

Tips To Avoid High-Bill Chills This Winter

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF COOLER WEATHER COMES the arrival of higher utility bills. Heating our homes accounts for the largest portion of our utility bills—45 percent, according to most experts—and water heating uses 18 percent. This can add up to big bucks during a really cold winter.

No one likes to get an unexpectedly large bill in the mail, and Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative members are no different. A really cold winter can result in electric bills doubling or even tripling. The greater the temperature difference between the inside and the outside, the harder and longer your heating unit must work to maintain indoor temperatures. The duration of the cold days also has an impact on our utility bills.

What's the Solution?

Here are a few suggestions on increasing the energy efficiency of your home.

- ▶ One of the most cost-effective ways to make your home more comfortable year-round is to add insulation to your attic, including the attic trap or access door.
- ▶ Check the insulation in your attic, exterior and basement walls, ceilings, floors and crawl spaces.
- ▶ Check for air leaks around

walls, ceilings, windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches and electrical outlets. Caulk and seal where needed.

▶ Make sure your appliances and heating and cooling systems are properly maintained. Your owner's manuals provide the recommended maintenance. A well-maintained HVAC system saves money in the long run. Annual inspections and tuneups are recommended, and HOTEK members can apply for a \$100 rebate after completing either of those tasks.

▶ The recommended winter temperature setting for your thermostat is 68 degrees when you are home and active. When sleeping or away from home, it is recommended that you lower the temperature a few degrees. Use a programmable thermostat to automatically turn down the heat at night or when you're away from home.

▶ Use smart power strips to save energy. Many electronics go into standby mode when you turn them off. Reduce wasted ("vampire") power by plugging electronics into a smart power strip, which can turn off your electronics completely.

▶ A home energy audit shows what parts of your house use the most energy, and suggests the best ways to cut energy use.

For more energy tips, visit hotec.coop.



Electric blankets combined with lower thermostat settings can mean big savings in home heating costs.

Turn on Your Blankets

STOP SHIVERING AT NIGHT with a little help from an electric blanket or mattress pad that could save you up to 3 percent on your heating bill for each degree you lower your thermostat overnight.

Don't plug in an old electric blanket that you haven't used in years. Chances are, it's no longer safe. Newer models have better warming technology and built-in safety features, and they come in up-to-date fabrics, textures and colors.

Most new electric blankets come with temperature sensors that automatically warm the coldest parts of your body and prevent the blanket from overheating. Electric blankets and mattress pads are less bulky than they were in the past, and their wires are hidden.

As you shop for a new electric blanket or mattress pad, rule out any products that are not rated as safe by a trusted product safety testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories.

Here are a few safety tips to follow once you get your cozy new bedding home:

- ▶ Don't leave it plugged in overnight unless it is specifically designed for extended use. Instead, turn your blanket or pad on about 20 minutes before bed and turn it off when you get in.
- ▶ Electric blankets can burn the sensitive skin of the elderly and infants, so never leave the devices unattended with the heat on.
- ▶ Buy a product with an auto-off feature, and check it for defects or damage before plugging it in.



Use a programmable thermostat to help manage your energy use and keep bills lower year-round.

Scammers at It Again!

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE warns its members that the scammers are at it again—this time with a slightly different twist.

Several co-ops have reported that their members have received phone calls from someone claiming to be from the electric cooperative. They call the member and state that they are with the co-op. Then the caller tells the member that if they don't make a payment, the member's electricity will be remotely disconnected in the next 30 to 45 minutes. A callback number is provided and, if you dial that number, the scammers answer it using the co-op's name or a recording of the co-op's message as a ploy to get information from you.



Please be aware: This is a scam! Do not give them any personal or financial information. The co-op's credit card phone number is 1-855-399-2688. This is the only number you should call to make a payment.

HOTEC member service representatives do not take payments over the phone. All payments must be made either through the automated phone system, the mail or the HOTEC website.

