect them for cracked, frayed or bare wires. Worn wiring can shock you or even start a fire.
- ▶ Use electrical products outside only if they are designed and marked for outdoor use.
- ▶ Plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters. If your older home doesn't have them, call an electrician to upgrade your circuits before using any electrical devices outside.
- ▶ Avoid laying extension cords on the ground. Trick-or-treaters can trip on them.
- ▶ Skip the staple gun when hanging light strands or extension cords. Staples can damage cords and their insulation, which can create a fire hazard.
- ▶ Every light and lighted decoration should be approved by a testing laboratory such as UL. If you don't see the label on the product, don't buy it.
- ▶ Turn off decorations before turning in for the night or leaving your house.
- ▶ Wear costumes and accessories that are flame resistant, flame retardant and noncombustible. Choose decorations with those qualities, too.
- ▶ Use flashlights or battery-operated candles instead of candles with flames inside your carved pumpkins and pathway lanterns.



ONLY CRACKPOTS TAKE POTSHOTS

It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot. During hunting season, careless shooters taking potshots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric cooperative.

Here's why:

- You are inconveniencing your fellow member-customers whose electricity has been disrupted.
- It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is very expensive to repair. Lines may be cut or weakened from a shot, and they may sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators—which can cause power outages—are hard and expensive to find. An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport but be a responsible hunter. Teach your children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1–November 30

Evacuation Planning: When a hurricane threatens, listen for instructions from local officials. When they call for an evacuation in your area, get going without delay.



- Discuss evacuation plans with your family BEFORE hurricane season June 1–November 30.
- Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave town and review it.
- Monitor NOAA weather radio and local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit including: radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, nonperishable food, dry clothes, bedding, insurance information, important documents, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, the elderly and medically fragile family members.
- Learn evacuation routes before storm season. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf, keep your gas tank as full as possible. Expect traffic delays in an evacuation.
- Dial 2-1-1 to register if you have special health care needs or if you simply do not have transportation: Gulf coast residents in evacuation zones with special health care needs—who do not have friends or family to help—should register in advance for a ride by dialing 2-1-1. Residents with no other transportation can register for a ride in advance by dialing 2-1-1.

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas

Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

Evacuación en caso de Huracán: Cuando exista una amenaza de huracán, escucha las instrucciones de funcionarios locales. Cuando llamen para una evacuación en su área, sálgase del área lo más pronto posible.



- Discute los planes de evacuación con su familia ANTES de la temporada de huracán, que comienza el 1 de junio hasta 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revísela.
- Escuche la radio y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.
- Prepare un equipo de emergencia incluyendo: radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguro, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores y miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles.
- Aprenda sus rutas de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando hay un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Este consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.
- Si usted tiene necesidad especial de asistencia médica o si usted simplemente no tiene como trasladarse: Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia médica en zonas de evacuación—sin familia o amigos para ayudarlos—deben registrarse para su traslado por adelantado llamando al 2-1-1. Los residentes sin coche, pueden registrarse por adelantado para su traslado llamando al 2-1-1.