If you receive a phone call like this and are suspicious, hang up. Then, call Heart of Texas EC at one of the phone numbers listed on your statement or in the pages of Texas Co-op Power: 1-800-840-2957, (254) 840-2871 or (254) 231-0444.

Let us know if you receive a phone call like this. Let's stop these scammers from stealing your hard-earned money!



Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

Operating in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, McLennan and Milam counties

CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Haile

DIRECTORS

- Garland Cook, District 1
- DeWayne Draeger, District 6
- Kermit Dreyer, District 7
- Paul Edge, District 2
- Dan Foster, District 9
- Kenneth Hollas, District 3
- Bobby Nawara, District 4
- Allen Shows, District 5
- Larry Stock, District 8



CONTACT US

McGREGOR OFFICE

(254) 840-2871 local
1-800-840-2957 toll-free

1111 S. Johnson Drive • P.O. Box 357
McGregor, TX 76657

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Drive-thru 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

ROSEBUD OFFICE

(254) 231-0444 local
1-800-840-2957 toll-free

159 Loop 265 • P.O. Box 598
Rosebud, TX 76570

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Online at hotec.coop
By phone at 1-855-399-2688

FIND US ON THE WEB

hotec.coop



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH TOUR



You're a high school student who's smart and dreams of travel, meeting people and seeing historic sites. Sound like you? Then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is your tour. Apply now!



For more information, visit hotec.coop.

Looking for the Next Generation of Leaders

WHAT DO 1,500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind: to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperatives. Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative alone has sent 20 students since 1997.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a full week of sightseeing and a chance to learn about the cooperative business model.

While in D.C., participants have the opportunity to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

In March, your co-op will begin the process to select a local student to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school student interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact Heart of Texas EC for more information.

Perhaps you know an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. For decades, participants have reported that this experience helped them grow into successful professionals. It also has benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be leaders, and many put their newly acquired skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing how to apply for the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about HOTEK's Youth Tour program, call 1-800-840-2957 or visit hotec.coop.

For more than 50 years, the Youth Tour program has been giving young people the chance to visit Washington, D.C., and gain a new appreciation for their country and cooperative.



Attention Grads: Scholarship Opportunity

DOES YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE need college money?

Heart of Texas EC takes tremendous pride in our local schools and is excited to take part in furthering students' education by awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to local high school graduates. Applications are now being accepted from interested students.

To qualify for a Heart of Texas EC scholarship, a student must have graduated high school within two years of the application deadline and reside in the household of a Heart of Texas EC member. The recipient must be enrolled full or part time in an accredited college or technical school. The scholarship will be divided between the fall and spring semesters, \$500 respectively. The funds must be used within one year of issuance.

Applications must be received by the Rosebud or McGregor office no later than March 1 to be considered for the scholarship. For an application and a complete list of qualifications, visit us online at hotec.coop. Click on Programs, then Youth Tour & Scholarships.

Members May Designate Account Representative

HEART OF TEXAS EC MEMBERS have the option of designating a representative to act on their behalf to assist them with routine account management.

This is helpful for older members who may want to give an adult child the authority to assist with their monthly bill-paying or for members who travel frequently and might be out of town when the bill is due.

The form to make this assignment is available on our website at hotec.coop. On the gray bar, click on Forms and scroll down to Designation of Representative. Print the form, fill in the required information and have the signatures notarized.

The assigned representative can then act on behalf of the member to obtain/provide account information, make payments and conduct other routine business with HOTECCOOP. The designation does not entitle the representative to membership rights.

Once the form is received in our office, the changes can be made to the account to reflect the member's wishes.

This designation remains effective until revoked by the member.

A copy of the form is shown below.

DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR ACCOUNT INFORMATION AND PAYMENTS

The undersigned, a member of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. (HOTECCOOP), hereby designates (name—type or print) _____, who is over 18 years of age, and otherwise legally able, to act on his/her behalf for purposes of obtaining/providing account information, making payments and otherwise assisting said member with routine business conducted with HOTECCOOP. This designation shall remain in effect until it is revoked by the undersigned member and written notice of such revocation is provided to HOTECCOOP. This designation does not entitle the designee to membership rights. This designation is only effective if signed by the holder, or holders, of the account, and the designee. The designee understands that by signing the designation agreement, they are extended the liberties above, and become liable for any debts incurred on the account.

Account number: _____

Account name (as it appears on membership): _____

Authorized signature(s) of HOTECCOOP member(s): _____

Designated representative signature: _____

(To be signed in the presence of a duly certified Notary Public)

Social Security number: _____ **DL:** _____ **State:** _____

Address of designated representative: _____

Daytime phone number(s) of designated representative: _____

To be completed by notary: State of Texas, county of _____

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared _____

_____ (HOTECCOOP member), known to me to be the person whose name is

subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein expressed, in the capacity stated, and as the act and deed of said person. Given under my hand

and seal on this, the _____ day of _____ A.D., 20 _____.

Notary: _____ **My commission expires:** _____

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



SF_FOODPHOTO | ISTOCK.COM

Sweet and Sour Pot Roast

- 3 pounds boneless beef chuck roast
- Cooking oil as needed
- 1 large onion, cut in rings and separated
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 3 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

1. In a heavy pot with lid, brown beef in a small amount of oil, then drain and remove. Sauté onion in meat drippings.
2. Add remaining ingredients and stir until sugar dissolves. Return beef to pot and spoon onion mixture over top.
3. Cover and cook 1 hour on low heat.
4. Add carrots and potatoes, if desired, and cook until veggies are tender.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

Your Rights as a Member of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

I. Rate and Service Information

You may request copies of any portion of the cooperative's rate and service tariffs. A nominal reproduction charge may be made for each copy, and postage may be added if the copies are mailed.

II. Meter Testing

You may request a test of your electric meter if you believe that the meter is not accurately reflecting your actual electric consumption. This test will be made at no charge to you, provided that the meter has not been tested during the previous four years. In the event that you request a test more often than every four years and the meter is not defective, you will be required to pay a charge of not more than \$50 for the test.

III. Outstanding Bills

Under the tariffs of this cooperative, you will have 16 days from the date of issuance of the power bill to pay. If not paid in 16 days, the account will become delinquent and a termination notice will be mailed. If not paid in 10 days (a total of 26 days from the date of issuance), the account will be disconnected.

IV. Termination of Service

Your electric service may be disconnected after proper notice for the following reasons:

- a) Failure to pay an outstanding bill.
- b) Failure to pay a delinquent account or meet the terms of a deferred payment plan.
- c) Violation of the cooperative's rules for the use of service in such a manner that interferes with the service of others or the operation of nonstandard equipment; provided that the cooperative will make every reasonable attempt to notify you of the problem and allow you to remedy the situation.

d) Failure to comply with the cooperative's deposit and guarantee requirements.

The cooperative may also disconnect at once and without notice where a dangerous condition exists and such disconnection shall remain in effect so long as the condition exists. Disconnection without notice may also be made when service is connected without authority by a person who has not made application for service or who has reconnected service without authority following termination of service for nonpayment. In instances of tampering with the cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing meter, or other instances of diversion, service may be terminated immediately.

Where notice is required, the cooperative will either mail or personally deliver a written notice of termination at least 10 days prior to

the date of disconnection. Disconnection will only occur on those days when cooperative personnel are available to receive payment to prevent disconnection, or are available the following day to receive payment to restore service. If you are seriously ill or will become more seriously ill as a result of termination of service, you may have your physician call or contact the cooperative within 16 days of the issuance of the bill concerning your condition. The physician must provide a confirmation letter to the cooperative within 26 days of the issuance of the bill unless a lesser period is agreed upon. If you make a request to avoid termination under this provision, you must enter into a deferred payment arrangement.

V. Service and Billing Disputes

In the event you dispute your billing or any aspect of service, we invite you to request a supervisory review or investigation of the disputed matter. The cooperative will promptly make such investigation as is required by the particular case and report the findings to you.

If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may appeal to the Complaint Resolution Committee of the board of directors of this cooperative. Should the dispute involve billing, you will not be required to pay the disputed portion of your bill that exceeds your average monthly consumption for the previous 12 months. This provision is applicable pending determination of the dispute but shall not be for more than 60 days.

VI. Alternate Payment Plans

As a member of the cooperative, you have a right to request alternate payment plans:

a) **PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.** An arrangement may be made between you and the cooperative in which you agree to pay your electric bill in full after the due date of the outstanding bill, but before the due date of the next bill. If you do not fulfill the terms of your payment arrangement, your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.

b) **LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN.** If you are on a fixed income or have a unique financial need, you may qualify for a level payment plan. This plan allows you to pay a monthly amount equal to an average of the current month's bill plus the previous 11 months' electric bills. If you do not fulfill the terms of your level payment plan, your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.

c) **DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN.** If you have not been delinquent in paying your bill more

than two times in the past 12 months and are unable to pay your entire bill, you are qualified for a deferred payment plan. Such plan requires that you keep all subsequent bills current and pay monthly an amount not to exceed a third of the outstanding amount. You may, but are not required to, sign this agreement and if you do not fulfill the terms of the agreement, your service may be terminated under standard termination procedures. Such breach of the agreement voids your right to a deferred payment plan or renegotiation to avoid termination. The cooperative is not obligated to offer this arrangement if you have had service for less than three months.

VII. Service Connections

If your service is interrupted for any of the reasons listed under Section IV of the Bill of Rights, you may re-establish service when all outstanding and delinquent bills are paid and when a deposit is provided to the cooperative.

VIII. Cooperative Office and Business Hours

McGregor Office

1111 S. Johnson Drive, McGregor 76657

Office business hours:

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Drive-thru hours:

7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Phone: (254) 840-2871, 1-800-840-2957

Rosebud Office

159 Loop 265, Rosebud 76570

Office business hours:

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Phone: (254) 231-0444, 1-800-840-2957

Website: hotec.coop

IX. Deposit Policy

You may be required to establish credit satisfactorily by making a deposit, but you will not be required to pay a deposit for residential service if you have a credit score exceeding 650 or unless your service was terminated for nonpayment. The deposit is limited to one-sixth (1/6) of your estimated annual electric bill. Deposits accrue interest at the rate set by the board of directors annually and will either be paid to you when the deposit is returned or credited to your account.

In lieu of a cash deposit, you may demonstrate a satisfactory credit rating with acceptable credit. After 12 consecutive residential billings, provided your account is current and you have not been disconnected for nonpayment or delinquent more than two times, your cash deposit plus interest will be applied or refunded.

X. Financial Assistance

Governmental or social service agencies

may be able to assist you if you are having trouble making your payment for electric service to the cooperative. Please look for the government or social service agency that serves the county in which you receive service.

McLennan County—Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation (254) 756-0954 or (254) 840-3383; Caritas (254) 753-4593; Salvation Army (254) 756-7271

Falls County—Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation (254) 756-0954
Bell County—Help Center (254) 770-6842
Coryell County—Senior Citizen Center (254) 865-8234; Hill Country Community Action (254) 865-8234

Bosque County—Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation (254) 756-0954
Milam County—Hill Country Community Action (254) 697-2243

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Human Resources and Texas Community Affairs.

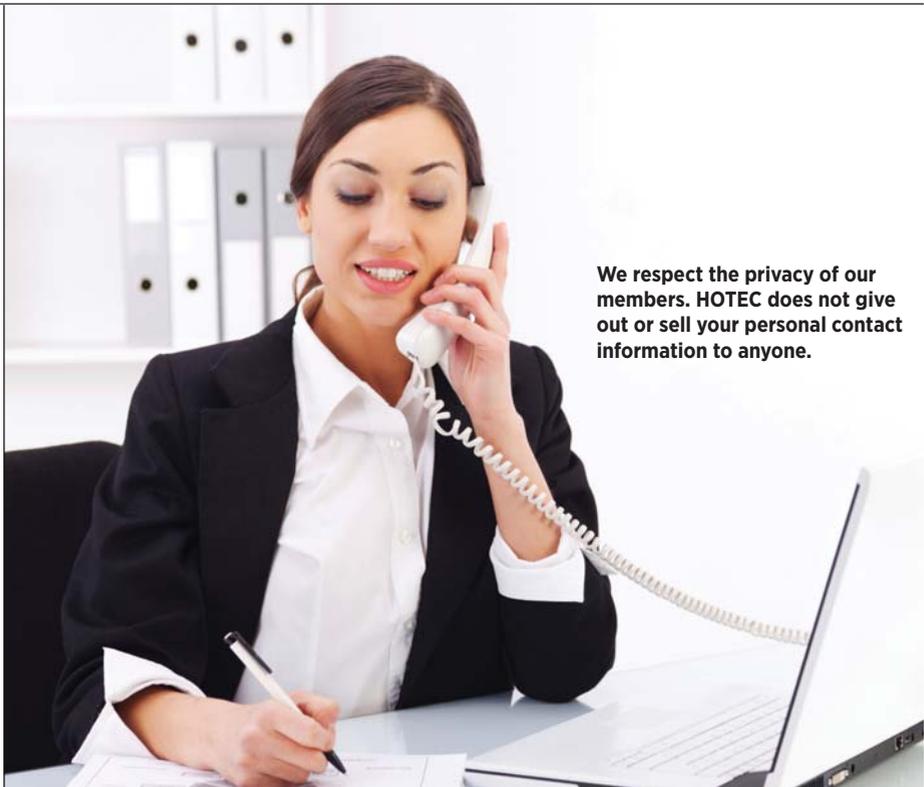
XI. Nondiscrimination

Your cooperative provides electric service without discrimination as to a member's race, nationality, color, religion, sex, disability or marital status. Credit history shall be applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who shared the service.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Deidre Lauterbach, district manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



We respect the privacy of our members. HOTE.CCOP does not give out or sell your personal contact information to anyone.

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Don't Leave Us in the Dark

It's important to keep your contact information current.

THE HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT is asking for your help. We need our members to make sure the contact information on their electric account is current. This information includes phone numbers, changes of address, and email or name changes. This is important for several reasons.

We remain in constant communication with our crews, and they need your assistance at times. For instance, if one of our crews discovers suspicious activity, hurt or sick animals, or an open gate on your property, we can have a representative report it to you, provided we have an updated contact number.

If we need to enter your property, it is essential that we have your current information on file. Updated contact phone numbers are needed to resolve billing or account issues (unsigned checks, etc.) as well to remain in contact during outages.

If your power is out, chances are your landline telephone is out, as well. When possible, we will make follow-up calls to ensure that your power has come back on after an outage. Having multiple phone numbers, such as your cell or work numbers, allows us to remain in better contact with you in these outage situations.

Also, many of our members rely on medical equipment for life support. We need to have updated contact information for these accounts. It is also crucial that we are informed of what type of device you are using and whether you have a backup power source.

"We respect the privacy of our members," assures Brandon Young, administrative manager with Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative. "HOTE.CCOP does not give out or sell your personal contact information to anyone. The sole purpose of this information is to help serve our members."

Please contact your local office to report any changes or updates in your contact information.

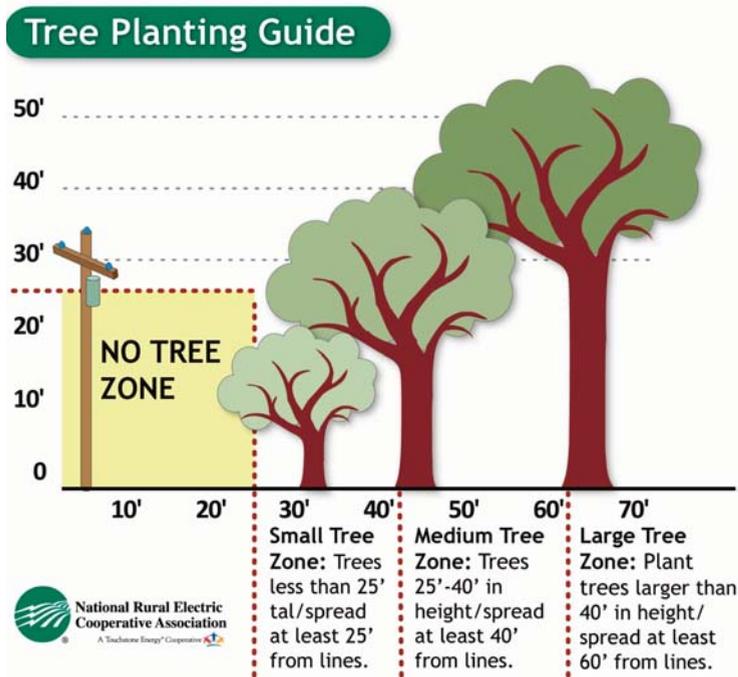
The Right Way To Maintain Your Rights-of-Way

WE ALL CAN APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY AND PURPOSE OF TREES.

Whether it's the symphony of colors and the texture of leaves crunching beneath our feet signaling the onset of fall or the budding blossoms stretching across the branches waking up from a long winter's nap, trees are often awe-inspiring.

They beautify our property, cool our homes, provide privacy screens and can even increase the value of our homesteads if placed properly.

We also appreciate electricity, although it is often taken for granted. It has become a part of our daily lives. We expect—and sometimes even demand—the convenience of reliable, uninterrupted service; however, this is not always possible.



Our desire for both trees and electricity can sometimes cause trouble, primarily because trees and power lines do not mix. Trees growing into power lines can cause blinks or power outages, and can be deadly for you and your family. Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative maintains rights-of-way to protect you—our members—as well as our employees and our distribution system. By maintaining rights-of-ways, HOTECE is able to minimize outages and increase service reliability.

What Is a Right-of-Way?

The right-of-way, or ROW, is a legal agreement that allows us access to the property directly beneath power lines and 20 feet wide (10 feet on each side of the power line and 100 feet high). They are also referred to as “easements.” The right-of-way

gives HOTECE the authority to gain access to our distribution system to perform maintenance or repairs.

Trees are a valuable resource environmentally, aesthetically and economically. HOTECE maintains rights-of-way in a manner that balances our members’ need for reliable service with respect for the natural environment that surrounds our distribution system.

Is ROW Maintenance Necessary?

Tree limbs touching lines can sometimes cause blinks, affecting sensitive electronic devices. Clearing rights-of-way is necessary to keep these annoyances to a minimum. It is also a “storm-proofing” method that minimizes outages and provides easy access to distribution lines in the event of an outage.

Critical failures on the grid may occur when vegetation comes into contact with power lines. Tree sap is an excellent conductor of electricity, making even the slightest contact between trees and utility lines a fire hazard. When limbs get close enough to energized conductors or equipment, power may jump to the tree limb, causing it to arc and then go to ground. This is called “flashover,” and it could result in a fire.

Maintaining vegetation within the HOTECE right-of-way will minimize the potential for line contact, decrease the chance of flashover, reduce the number of tree-related interruptions and ultimately result in safer, more reliable service.

Your Right-of-Way

Landowners and HOTECE members must comply with the right-of-way requirements mandated by the state of Texas and outlined in the Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative application for membership, bylaws and right-of-way easement.

There can be no activity, building or other type of structure located within the right-of-way that would restrict HOTECE crews from working on the distribution system. The cooperative requires a 20-foot-wide (10 feet on each side of the power line) and 100-foot-high, unobstructed right-of-way that is free and clear of storage buildings, fences, swing sets, shrubs, trees and other obstructions.

Also, when homeowners install game-proof fencing, access to our power lines often becomes limited because there are few gates or locked gates. As a landowner, it is your responsibility to grant HOTECE access to your property. To ensure that the co-op is able to come and go as necessary, HOTECE must place its own locks on gates alongside yours. Although we appreciate your willingness to provide a key or combination, it is more efficient for our employees to use a standard co-op lock to allow entrance when necessary.

We Need Your Help!

With more than 3,600 miles of lines, monitoring every inch of HOTECH's right-of-way is nearly impossible. If you see an area that is overgrown or has trees that need to be cleared for the right-of-way, please contact your local co-op office and report the issue.

Do not attempt to clear the right-of-way on your own. This could be dangerous and even deadly. HOTECH periodically employs crews to remove brush, trees and debris from ROW areas. Most of the maintenance is conducted by HOTECH crews, but in some circumstances, we may use contractors under the direct supervision of HOTECH.

When landscaping, please consider the types of trees you are planting and their placement in relation to the power lines on your property. Do not plant trees or shrubbery directly under power lines or within the right-of-way. This will ultimately require HOTECH to prune them to maintain safe clearance from the wires. Small, immature trees planted today can become problematic in the future.

There is no guarantee that pruning work will leave your trees looking attractive; it may result in the tree having an unnatural appearance. It could even shorten the lifespan of the tree.

In areas with underground electric service, do not plant shrubs or other foliage around pad-mounted transformers. This foliage will make repair or maintenance work difficult for HOTECH crews. Dense growth around these transformers can also provide a home for undesirable wildlife and insects.

We do our best to balance the preservation of natural habitats with the service reliability needs of our members and the safety needs of the general public. We want all of our members to understand the rights and responsibilities of the right-of-way.

By remembering the right-of-way rules, you are doing your part in making a cooperative difference.

Watts vs. Lumens

YOU KNOW BY NOW that energy-efficient lighting can save you a bundle on your energy bill over time. New high-efficiency lightbulbs use up to 75 percent less electricity than standard bulbs, last about 10 times longer and can produce equivalent amounts of light.

But with new packaging and new units of measure, you may be confused about the difference between watts and lumens.

The Difference

The basic difference is this: Watts measure the amount of energy required to light products; lumens measure the amount of light produced. The more lumens a lightbulb produces, the brighter the light will shine.

Lightbulb manufacturers include lumen information and the equivalent standard wattage right on the packaging. Common terms are “soft white 60,” “warm light 60” and “60-watt replacement.”

Energy Star provides a chart of rough equivalences between traditional bulbs' wattages and energy-efficient bulbs' lumens:



	INCANDESCENT BULBS (WATTS)	ENERGY STAR BULB BRIGHTNESS (MINIMUM LUMENS)
	40	450
	60	800
	75	1,100
	100	1,600
	150	2,600

However, keep in mind that multiple bulbs with the same lumen rating can require varying amounts of wattage.

Choosing a Bulb

To save energy, find a bulb with the brightness—or lumen rating—that you need, and then choose the one with the lowest wattage. You can also look for an Energy Star-certified bulb that is labeled as equivalent to the standard bulb you are replacing.

Color Considerations

The color of light might also affect how bright a bulb appears, even if the lumen levels are the same. Because most people are used to the soft yellowish glow of incandescent lightbulbs, Energy Star-certified bulbs that produce light closer to the color of daylight may appear brighter because the color is “whiter,” or less yellow.

Extra Lighting Tips

- ▶ Use bulbs with lower lumens where less light is needed. Higher lumens are appropriate for kitchen, bathroom and hobby areas.
- ▶ Make sure outdoor energy-efficient lights, especially fluorescent types, will work at extreme temperatures, whether high or low.
- ▶ If you need help selecting the right bulb, ask your electric cooperative or lighting dealer. Check with your co-op about rebates or discounts on energy-efficient lighting.

—EnergyStar